

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## Topics of the Week.

Since 1507 the Jesuits have been expelled from eight countries in Europe and from several countries in South America, not on account of their religion, but for their politics. They are found to make trouble and to be enemies of all governments they cannot control.

—Mr. Moody's school at Northfield seems to be meeting with much favor. It is understood that Mr. Hiram Camp, of Meriden, Conn., has given \$25,000 toward a boys' school, to be organized on the same plan as the girls. Two other persons have just given \$1,500. Mr. Watson, of Boston, who gave the first money for the seminary building, gives \$3,000 for a scholarship, and three ladies have agreed to pay for the education of one of the Indian girls.

—The *Congregationalist* says the original Jubilee Singers are to enter the field once more in behalf of Fisk University at Nashville. They sang for it six years, raising a large sum. For the past two years they have given concerts in their own behalf, and they now start out again on their original errand. Give them a hearty reception. They deserve it. We see that they are to sing in Toronto next week, and doubtless will visit other places. Will our friends think of the above "good word" for them.

—Mr. Ingersoll spoke at McVicker's Theatre, Chicago, Sunday, Sept. 19, on "What Must I do to be Saved?" The Y. M. C. A. gave each one, as he or she entered the theatre a card on which was the text: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." One person about to enter, said, "That answer is sufficient, I don't care to hear any other," and walked away. The question occurs whether this course does not compel those engaged in it to concede the reciprocal right to infidels to distribute their literature at our own meetings, without subjecting them to the charge of discourtesy.

—A singular and apparently credible story is told of a parish priest at Montanaro, in northern Italy, who, after various and pressing, but unsuccessful appeals to his people for money with which to repair the church, finally, a few Sundays ago, laid a large pair of scissors on the pulpit before his sermon, and, after preaching on the great need of putting the house in better repair, called on all the women present, who really loved the church, to follow him into the sacristy and allow him to cut off their superfluous hair, and sell it. Forty-seven of the women followed him, and, as the story runs, he soon had two hundred pounds of hair, furnishing ample means for putting the house in the best order. What would the women of our Protestant churches say to such a proposal?

—The eyes of all Europe are still turned on the little port of Dulcigno, on the Adriatic Sea, midway between Rome and Naples. The Turks held it till 1878, when the Montenegrins took it by storm, 1,000 men being killed. After the Berlin Congress, this town, inhabited by Turks and Albanians, was given to Montenegro. It is nominally governed by the Sultan, whose resistance to the allied fleet of English, French, German, Italian and Austrian vessels waiting before Constantinople, seems a farce. Some

time ago he sent Riza Pasha to Dulcigno ostensibly for the purpose of scattering its Albanian forces and compelling its surrender, but this he has failed to do, until, now, the allied powers have made a formal demand for its capitulation. The powers are equally determined that Epirus and Thessaly shall be given up to Greece. Montenegro is a mountainous country of 100,000 people, warlike and very brave, and they bitterly hate the Turks. The Porte must submit and it is hoped without bloodshed.

—As to the Smith business, a calm reigns at present, but it is only a precursor to a fresh outbreak of the storm. The committee appointed last month is sitting upon the new article, and it will be seen at the end of October what is to come of the incubation. It is said to be likely that the commission, will, in some way, express its opinion that the Professor should not resume his class this winter, but leave it to the Assembly of 1881 to deal in a judicial way with the fresh features of the case. Perhaps Mr. Smith may refuse to bow to that decision. The commission has no power to enforce its own decrees. Whatever it does is on its own responsibility, and its action may be disclaimed at a succeeding Assembly. But any vote in it gives a tolerably certain indication as to the general feeling of the Church, and no man in the place of Professor Smith would improve his position or prospects by defying it.

The *Pacific* well says President Hays did a significant thing at Sault Lake City, for which he deserves honor. He refused to accept the freedom of a city which is the chief seat of the Mormon abomination of polygamy, and so far forth, Satan's seat. He could admire its industries, enterprises and achievements, but he would have no fellowship with its endowment houses and works of darkness. Now let us see that we shall have a Congress elected this autumn that will pass a strong anti-polygamy law, which can, and will be executed. And let us begin here at home; and let a committee of good men ask all our candidates for Congress if they will not agree to help in every possible way the enactment of such a law for all our territories. Arizona and New Mexico need one as truly as Utah. This Mormon abomination ought not to be suffered to continue—much less to spread.

—We shall hear immediately what the Presbytery of Glasgow is going to do about "The Scotch Sermons." By a majority, the Court decided not to appoint a committee right off, but a considerable minority voted for an immediate examination; and even although the Presbytery should refuse to move, the minority will certainly bring the matter before the General Assembly. It is easy to see that there exists among even Evangelicals like Dr. Phin and Dr. Marshall Lang, an intense dislike to meddle with the book. Dr. Phin makes every year grand speeches about the flourishing state of the Church, and about the peace which reigns throughout its borders; and he naturally dreads the disturbing effect of a heresy trial. So much, however, has been said about the teaching of the new school in all quarters, that it is impossible any longer to pass by on the other side, and we look forward with curiosity to the time when the Establishment will be compelled to declare how far it is going to carry the principle of comprehension.

