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'ONE IS YOUR MASTER, EVEN CHRIST, AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN.'

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Current Topics.

--Bishop Potter, of New York, has appointed a committee to devise measures for raising a permanent fund of \$1,000,000, the income of which shall be devoted to the building of new Protestant Episcopal churches. The benefits of this fund are not to be restricted territorially.

—The London Times says that thirty-eight miles of new streets, on which houses are rapidly built, are annually added to the city of London. Such a huge city, growing at this rate, indicates the immense industrial and commercial thrift of Great Britain.

—The corner stone of a new Protestant Episcopal church was laid on the 24th ult. in Paris. The structure is to cost \$500,000, of which \$228,000 is already subscribed. Father Hyacinthe and his wife attended the ceremonies, and there was an immense throng present.

—A Young Men's Christian Association has been formed at Philippopolis, European Turkey, which has done especially good work in the night schools. The bishop has tried to persuade the leader to leave the Protestant faith, offering him almost any ecclesiastical position, and telling him that he would be free to believe what he liked.

—The census of 1880 gives the Chinese population in this country as 105,000. The tendency to migrate hither has of late diminished. It is stated that the Chinese of California have produced as much wealth as all the mines of the State combined with those of Nevada and Dakota—some sixty to eighty or ninety millions a year.

—Pope Leo XIII. in a recent encyclical letter says the Protestant missionaries are "deceivers who disseminate error, imitate the apostles of Christ, usurp the office of the Catholic priesthood," etc. *Les Missions Catholiques* in thanking the Pope for this says: "If our contributions increase, we shall be able to open a Catholic school at the side of each Protestant school. This must be our policy in every Christian settlement."

—The terms of peace exacted of Peru by Chili are of the severest. The amount of indemnity for expenses of the war, embracing every expense directly caused to Chili by the war, which is imposed on the conquered country, will fall with crushing weight. But there is *this* condition which will be to Peru's advantage: She is forbidden to undertake to fortify her forts for fifty years, or to raise an army or acquire a navy for forty years! That much of expense will be saved.

—By a curious coincidence, while New York Israelites were commemorating the deliverance of their ancestors from Haman's wicked designs March 22 Rabbi Joseph Misrachi, a native Shushan, Persia, the city of Esther, Mordecai, and Haman, arrived here in quest of money to repair the tomb of the beautiful Queen of Ahasuerus and the defiant Mordecai, who lie side by side in that Oriental city during twenty centuries, the Jews of Shushan have striven to preserve this memorial, and have succeeded in doing so; but now the whole of the structure is gradually falling away.—*Christian Register*.

—The Rev. J. A. Dobson of Muncie, Ind., who has left the Universalists to become a Congregationalist, does not speak very highly of the former denomination. He stated recently that there is no Christianity in Universalism, and that he had been frozen out; that there are over 60 organizations of that denomination in Indiana and none of them have regular services; over 90 in Ohio, and only 10 have services every Sunday, and that the church is going down because of its unbelief.

—A remarkable work of grace seems to be going on at present in Edinburgh, Scotland, in connection with a visit there of Major Whittle, the American Evangelist, who is accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. McGranahan. A number of leading ministers in Edinburgh, including such men as Dr. Horatius Bonar, Dr. Blakie and Rev. J. H. Wilson are taking part in the work. The meetings day and evening are densely crowded, and the number of anxious inquirers is steadily increasing.

—There is hope for the old land yet, when even civic festivities can be carried out on total abstinence principles. The Mayor of Leeds recently entertained nine teetotal mayors at a banquet, among them being the Lord Mayor of York, and the Mayors of Winchester and Worcester. This evidence of the progress of temperance principles in England is very encouraging, especially as the example of those in authority counts for much there, and demonstrates that the class most difficult to turn from old habits and customs is beginning to perceive the evils of drinking.

—The electric lighting of the city of London, England, has proved a great success. The whole circuit of the lamps, from London-bridge to Blackfriars, by way of Cheapside, St. Paul's churchyard, and Ludgate-hill, were lit simultaneously, for electricity abolishes the lamplighter. Almost anywhere in the streets the smallest print could be read with ease, so radiant was the pure white light. Near the Mansion House three lofty lamps, each 75 feet high, and some 3,000 candle power, shed a splendid light on the surrounding area, rendering the view of the Royal Exchange, Bank, and Civic Palace a sight well worth beholding. The gas-lamps were entirely eclipsed.

—Dr. Irving gives, in the April number of the *Foreign Missionary*, a valuable table presenting the results of missionary operations in India. According to this table there are now in India 644 foreign missionaries, 682 native preachers, 6,836 native helpers, and 130,958 communicants. The most striking fact which these results indicate has reference to the increase of native preachers within the past thirty years. In 1850 there were in India and Burmah 48 native preachers; in 1880, 682, an increase of *fourteenfold*. The communicants have increased sevenfold within the same period, while the number of foreign missionaries has not so much as doubled. The growth of the native agency is the surest sign of the progress of the evangelical work.

