

The Canadian Independent.

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

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THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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All communications for the Editorial, News of Churches, and Correspondence Columns should be addressed to the Managing Editor, the Rev. J. B. SILCOX, 340 Spadina Avenue, Toronto. Any article intended for the next issue must be in his hands not later than Monday.

No notice can be taken of anonymous communications. The name and address of the writer must accompany the article, not necessarily for publication, but as a guaranty of good faith.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for any views or opinions expressed in the communications of our correspondents.

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CITY subscribers to the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT will not forget to give our carrier-boy a Christmas greeting on his next round.

SUNDAY schools about to supply themselves with illustrated papers for the coming year will find it to their advantage to write to C. B. Robinson, 5 Jordan street, Toronto, for specimen copies of his excellent publications.

THE Christmas number of the "Christian Union," contains a rich assortment of articles, including a defence of authors' rights by Gail Hamilton, "Thoughts for Silent Hours," by Dr. Ray Palmer; "A Survey of Sailor Life," by Frank H. Converse; "Hints for Home Reading," by Edward Everett Hale, and a realistic story of Shaker life, entitled "St. Michael's Cross," by Eliot McCormick.

HENRY BERGH and his Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals have been at work during the past year, as the following figures read at the annual meeting will show: The Superintendent reported that during the year the Society had prosecuted 419 cases of cruelty to animals in New York and Brooklyn, 1,500 sick and disabled animals were ordered out of harness, the ambulances were called out on 217 occasions to remove disabled animals, 1,000 complaints had been investigated and remedied, and 1,500 old, worn-out, condemned animals were humanely destroyed. There is work for such a man in Canada.

THE authorities of Austria continue in their opposition to freedom to worship God. Persons are prohibited from meeting in private houses for worship. Not long ago seven Baptists met in a house in Vienna for prayer and were dispersed by the police. In another house, on a recent Sunday, the police entered and dispersed the fifteen people who had met for prayer, ordering the males to appear in the police court at three o'clock on the same day. Parents who have left the Romish Church are ordered to have their children baptized by the Romish parish priest. Rev. Mr. Balzar, an earnest preacher of the gospel, has been forbidden to hold any more meetings. It is hoped that the result of the visit of the deputation from the Evangelical Alliance will be a restoration of religious liberty in Austria.

THE New York "Tribune" has gone with the multitude to do evil by issuing a Sunday edition. The united demands of its readers and advertisers for a Sunday paper it has found "constantly harder to resist." It says it is not a question any longer whether the people will read Sunday morning papers, but only what papers, and that "if we refuse to sell they simply go elsewhere," so that "after long efforts to resist it, we are thus finally forced to see the imperative business necessity of giving our patrons what they want, rather than drive them to our rivals." These are weak arguments in favour of setting aside a divine command. "Hard to resist," "business necessity," "if we refuse they will go elsewhere." The publishers salve their consciences by hoping to make their Sunday edition "an improvement over the Sunday publications which it will displace."

MORMONISM is just now forcing itself on the attention of the people across the lines. Utah Territory is about to seek admission into the family of States. There is nothing to hinder her but polygamy, and this, we are sorry to say, may not keep her out. If once admitted to the Union the United States Congress will have no power to check polygamy as the marriage laws are made by each individual State. Whatever is done must be done now. But what to do is a difficult problem. President Hayes favours the exclusion of polygamists from the ballot box. Another remedy suggested is to insert a clause in the Constitution declaring polygamy an offence against National law. We trust the Christian people of the United States will rise in their might and wipe out this foul blot of Mormonism in the West as they did that of slavery in the South. Joseph Cook in the prelude of his Monday lecture said there was no law in Utah against seduction or adultery. Brigham Young had a brother who lived in open polygamy with his own granddaughter. A Mormon frequently marries the sisters of his own wife and sometimes a mother and daughter at once. And all this uncleanness under the name of religion!

