

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

WE see by the Toronto papers that the Rev. Mr. Kinmouth, of Seneca Falls, N.Y., has accepted the call from the Brantford church. We are without any word from the church itself.

LORD CAIRNS, the Lord High Chancellor of England, and Lady Cairns are constant attendants at the meetings at the "headquarters" of the "Salvation Army" in Whitechapel street, London. Lord Cairns believes in evangelizing the masses, and last summer, during the recess, when in Scotland taking his vacation, he preached occasionally.

IN Spain there is such a thirst for the knowledge of the Gospel of Christ that, Dr. Punshon says, it is no unusual thing for their missionaries to receive a written requisition from villages, signed by forty or fifty inhabitants, asking them to come and preach the Gospel to them. Like France, they have had about enough of Romanism, and begin to understand its hollowness.

IN Asia Minor the whole number of Protestants is nearly 30,000. These, formed into a separate community, have a chief or head man at Constantinople. There are not less than 225 separate Protestant congregations scattered through the country from the Black Sea to the Mediterranean, and from Turkey to Persia. There are 176 schools with an average attendance of 15,500 persons.

A LATE decision of the House of Lords in Great Britain secures to every bishop the power at his own absolute discretion to stay proceedings instituted under the Church Discipline Act, with a view to putting an end to Ritualistic vagaries, however outrageous in character or offensive to the parishioners they may hereafter become. This will probably leave the Romanizers in the English Church to unchecked license.

IT shews an advance in the knowledge of the condition of the Eastern nations, and the closeness of the relations which now exist between the old and the modern nations, that Professor Legge, of Oxford University, has been lecturing to the students of the Presbyterian College in London on "Religion in China," and that the last lecture was favoured with the presence of the Chinese Ambassador at the Court of St. James.

THE House of Lords has affirmed the decision of the Court of the Queen's Bench in the reversal of the judgment of the Court of Arches ordering a mandamus to issue to the Bishop of Oxford, directing him to institute proceedings against Canon Carter, on complaint of Dr. Julius, for violation of the Public Worship Act. The English papers regard the decision as a very important one, in that it places in the hands of the bishops very large discretionary powers. After the announcement of the decision of the House of Lords, Canon Carter offered his resignation, for the reason that he could not conscientiously carry out the wishes of the Bishop and modify the ritual in use in his church.

THE French bishops are publishing letters in the Catholic journals vigorously opposing the decrees against the Jesuits. The "France" says the Government contemplates measures to prevent further manifestations on the part of the bishops, and the minister of public worship will probably address a letter to all French prelates, reminding them of the provisions of the Concordat and declaring the firm resolve of the Government to cause the laws to be respected. The

"République Française," in an article supposed to be written by M. Gambetta, denounces the Jesuits' unauthorized religious congregations, Bonapartists, and even the Church itself, as the sworn foes of the Republic.

THE earth has dark places which are still the abodes of horrid cruelty. Late despatches from the capital of Burmah report that 700 men, women, boys, girls, priests and foreigners have been burned alive under the towers of the city walls as a sacrifice for the restoration of the king's health. The panic in Mandalay is frightful, and hundreds of people are leaving the city. The king's illness is leprosy. King Theebau is still quite young, and, even before this crowning act, had made a reputation for cruelty greater than that of any predecessor. As some of his victims are foreigners, foreign nations, particularly England, will probably feel called to check his career, and perhaps to reduce his dominions, as on two previous occasions, by annexing provinces to British India.

SOME short time ago a coloured cadet at West Point, named Whittaker, was found in his room with his hair and ears cut, and otherwise greatly abused. The occurrence has roused the authorities to some measure of activity in order to discover the perpetrators, though previously there had been more than sufficient of something of the same kind to have justified strong measures in the enforcement of decent, gentlemanly conduct toward all the students, whatever their colour. The St. Louis "Christian Observer" has only the following to say of it. "A Coloured Cadet's Trouble. A coloured cadet at West Point, named Whittaker, was found recently to have had his ear and hair cut, and to have received other minor injuries while sleeping in his room at the academy, though he cannot recognize his assailants, and seems not to know anything about the matter. Whether his white fellow cadets were the guilty parties, or, as is very likely the case, he did it himself to afford material for political capital, is not known. But it shews the gross impropriety of compelling young gentlemen to associate in class and the institute with negroes." This, we suppose, is the right and proper way for "Christians" of the "ruling race" to speak and act in their intercourse with their former "chattels." A good deal of "education" is evidently still needed both in "Old Kentuck" and at Point West.

