

The Canadian Independent.

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

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THE trial of Dr. Talmage will come to nothing. The impression is general now that there is very little in the charges preferred against him, and that they should never have been brought up.

WAR is frequent enough in South America. Those Spanish republics down there are never in their element except when they are fighting. And now Peru and Bolivia and Chili are engaged in diversion of that sort.

WE tender congratulations to R. Eadie, B.A., student of C.C.B.N.A. on his having received the Chapman Gold Medal for classics in McGill University. Mr. Eadie spends his vacation at Mount Zion Mission, Don Mount.

THE Czar of Russia has been asked to take measures to repress the alarming growth of dissenters in the south of Russia. The request of the Stundists for permission to hold a congress of 150 delegates will be, it is thought, refused.

WILL the man who wrote to us recommending that we print the names of all the subscribers in arrears to the INDEPENDENT please favour us with his name and address? We want to send him, privately, a scathing rebuke for his cruel suggestion.

AT the last meeting of the Presbytery of Quebec Rev. Mr. Tully was appointed Convener of Home Mission Committee in place of Rev. Mr. Lindsay, resigned. All communications in this connection to be addressed to Rev. A. F. Tully, Sherbrooke, P. Q.

THE Statistical Secretary, W. H. Warner of Yorkville, wishes us to urge pastors and church officers not to delay in sending in their returns. It is important that every church appear on the list. Statistics are of little use unless they are complete. Let the matter be promptly attended to.

THE French minister of the Interior in a published letter, very sharply reproves the Bishop of Grenoble for misrepresenting the government and encouraging disobedience to laws by a pastoral, wherein he declared that the government is hostile to religion and that the laws are not sanctioned by the Church and are not binding.

RUSSIA must be in a sad condition. Since the recent attempt to assassinate the Emperor, fears have been entertained of outbreaks, especially in St. Petersburg. Nihilism seems to be very powerful in the large cities, and the government is doing what it can to repress it by military measures. Arrests are frequent; many are taken up on the merest shadow of suspicion. What will be the final result no one can

predict; but it looks now as if serious events were at the door.

THE editor of the "Guardian" evidently reckoned without his host when he wrote that insinuating article some time ago about "candidating" as a necessary consequence of the permanent system. He has had some very unpalatable facts told him by his own brethren about "candidating" in the Methodist itinerant system, and still they come. We told him we could furnish him some facts if he desired them, but seeing that he is getting so many from his own brethren, we forbear. Next time, somebody will be more cautious about hinting on "candidating."

SOME very troublesome questions come up frequently before the missionaries in foreign lands. The Presbytery of Sealkote, India, recently discussed the question of what should be done with converted natives having more than one wife. Shall a convert be compelled to put away a woman he has always supposed to be his lawful wife, sever a tender chord, and bring ruin upon the woman? The Presbytery decided that "while it is clear that such persons are not eligible to office, yet, in the opinion of the Presbytery there is nothing in the Bible to prevent their reception into church membership."

THE London "Christian Signal" says: "One of the most gratifying signs of the times is the rapid increase of coffee taverns—public houses without the drink. There are more than 2,000 of these establishments now open in Great Britain, and almost every week witnesses additions to the number. This is a form of temperance effort which seems likely to produce very remarkable results. The publicans are recognizing its power, and in order to neutralize its effect they are proposing to supply non-intoxicating beverages—tea, cocoa, coffee, etc. If temperance men are wise they will render all the support in their power to this movement.

COLPORTEURS in Austria must have special permission from the government to sell Bibles, and this permission allows them simply to take subscriptions. In some provinces this restriction has been so interpreted that the colporteur could deliver the ordered Scriptures at once. In Bohemia, however, the law is now so rigidly enforced that the colporteurs of the Bible Society (B. and F.) are forbidden delivering the ordered books. They can simply send the subscriptions to the Bible-store in Prague, and the store must fill the order by mail. The postage on a Testament worth ten cents is nine cents. In spite of these difficulties more than a hundred Bohemian families supply themselves with God's word every week. If colporteurs could sell, they could easily dispose of four times as many copies.

AN American paper speaks thus to ministers in regard to the Gospel of right living:—"The proclamation of the Gospel of fidelity and right-dealing should be made with a directness and earnestness that will command public attention. If, under the very shadow of the pulpit, men have sat with bowed heads and sanctimonious looks, and listened with an assenting mind to its ordinary teaching, while at the same time they were inextricably involved in criminal transactions which many a profane worldling would scorn, will not the pulpit take the hint, and ring out some message that will set people to measuring themselves by some reliable moral standard, and arouse their fears lest falsehood and trickery should hurry them on to threatened damnation quite as rapidly as could any here- or neglect of sacred ordinances."

"ABOUT CHURCH MUSIC."

BY SPERO MELIORA.—Continued.

The instances given in our last paper are only two out of many which might be given, and if "what has been done once can be done again," surely what has been repeatedly done cannot be an impossibility, and still we are told that it is impossible to make congregations sing. Of course it is, if obstructives, wedded to the ideas of past days, and strong in prejudice against anything which does not originate with themselves, set all the weight of their influence to work and do all they can to undermine anything which is in any way contrary to their own ideas and practices. But let this matter have fair play and be judged by the results, not by the prejudices of those who will not take the trouble even to make themselves acquainted with the rudiments of the system, assuming to know all about it, but who, nevertheless, are not ashamed, when opposing it, to exhibit their own ignorance of its first principles, and have not sufficient candour to acknowledge (if they know it) that when sight singers are successfully made with the staff notation the very principles are brought into requisition which in Tonic Sol-fa they affect to despise.

It is not, however, the object of this present paper to fight the battle of notations; the writer is no bigot, but like many of his brother sol-fa-ists, takes the position that he who does not study *both* notations only half does his work, and a vast mass of music only to be obtained in the staff notation must remain a sealed book to him.

What is contended for here is, that for the purpose of obtaining rapid and satisfactory results in congregational singing, the staff notation cannot for a moment compare with the Tonic Sol-fa; in any case it ill becomes would-be authorities to pooh-pooh a system which is already wide-spread and daily gaining ground, not in England only, but in America and other parts of the world, having, too, the endorsement of such men as Professor Macfarren, Dr. Hainer, Brinley Richards, Professor Helmholtz, A. J. Ellis and others, too numerous to find space for within the limits of this paper.

Now as to tunes: Whatever be the special tastes of any given congregation as to style of tune, in order to get singing at the best, *one* book must be adopted and used in the church, and the choir must restrain their propensity to select tunes from every book they can lay their hands upon. Nothing will prevent, or kill out, the singing of a congregation more effectually than to have the choir continually starting off on new tunes which the people do not know, and to which, as a rule, they have no access. As to the character of the tunes, they should suit the hymns; they should be sufficiently simple for all to join in; while the melodies and harmonies should be rich and such as will not only express, but awaken, the emotions of the heart.

What are called "syllabic tunes" are often sneered at by some who cling to the traditions of fifty years ago. They regard the old ranting fugal tunes as the very embodiment of all that is cheerful in sacred song, and the slow drawl of the same period as the proper expression of solemn feeling. Yet it is amongst these same syllabic tunes that we find the most varied and appropriate expression of the sentiments of the hymns which are sung to them.

Amongst the multitudes of them which are in existence, it is of course easy to pick out much poor stuff, but in most cases the beauty of the tune is brought out or murdered by the way in which it is sung. Sing one of these tunes in the sleepy, dragging way which is the fashion with some choirs and congregations, and what can be more dreary? But sing these same tunes