

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

—Rev. Robert Jamieson, D. D., an eminent divine and one of the authors of a commentary of the Bible, recently died in Glasgow, Scotland.

—An old Carmelite convent in Lisbon now bears over its gateway the inscription "Presbyterian Church," the building having been purchased of the Portuguese Government.

—The Christian at Work hears a liturgical sound in the tops of the Presbyterian mulberry trees and observes in the Episcopal air a movement in the direction of freedom from arbitrary liturgical forms.

—It is stated as a natural result of the spread of infidelity and of the weakness of the foundation principles of morality in Germany, that the number of criminals has increased from 84,822 in 1875 to 600,642 in 1878.

—It is encouraging to hear such men as Prince Bismark saying: There is only one greater folly than that of the fool who says in his heart there is no God; and that is the folly of the people that says with its head that it does not know whether there is a God.

—A small congregation of full-blooded Chickasaw Indians lately gave \$400 for the foreign missions of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The church was only recently gathered, and its members live in the true primitive style.

—Much fault is found with the memorial of Temple Bar, in London, which has been set up in the middle of the street where Temple Bar used to be. It is to be almost as large and obstructive as the Bar itself, to be ugly and wholly out of keeping with the neighbouring buildings, and likely to be enormously costly. So, at least, the *Academy* thinks.

—The Bible Society's sixty-fifth report shows that 6,069 New Testaments were distributed by colporteurs last year. Three thousand copies of the Greek Testament according to Tischendorf's last edition are to be sent to Dr. Maroulis, of Macedonia, for introduction among the Greek population. A revision of Luther's German version of the Bible is being carried on by the society.

—At a council recently held at Nora, Ill., to advise a church with reference to the fitness of Rev. James Warrall to be its pastor, after fourteen hours of careful investigation, unanimously declined to install him. The leading objections were, that he held the Bible only to be alike inspired with the Koran and other works of its kind and that he held to a second probation.

—The Bishop in his pastoral address before the late Protestant Episcopal Convention said: Among the signs of the times, fitted to awaken the anxiety of the patriot and the concern of the Christian, is the increasing desecration of the Lord's Day. With the reverent observation of the day set apart for the worship of Almighty God is most intimately connected our public welfare as well as the prosperity of religion.

—Rev. Mr. Spurgeon's new residence near London was entered by burglars

Sunday night, Oct. 17. They took some valuables from the study, broke open boxes, cut into bags of documents relating to the Orphanage and other matters. They stole a beautiful ebony cane with an elaborately wrought gold head, which Mr. John B. Gough had presented to Mr. Spurgeon. The next morning at eleven o'clock a detective brought the gold head hammered and battered to Mr. Spurgeon. It had been offered at a pawnbroker's shop in the neighborhood.

—The Persian Sheik Abdullah has sent a communication to the American missionaries at Ooroomia, requesting them to hoist the red white and blue above the mission building at that place as soon as the rapacious Kurds appear. He thinks that the latter will respect the American colours. Those wild riders have but dim conceptions of the great republic, but they have acquired respect and good will for it, and this because our Presbyterian women have fed the starving.

—Martin Luther's own copy of the Vulgate from which he translated the Bible into German while living at Funker, Forg, on the Wartburg (1521-22), has been discovered. The director of a little watering place in Bohemia, Dr. Schlechta Ritter von Sedmiborsky, is said to be in possession of the precious volume, for which so many Lutheran scholars have made the most diligent search. The margins of the single leaves of the Latin volume are covered with a great many corrections, conjectures, and glosses made by Luther, and written in his own hand.

—M. De Pressense says that the present experience of the Reformed Church in France proves that it is "impossible to be Independent and at the same time receive the support of the State; to be an evangelical and yet an established Church." The present Minister of Public Worship is a Freethinker, and has determined that in the elections for the members of the Synod no religious conditions or qualifications shall be demanded—that the Orthodox and the Liberal, the Calvinist and the Socinian, shall stand on the same level. The Minister insists that Protestantism shall be so managed that the Church shall be open to all varieties of opinion, and by his action he has thrown open the doors. The evangelical party will be placed in the minority in the elections, which are ordered to be held in March, 1881.

