

# The Canadian Independent.

"ONE IS YOUR MASTER, EVEN CHRIST, AND ALL YE ARE BRETHEREN."

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## Topics of the Week.

THE Young Men's Christian Association propose in Rochester, N.Y., to put up a building costing \$100,000.

TWELVE French Catholics, heads of families, have joined the Congregational church at Central Falls, R.I., having been brought into the light by reading the Bible.

TOLERATION is gaining ground in Europe. Both the Crown Prince of Germany and Prince Bismarck have taken public occasion to express their disapproval of the agitation against the Jews.

THE thirty-second anniversary of the Chicago Y.M.C.A. occurred February 22nd. During the past nine months it has found employment for 3,810 men and boys; distributed 27,750 papers, etc., and sustained a large number of meetings, lectures, classes, etc.

THERE is a church in New York whose service has been conducted in French for over two hundred and fifty years. Most of its endowments are upon condition that this service should be continued. Some of the best citizens of the metropolis have been raised up in it.

LATE reports from Mr. Moody's labours in St. Louis represent him as having great success. Conversions which for a time were few, are now many. The interest in religion in St. Louis is stated now to be greater than has been known at any time previous, west of the Mississippi River.

THE May anniversaries in the Broadway Tabernacle during the last two years have proved so satisfactory to the several societies and their friends, that the generous offer of the trustees, giving the free use of the building this year, has been accepted, and arrangements for the meetings during the week, May 9 to 16, have been perfected.

THE French missionaries in Basutoland have promised to send as a delegate to the General Presbyterian Council in Philadelphia one of their number who has been labouring twenty years in Africa, and who is about to visit England to superintend the printing of the Bible in the Basuto language. This noble band of missionaries have done excellent work in South Africa, and are about to begin a mission among the Barotse, near the head waters of the Zambesi.

THE fact contained in the following statement from the Rt. Rev. James O'Connor, Vicar Apostolic of Nebraska, is one of the elements of the Roman Catholic problem in this country which Mr. Froude overlooked in his recent articles: "It would surprise Catholics in the east to know how many have been lost to the faith in the west during the last half century. In Nebraska alone, with its sparse population, the number thus lost has been from 10,000 to 15,000, and the Church has no more bitter enemies to-day than these children of Catholic parents."

OCCASIONAL suggestions have been heard that there is a "looseness" about Congregationalism, especially in its supervision of ministerial character, which compares unfavourably with the course pursued by the "stronger" governments. Yet the "Evening Post" has been informed, by a "prominent member of the Protestant Episcopal Church," that Mr. Cowley will be allowed to serve his term out at Blackwell's Island as an Episcopal minister in good and regular standing, and that no arraignment of him before the proper

authorities on charges of moral delinquency will take place until he be released from gaol.

SOME months ago the Rev. George Brown, superintendent of Wesleyan Missions in Fiji, was severely criticised for hostile organizing and successfully leading an expedition against those cannibals who had eaten up his teachers. Although in this way he had saved the lives of the remaining missionaries in that part of the field where the attack had been made, it was thought to be rather an exceptionable mode of preaching the Gospel of peace and good will to men. The latest London exchanges announce the receipt of telegrams stating that after an inquiry into the circumstances, the whole case was quashed by the Judicial Commissioner's Court.

FATHER McNAMARA, the recent disturber of the peace of the Romish Church, explains how many priests of the communion he has left "lump" their masses. An "intention" in the Church of Rome means the purpose for which any person requests a mass to be said and pays for it; and a law of the Church is that no mass shall be said unless its specific "intention" be in the mind of the officiating priest at the time. But Father McNamara declares that the practice is quite common for a priest to receive the money for *one hundred intentions*, and then to clear them all off with a single mass. He says no political schemers come near the Roman Catholic priesthood in the wholesale character of their dodges. The deception of saying one mass for a hundred or so was exposed in Germany several years ago.