—From the recently issued and interesting report of the Free Christian Church in Italy, under the presidency

of Signor Alessandro Gavazzi, we extract the following statistics. This is a noble work, every way worthy of the help of all who have the will and power to aid it. We hope from it great things for Italy. The Church now has 14 ordained ministers, 15 evangelists, 48 elders, 70 deacons, 13 deaconesses, 3 colporteurs, 1200 average Sabbath morning attendance, 2200 average Sabbath evening attendance, 1600 weekday attendance, 1780 communicants, 254 catechumens, 51 Sabbath school teachers, 710 Sabbath school children, 21 day and night school teachers, 1300 day and night school pupils; 35 churches, large and small; 37 out stations.

—A correspondent of the *Nonconformist* who was at Constantinople on the 7th of April sends a remark or two on the situation there, which will be read with interest. He says:—"Constantinople is in a deplorable state. I never was in any place so poverty-stricken. Nobody ventures out into the streets at night without a revolver; and the outrages are excused because committed by people who are starving. The belief of the inhabitants seems to be that there will be war. That is HOBART PASHA'S opinion. Shipload after shipload of military material is being sent off, and the idea appears to be that, when the contending Powers meet on the frontier, they will certainly come to blows. Something is needed to bring the Turkish Government to an end. It is regarded by all as hopeless."

—"Our Correspondents" nowadays are not only important personages, but run imminent risks, as witness the campaigns in Afghanistan and Zululand. Four of these gallant and adventurous gentlemen are known to have had a narrow escape in the last disastrous conflict with the Boers. This was the case with the correspondent of the *Standard*, who telegraphed so graphic an account of the desperate encounter on the Ingogo river, and who was on Sunday knocked down by the rush, captured, and released. The *Times*' special also nearly fell a victim to the Boer rifleman on the fatal heights of Majuba. When the hail of bullets was mowing down the defenders of the mountain, he was able to hide himself in a donga and surrender quietly to the Boers, who took him to identify the lifeless body of Sir George Colley, and then generously released him. Nothing has yet been heard of one of the *Daily News*' correspondents; another was wounded and taken prisoner. How far the specials, to whom we are so much indebted for early news of these terrible conflicts are officers on service, we cannot say. But whether or not, they carry their lives in their hands when they move in the *entourage* of so daring a commander as General Colley, and within reach of the rifles of Boer sharpshooters.

—Mr. J. W. Horsley, Chaplain at the Clerkenwell Prison, London, England, relates, in the *Fortnightly Review*, the experience of himself and his predecessors for a series of years of the suicide mania. It is a very elaborate and instructive paper. Last year no less than 341 persons who had attempted self-murder were committed to this gaol, of whom all but 35, who were

Roman Catholics, received Mr. Horsley's special attention. He gives us the sex, condition, occupation, and age of 300 of these unhappy people. Females were the most numerous. Of the 300 cases 117 were males, and 183 females. As to condition, 90 were single, 131 married, 30 widows or widowers, 40 married but separated from their husbands or wives, and 22 were living in concubinage—some of these latter being included under one of the former headings. Nearly all were in the humbler walks of life. Higher class attempts at suicide do not frequently come under the notice of the police. Their ages varied from 13 to 88, every year being represented with the exception of 48 and 57. The cases, however, between 20 and 30 years of age were by far the most numerous. That decade is said to be the worst for nearly every species of crime. Mr. Horsley states that of the 300 cases in question, 145 were caused solely by drunkenness; and of the others his opinion is that drink had more or less to do with them all, with the exception of 3 only!

—From time to time we get inklings of many superstitions fostered under the shadow of the State Church. "A Vicar," writing in the *Church Times*, notes the fear entertained by some candidates for confirmation as to the results which may follow the Bishop's left hand being placed upon their heads, and writes dubiously as to his own opinion, "whether the objection to left-handed Confirmation be a superstition or not." It will not be the fault of the Ritualistic clergy if this crop of degrading superstitions is not marvellously increased during the coming years. At St. Barnabas, Holbeck, Leeds, a commencement has been made towards the reintroduction of the mummeries which in mediæval times were associated with "Palm Sunday," when the benediction of the priest was supposed to endow boughs of trees with magical virtues. At the morning service, there was a "procession of palms," one feature of which was "a brass crucifix enclosed in crape, with a shear of palm above it;" the priest had the distinction of "carrying a larger palm than any other in the procession." During the administration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, "a bell inside and one outside the church were tolled a few strokes at the elevation of the palm and chalice respectively." During the service, the prayers of the congregation were desired for the repose of the soul of one of the Sunday school boys, who had met with a fatal accident. The *Church Review* sighs over the abandonment of the practices of blessing ashes on Ash-Wednesday, of "the reservation of the pre-sanctified elements on Maundy Thursday for Communion on the next day," of the creeping to the cross on Good Friday, and of the priestly blessing of newly-kindled fire at Easter. "OSMUND," writing in the same paper, gives the key-note of the future movements, when he writes: "The essence of Catholicity is obedience to authority, and the authority for English Catholics is the *pre-Reformation Church* of England. . . . We must submit ourselves and dislikes to authority. Blecticism is fatal to unity."