—The foreign news of chief importance comes from France. It was about time for another cabinet crisis there, so last week they got one up. The Chamber of Deputies refused to take up education bills first in order on Tuesday, whereupon the ministry, with a proper sense of what was due to it, resigned summarily. The next day, however, being assured that no one meant to hurt its feelings, it withdrew its resignation most solemnly and demanded that the Chamber vote

confidence in it by a majority of at least 200 votes. It received one of 166 votes, and, in order not to seem mean, it said it would be satisfied. But there are ominous headshakings in some quarters, and mutterings that the crisis is not over yet, that the Cabinet is tottering, and that Gambetta has his eagle eye fixed on the presidency. We shall see what we shall see.

—Rev. Mr. Spurgeon has been suffering very much lately from ill-health and was only able to attend the final meeting at the Tabernacle of the Baptist Union. Pale, and leaning upon his staff, he addressed the vast audience with his usual eloquence and power, deeply affecting all hearts. About this time Mr. Joseph Cook breakfasted with the London Y. M. C. A. Mr. Spurgeon being invited to attend replied: "I should regard it as a great pleasure to accept the invitation to meet so distinguished and useful a teacher. But, alas, I am an invalid, and must be denied many of the joys of social life for a while. Permit me, however, to charge you with a message of grateful respect for Mr. Cook, for whose appearance at this juncture I have blessed God many times. Right heartily I hope that England may be favored with some of those confirming words which have been so useful to the staggering, and those confounding arguments which have scattered the designing, skeptical bands."

—The Minister of Grace and Justice at Rome has addressed a circular, dated the 27th ult., to the Procurators-General throughout Italy, reminding them of the laws in force against the Jesuits, who are prohibited from forming themselves into associations in Italy. The circular says that several Jesuits from France seek, in combination with members of the same order in Italy, to form a community and again set up their establishments in the kingdom. The Government, however, cannot tolerate an act constituting so serious a blow to the rights of the State and to public order, and the Minister therefore calls the attention of the Procurators to the measures taken against the Jesuits since 1744 in Tuscany, and since 1848 in several other provinces of the kingdom. The circular expresses the desire that one sole law for all the provinces should regulate this question of ecclesiastical discipline; but meanwhile the Minister cannot permit the enactments above mentioned to remain unobserved. The Minister of Grace and Justice, acting in accord with the Minister of the Interior, therefore directs that the enactments still remaining in force against the Jesuits in several provinces shall be scrupulously carried out.

—Irish affairs continue as disturbed as ever. A Mr. Boycott, who lives near Ballinrobe and is Earl Erne's agent, incurred the ill-will of

the Land League recently, and his servants were all frightened away, he was unable to harvest his crops or to feed his cattle, except single handed and at the risk of his life, and he was compelled to fortify his house in order to protect his family. He asked the Government for twenty men to help him, and a company of fifty gentlemen and others from Ulster, have gone to his relief this week, the Government sending a considerable force of troops to support them while they aided him with his harvesting. The populace were much stirred up but the troops were not attacked. Mr. Boycott will leave Ireland, although at a heavy loss of property, in order to save his life and those of his household. He is guilty of no crime, but the Land League persecutes him because of his refusal to resign his place as Lord Erne's agent. The Land League, however, seems somewhat dismayed at the Government's promptness in supporting Mr. Boycott with troops, and even more by Mr. Gladstone's speech at the Lord Mayor's banquet in London, on Nov. 9, when he asserted vigorously that the law must be maintained and order restored in Ireland before reforms can be made. The Government evidently means to deal promptly and spiritedly with those who disturb the peace of Ireland.

SPEAKING at a Bible Society meeting at Manchester, Bishop Fraser observed that in the last century a Bishop of the Church of England wrote a book, to which he gave the title, *An Apology for the Bible*, and the simple-hearted King who was then reigning, on seeing the book, said, "God bless my soul; I didn't know that the Bible required any apology!" Unhappily things had got to that state that the Bible again required an apology—that was to say, a defence. Frederic Harrison might say that if what he called a synthesis of minds be selected from the writings of Hume, Confucius, Voltaire, as well as from King David, St. Paul, St. John, or even Christ, he should get a sort of conglomerate of the best thoughts that ever passed through the human heart or the human mind, which would be very much more effective for the purposes of civilization and human development than from that old book which we called the Word of God. But what we knew as a fact was that the present civilized state of the world—civilization in the highest sense of the word—had been built upon an acceptance of the Bible. Sweep away the Bible and all that the human race had learned from it, and what did they leave men to guide their steps through this difficult world? He had no patience with people who would rob them of what had proved to be a source of strength and of comfort, and were giving them nothing to supply its place.

A MISSIONARY at Canton has arranged a new Chinese alphabet of thirty-three letters, by which he claims that all the words which now require so many thousands and symbols can be written.