CHRISTIANS have a difficult position to maintain in California. There are, in all only 30,000 members of Protestant denominations and the entire native-born American population amounts to only 250,000. There are 75,000 Irish, nearly all of whom are Romanists; 29,000 Germans, four-fifths of whom recognize no church connections (and who, with other foreigners, violate the Sabbath with parades and beer-garden festivities); 7,000 Spaniards, Italians and Portuguese; 8,000 French; 9,000 Mexicans, who are Romanists or Materialists; 100,000 Chinese, etc. In all there are some 475,000 foreigners, and of the 250,000 native Americans mentioned, probably one half have one or both parents of European birth. We get these figures from the "Catholic Presbyterian." Of the Chinese, 900 are members of Christian churches.

MUCH has been said of late about changes in Palestine and the immigration of the Jews in large numbers. Mr. F. S. De Haas, late United States Consul at Jerusalem, writes in regard to these statements: "The facts are, there is not a railroad in all Palestine. There is not an American missionary in the Holy Land nor a Sunday school. But one Protestant church in Jerusalem, another outside of the walls, and one at Nazareth. The Jewish population has increased during the last few years, but the population of the country has more rapidly decreased. The Jews have no intention of re-occupying the land. They go there to die, not to live. No Jew around Jerusalem owns or cultivates an acre of ground. The Jews of Europe and America will never return to Palestine, unless forced back at the point of the bayonet."

THE English Baptist missionaries in India have united in a stirring appeal to the churches at home for re-inforcements. They speak very candidly of the present condition of their work. "Owing," they say, "mainly to the fewness of eligible candidates for missionary work in India during the last few years,

the mission has sunk into a very enfeebled state." They shew how insufficient is the force at the various stations, there being, for example, but two missionaries in Calcutta, the great metropolis, and but one aged brother in Benares. There are also vast country districts with from 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 population, without a single preacher. The missionaries appeal for help, in view of the vacant places in the stations and of the advanced intellectual, social and moral condition of large bodies of natives who are in a state of mind highly favourable to the reception of the Gospel.

WE have all read of Dr John Hall's witty remark in his lecture on "A Thriving Congregation." When ridiculing the current ways of paying church expenses, he pictured "the walls of Jerusalem placarded with announcements that a sacred concert would be given under the auspices of King Rehoboam, the proceeds to be devoted to paying off the debt of the temple." The "Congregationalist" repeats the witticism of Dr. Hall, and the "Evening Post" has the further supposition of the temple at Jerusalem being "knocked down to the highest bidder by the auctioneer's hammer at a foreclosure sale," and adds: "These sidelights in skilful hands do sometimes help us to see things very clearly; but who supposes they would actually have sold the Lord's house when the high priest could have sent out easily for some ancient circus rider to fill the pews and 'lift' the debt."—*United Presbyterian*.

AMERICAN missionaries in Persia are interfered with by missionaries of "S.P.G."—the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, supported by the Anglican hierarchy. The same ill-judged and injurious policy of interference is pursued towards Madagascar Churches. The fine missionary work in the Island, one of the most marvellous works done in modern times, was done by Congregational missionaries in the service of the London Missionary Society. They were the real authors of the wonderful change wrought among the people, and they have been respected as such by all Christian bodies. So the field was largely given to them, until a bishop of England, ordained by the Scotch bishops, was sent out, who was called then the Bishop for Madagascar, but is now billeted as "Lord Bishop of Madagascar," and is asking for money in England to build a cathedral in the capital of Madagascar. And yet there are eight hundred millions of heathens who have not heard the gospel.

WE find the following statistics in the English "Methodist Recorder." In France, Protestantism is numerically weak, the total number of Protestants being but 650,000—namely, 560,000 Reformed, 80,000 Lutheran, 10,000 belonging to other bodies. Rationalism is a further weakening element. The constitution of the present French Cabinet, however, is sufficient to shew that mere numbers do not adequately represent the influence of French Protestantism. The scholarship and ability of its ministers have always stood high, and names like Pressensé and Bersier continue the tradition. In German Austria Protestants number about 367,000—namely 249,000 Lutheran and 118,000 Reformed, being two per cent. of the population. In the Hungarian dominions they form twenty per cent. of the population—viz.: 2,000,000 Reformed, and 1,100,000 Lutheran. Through the organization of the Gustavus-Adolphus Union and the British and Foreign Society, Vienna is the centre of a multifarious evangelical activity. In Germany, where Rationalism was once as dominant as at present in Switzerland, evangelical faith has decidedly the mastery in the pulpit and university.