THE Yale Lectures on Preaching are given this year by Rev. Howard Crosby, D.D., Chancellor of the University of New York. He began the course on Thursday, Nov. 20th. His first lecture dealt mainly with the physical requirements of the preacher. The preacher was not a priest, nor a mere lecturer, but a Christian leader and teacher. The weakness of Zion in the Doctor's opinion is due to the unfitness of her ministers. "The live minister," he said, "seeks neither fame, wealth, nor self-support. He seeks to do his work, and leaves his support to be cared for by the church that employs him. 'The labourer is worthy of his hire,' not every one who seeks to be a labourer. A preacher must be independent." This course of lectures will, doubtless, be helpful to ministers and all Christian workers. Speaking of ministers the New York "Observer" says: "The time has gone by for dull preachers. The activities of the age, the diffusion of knowledge by schools, books, and periodicals, the spirit of inquiry, the spread of infidelity, the prevalence of doubt, the subtlety of false science, demand live, strong, earnest, capable men to preach the Gospel. It will not answer to educate dullness or mediocrity. It was forbidden that a son of Aaron should be a priest if he had any blemish. Even a flat nose excluded him. And the age wants no half-baked ministers. The west will not hear them. The east cannot bear them. The heathen know too much to take them. They are not wanted on this earth. To get money to educate dull boys because they are pious is robbing God and a fraud upon the Church. It is a crime or a blunder, or sometimes both."

SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES.

THERE are now 1,000 Sabbath schools in France, 2,000 in Germany, and 1,200 in Italy.

"WE have a very nice minister. He shook hands with me to-day," writes a half-grown boy from a country church where there has lately been a change of pastors.

"LET it be understood that the Sabbath school is now a better thing than it used to be, and that you cannot let your children stay out of it without putting them behind other children."—*Joseph Cook.*

WHEN we are out of sympathy with the young, then I think our work in this world is over. That is a sign that the heart has begun to wither—and that is a dreadful kind of old age.—*George Macdonald.*

DR. VINCENT would have every scholar take home two books, a paper, and a tract. To get out darkness we must let in light; and to keep boys from hurtful reading they must be supplied with that which is good. In a recent Sunday School Institute the Dr. was asked whether he would have in his Sunday school a teacher who danced. His deliberate and emphatic answer was: "Not I." He based his reply, not on the ground that a teacher could not dance and still be a Christian, but upon the general fact that dancing people, theatre-going people, and card-playing people are known to be very far from devout. In the Sabbath school the influence ought to be the very highest, purest, and best.

YOU may not live long, you may not have the child under your roof a great while, you may be taken away by death, or the child may be taken away, therefore let us be faithful to the children God has given us; let us train them for eternity: let us teach them diligently. I would rather have my child come to my grave, and drop a tear over it, "While father lived, he was more anxious for my eternal welfare than anything else; he taught me about Christ;" and then I would rather have my children rise up in judgment, and say I did all I could to train and bring them to that world of light. It is a thousand times better to leave them that legacy than to leave them thousands of dollars to make the way down to hell easy.—*Moody.*

HE who would teach children must study children. He must acquaint himself with their modes of thought and with their manner of speech. Not only the scholars of his class in the Sunday school, but other children, should be studied by whoever would become a good teacher. To study children wisely and thoroughly a man must be with them elsewhere than in Sunday school. He must watch them in their plays. If he can play with them, so much the better. He must talk with them familiarly, and draw them out to talk with him. He must get them to tell him what they have read and heard and thought. He must question them and let them question him. If he does this, he will be surprised at the lessons he is learning continually. He will come to teach differently and to teach better. If he fails to study children, a man will not be a successful teacher of children, whatever else he may be able to do well.—*S. S. Times.*

BISHOP SIMPSON says: "The Sunday school should always receive the careful attention of the minister. He should teach the church that the school is a part of its legitimate work and under its careful control; not a something outside of the church, but a regular part of the Sabbath services. Wherever churches are regularly established, I have no sympathy with what are termed "union schools," or institutions without specific religious management and government. In sparsely settled sections of the country, where no denomination is strong enough to maintain a school of its own, or in neighbourhoods where no church is