Henry Ward Beecher has entered vigorously into the campaign for the Republican party, and is sending some hard shots at the Democrats. In a recent speech he declared that he had "been fighting the Democratic party for forty years, and it is still, as of old, poisoned with the virus of slavery, and is trying to get back into power by being borne on the back of fourteen vagabond States."

Church Congresses of one sort and another are not only common in England but in Germany also, it seems. Three such gatherings have recently assembled in the Grand Duchy of Baden. The German Vatican Catholics have held their twenty-seventh annual assembly. The resolutions which were passed were strongly in favor of a high Catholic tone of policy, concluding by expressing the deep sympathy of the German Roman Catholics for the persecuted clergy and laity of France. The Old Catholic Congress declared that there is no fundamental contradiction between the results attained by modern science and the primary truths upon which Christianity is based; and that the principle of the independence of national Churches is in full accord with the universal character of the Church of Christ. The Gustav-Adolf-Verein, the central Protestant organization of the Continent, met in the capital of Baden. The Grand Duke of Baden attended the festival service in church, and some of the deliberations. This association now numbers 1,005 branch associations.

Attempted repression of opinions has always had the effect of causing them to spread. There were two versions of the Bible in English before the Reformation, but copies were extremely rare, and the Book was little read. By-and-by William Tyndal was moved to make another translation, and on applying to a Bishop for help in the work, he only obtained threats of martyrdom. He fled to Antwerp, and in process of time sent copies of the New Testament across the water to London to his friends, "The Christian Brothers." They would have found much difficulty in the speedy circulation of the Book had not the Bishops cursed the work, and opened a subscription to buy up the dreaded volumes. "They burnt them publicly in St. Paul's. The whip, the gaol, the stake did their worst; and their worst was nothing. The high dignitaries of the earth were fighting against Heaven, and met the success which ever attends such contests. Three editions were sold in four years, and another was in preparation. All were condemned with equal emphasis, and all continued to spread."

—Within the last few days, says the *Builder*, passengers along the Embankment between Waterloo and Charing-cross have had their attention attracted to the aking down of the statue of Robert Raikes, which was erected only some two or three months ago, on the occasion of the Sunday-school Centenary. The statue itself, as well as the granite pedestal on which it stood, have been removed from the site, and the former taken away and placed under lock and key, pending the permanent foundation and basement works now in progress. The explanation offered of the removal of the structure is that its erection was only of a temporary character in order to admit of the inauguration of the statue during the centenary week, and that for this occasion the pedestal and the statue were erected on blocks of timber. "If

the explanation given be correct," adds our contemporary, "certainly it is the oddest proceeding that we have heard of for some time." We don't see what there is "odd" about this, if it is correct. Those who know the spot are aware that it is *made* ground recovered from the river, and that it is very difficult to get a firm foundation in such ground for an erection like the Raikes statue. It was stated at the inauguration that this difficulty had arisen, and that a larger sum was needed in consequence.

A letter, calling attention to the work of the American Protestant missionaries in Turkey, appeared in the *London Times* lately, from the pen of Mr. Gavin Carlyle. He says: "When the Turkish Empire is at present occupying so much attention, and when British liberality has so recently been elicited by the famine, it may not be out of place to refer briefly to a work now going on, the results of which are likely to be of great importance to the future. There are now no fewer than six colleges connected with the various Protestant American missions. There is the Robert College, at Constantinople, which is, I believe, acknowledged on all hands to be the best educational establishment in Turkey. At this college there are students of all creeds. Some of the ablest men in the new Bulgarian Parliament are graduates from Robert College. Their knowledge of Constitutions, acquired there, and equally of the history of our own country, stood them in good stead in helping to introduce free institutions. There is the Syrian Protestant College at Beirut, presided over by Dr. Van Dyke, one of the ablest of living Arabic scholars. There is the central Turkey College at Aintab, to which many students flock from the adjacent regions. There is another newly erected college at Karpoos, further to the east. There is, across the frontier, in Persia, among the Nestorians, a college at Oroomich. And in the south of the Turkish Empire, in Egypt, there is a college at Osiout. In all these institutions young men are receiving a most intelligent education in philosophy and science, etc. English is the classic tongue which opens up to them the treasures of knowledge. A young man who recently came to England from one of these colleges, though he had never been in this country before, spoke English with such fluency as to be able to address with ease, and to interest, large audiences. Another made to me the most pertinent remark, in passing through Edinburgh and observing the numerous statues, that he wondered there was not one to Sir William Hamilton, with whose philosophy he was evidently acquainted. The American missionaries who preside over these colleges give also to all the students such thorough training in Biblical knowledge as is seldom got even in this country. Besides the colleges, to which I wish to draw special attention, as occupying a most important place in training up men for responsible positions in, before long, let us hope, a reformed Turkish Empire, there are numerous schools of different grades all over the country, taught by American and native teachers. Of the latter there are no fewer than 600 now employed. Many of these schools are for girls, whom formerly no one ever dreamt of teaching even to read. Many of these are difficult high high-class examinations.