

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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DEAN STANLEY grants a site in Westminster Abbey for a Memorial to the Prince Imperial.

BANGOR Theological Seminary has invited Mr. F. B. Denio, of the last class in Andover Seminary, to its Greek and Hebrew professorship.

PROFESSOR DAVID SWING is a widower. His wife died at Oxford, Ohio, on the 2nd of August. They had been married for twenty-five years.

THE "Atlantic Monthly" for August opens with a very good paper on "Preaching," to which we shall further attention next week. The author is said to be Rev. J. B. Harrison, understood to be a Methodist minister.

DR. JOSEPH P. THOMPSON, of Berlin, Germany, once pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, is reported to be dangerously ill in London. Dr. Thompson has for some years been engaged in literary and scientific work.

THE Jesuits are said to be quite prepared to be turned out of the colleges, and even out of France; and they have in anticipation purchased three establishments—one at Jersey, another at Fribourg, and a third at Monaco, where they will have a wide field for religious operations.

WE see in one of our English papers an item announcing the death of Rev. A. Morton Brown, L.L.D., Cheltenham, England. Dr. Brown was chairman the Congregational Union of England and Wales 1854. He had been pastor of his church for some 27 years, we believe.

CONGREGATIONALISM in the Province of Victoria, Australia, has lost a good friend by the death of Hon. George Barker. He was a native of Yorkshire, England, but had been in Melbourne since 1846. For 27 years he was in the Victorian Parliament, and one time in the ministry.

THE exodus of negroes from the Southern States continues. The likelihood is that the number of emigrants will increase in the coming months. Something must be done by the country at large for this America owes the blacks a heavy debt, and has not begun to discharge that debt.

A CHINESE Congregational Church was organized in Honolulu, Sandwich Islands, on the 8th of June. We rejoice to hear this news. We hope that we shall be permitted to chronicle such facts pretty often. There are Chinamen on the Pacific Coast who should be reached and Christianized and gathered into churches.

THE Rev. Dr. William M. Taylor, pastor of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, is now in London, and there is some talk of trying to keep him there in one of the vacant Presbyterian churches. We hope that the effort will not succeed. Dr. Taylor's administration in the Tabernacle has been very successful if numbers are an indication of success.

HENRY WARD BEECHER preached on Sunday, July 27th, at Highland Lake Grove, about twenty miles from Boston, Mass. The crowd was very large. He has been taken to task for doing this by some religious newspapers. His presence emptied some neighbouring churches, and then trains were run for the benefit of those who wished to hear him.

THE Bishop of Lincoln has written to one of his clergy directing him not to administer the communion to a churchwarden who had married a sister of his deceased wife. The Bishop says that man "has broken the law of God, as interpreted by the authority of the Church." It is well that the Bishop introduced that last clause. It would never have done to leave that out.

THE English "Inquirer," a Unitarian paper, says that the efforts of Unitarianism among the working-classes in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, and many other large centres are little short of failure. Correspondents of American Unitarian journals also state that Unitarianism in Britain is very feeble and has been losing *prestige*. The reason assigned is, that in other religious bodies many of the views for which Unitarianism has been wont to contend are now prevalent.

It is worth while to call attention to the progress of Christianity in Japan during the last seven years. There are now 43 Protestant churches in the country, with a membership of 1,500; 54 Sunday schools, with 2,000 scholars; 3 theological schools, with 175 students; 81 missionaries, 93 native assistants, 10 native pastors, and 150 preaching places. Much of the work done in the Empire has thus far been of a preparatory character; but the results have been very gratifying, and there is no doubt that they will be more so in the future.

OUR Congregational brethren of New South Wales are forced to take a new departure now in connection with their theological institution, Camden College, Sydney. For some time past, the Rev. T. S. Forsaith has had charge of the institution, and he had done his work gratuitously. Now, he is compelled to leave on account of ill health, and the question of future plans has been discussed. The supporters of the college have been somewhat aroused, and the probability is that they will place it on a better basis than it has known as yet.

THE United Presbyterian Church of Scotland has cast out its heretic, the Rev. David Macrae, of Gourrock. Probably it could have done nothing else. Mr. Macrae took leave of the Synod in an address whose temper leaves nothing to be desired. He speaks in the kindest manner of those from whom he has now been separated; but he predicts that the views which

he has enunciated will prevail in the future. At least, he is sure that liberty of opinion will be allowed. Here is a question which we would like to see answered by some champion of the highly-organized, hide-bound denominations—"churches," as they call themselves: What provision is there in their "bodies" for any change in opinion? Changes take place all the while. Doctrines are more or less modified, and yet a man dare not deviate from the standards, which are immutable.

HERE is an indication of the way in which things are usually done in highly-organized, creed-bound ecclesiastical bodies. The Athanasian creed has been a stumbling block to many clergymen of tender conscience in the English Church. It defines some very mysterious matters with a great deal of minuteness, and calls upon everybody to accept its definitions, announcing some terrible results if they do not accept them. Now, clergymen did not believe the statements of the creed, and could not use its threatenings. They applied to convocation for relief. And they got it—in this shape. A declaration was passed affirming that the creed does not say what its objectors have contended it does say. And these objectors must assent to this affirmation. The Bishop of Peterborough, Dr. Magee, writes very severely about this action. But what is the use? What can the Church of England do other than something of this sort? It must try to mingle past and present.

THE "Religious Herald" reminds city churches of their relation to their sister churches in the country in the following vigorous fashion: When a favoured city church which draws its spiritual strength largely from the smaller rural churches, gets proud and high-minded, and stands aloof from the helpful offices of Christian fellowship and co-operative effort, absorbing in itself all it can command of culture and talent in the pulpit, and of money and efficiency in the pews, and caring little or nothing for the general thrift of the sisterhood of churches to which it nominally belongs; we are reminded of the quaint, laconic, but exceedingly apt reply which President Lincoln made to one who said to him in those dark days of disloyalty at the North, "New York is about to proclaim itself a free city like Hamburg." To this the jaded, harassed President responded in a tone of mingled mirth and sadness, "As to that, I think it will be some time before the front door sets up housekeeping on its own account."

WE call the attention of our clerical readers to this story of Oliver Wendell Holmes about Theodore Parker. Dr. Holmes says that the first time he visited Parker—but we will give the account in the doctor's own language—"In looking round his library, I saw upon his shelves the great series of quartos—which I knew by their title only, if at all—'Brucker's Historia Critica Philosophic.' 'You have hardly read that, I suppose,' I said, not thinking that any student, in these degenerate days, grappled with these megatherial monsters of primitive erudition. 'O, yes, I have,' he answered very quietly; and then I, who thought I was dealing with a modest young divine of the regulation pattern, took another look at the massive head of the young man whom Mr. Wendell Phillips has lately spoken of as the 'Jupiter of the pulpit.'" It would be well for ministers everywhere if they grappled more with these hard, solid books. There is a great deal of literature that is very light to be found now-a-days, and it is found in theology as well as elsewhere, and it seems that it is very popular. Solid food is best, provided the stomach is in good condition.