SARAH K. BOLTON writes as follows: "In Lasell Seminary, at Auburndale, near Boston, for three years, cooking has been taught to the young women by Miss Parloa, and for two years dressmaking, with no interference with the regular work of the school. Its aim is, besides giving to girls all the advantages of a first-class seminary, to make them self helpful and so independent. Arrangements are now completed for a practice-kitchen, where the young ladies who wish can practise what they are taught. Prof. C. C. Bragdon, the principal, is thoroughly in earnest in this practical work and was the first to adopt it. One of the chief designs of education is to fit people to use life day by day to some purpose, and we are glad that a few persons are wise enough to see what foundation-work is necessary to this end. If a young woman is to study the stars, like Prof. Maria Mitchell, it will do her no harm to know how to cook a dinner. And if she is to marry, as probably she will, she will find a little knowledge of this kind both economical and useful. Some of us look back to early housekeeping experiences and sigh that the good methods of Lasell Seminary were not adopted in our school-days." The sooner all our ladies' schools have such a department in full and efficient operation so much the better.

If there were less routine teaching and what is vulgarly called "cramming," with more of the practical in cooking, domestic economy and dressmaking, etc., in our schools there would be less subsequent domestic unhappiness and fewer worried and bewildered young wives, and wives no longer young.

DR. NORMAN KERR lectured in London, England, lately, on "Female Intemperance," under the auspices of the Christian Workers' Temperance Union (Female), of which Lady Jane Ellice is the president. Dr. Kerr concluded with an appeal to Christian women to abstain—1. For their own sake. None of them, he said, could make sure she would never fall. Narcotic poisons were no respecters of persons, and laid low the good and the bad. They would enjoy better health and have clearer heads, and would be able to do more and better work for God by abstaining. 2. For the sake of their weaker sisters. For those who had fallen there was safety only in abstinence, and the terrible nature of the struggle inebriate women had to go through called for the comfort and encouragement of the powerful example of the strong, that the fainting heart of the penitent might be cheered. A rich reward awaited Christian women who abstained, and the influence for good to many a despairing one. 3. For the sake of those who were to follow them. The saddest feature of the whole question was that drinking mothers might bequeath to their children an existence of physical and mental misery, a tendency to epilepsy and insanity, and various serious bodily afflictions, and a hereditary predisposition to dipsomania. What a legacy to leave to a child—the legacy of a life-long struggle against an unceasing tendency to drunkenness. If they wished their children to have a fair chance of avoiding physical and moral shipwreck they must not only rear them in the practice of abstinence, but they must also launch them into existence with a body and brain free from the imprint of maternal alcoholic indulgence.

THE Continental Evangelization Society is a helper of various European agencies, and has been a pioneer in opening up new regions. For many years it has rendered aid to the Evangelical Societies of France, Geneva and Belgium, and to other similar associations, and at the present moment it is supporting twelve agents belonging to these societies. In Italy a similar course is pursued, and large grants are made toward the support of five ministers stationed in Rome, Florence, Milan, Turin and Brescia, belonging to the Free Christian and Waldensian Churches, both of them of purely Italian growth. In Spain and Bohemia missions have been started in regions not previously occupied by any society or Church. They say that "the very privations and sufferings which so many of our converts endure are a demonstration of the reality of the work accomplished. The wealthy and the educated stand aloof. The second Reformation, now quietly going forward in every part of Europe, obtains no countenance from the higher, and scarcely any from the middle classes. Counts and Electors, Princesses and Duchesses, do not, as in former days, open their mansions to welcome the preacher or colporteur. The work proceeds among the lowly. The poor gladly welcome the Prince of Life—and from this very fact we may, perhaps, augur well for the continuance and reality of the movement." They think no nobler task can well be imagined than that of seeking to build up on the ruins of the old Protestant Churches of the Continent a new, and, if possible, a nobler and more enlightened Church, instinct with spiritual life, free from all State connection, a redemptive power in the midst of the corrupt civilization of modern times.