

The Canadian Independent.

ONE IS YOUR MASTER, I

AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN.

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Current Topics.

—Rev. Dr. John Hall, of New York, said in a recent sermon that within a year his church has contributed half a million dollars for religious teaching.

—Rev. Joseph Cook has decided to remain in Europe for another season, and will return by way of India and Japan. He is to give a series of lectures in Spurgeon's Tabernacle in London.

—It shows the progress of true views in regard to the Sabbath as a rest-day, that 6,000 tradesmen now close their business houses in the St. Roch Quarter in Paris on the Lord's day.

—Father Hyacinthe wants the Protestants to subscribe \$18,000 for building him a new church in Paris; but the opinion prevails that a more simple and pure Gospel is better for France at this time than anything Father Hyacinthe has to offer.

—About 80,000 acres of land in Palestine between Jaffa and Jerusalem have been secured from the Turkish government, and a colony is being formed for the persecuted Jews of the continent. Several families have already established themselves on this land.

—Mr. Moody has gone to his home in Northfield, Mass. He will remain there during the summer and will be joined in August by the distinguished Scotch clergyman, Dr. Bonar, who will assist in the conference for Bible study to be held there. He may go with Mr. Sankey to Europe in October.

—There is reported a great ingathering of Indians in British Guiana in connection with the mission of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. In a few weeks in a place never visited before, no less than 1,398 Indians, including children, were baptized. The people for miles around come to be instructed, and offer to provide a house of worship and to support a minister.

—The gospel continues to spread in the Delta of the Niger in Africa. At Okrika, visited for the first time by Archdeacon Crowther last August, a church has been built by the chiefs and a congregation of 4,000 assembled. A village some distance from Bonny has been named by the inhabitants "the Land of Israel," because there is not a single idol in it.

—The *Church Missionary Intelligencer* gives a most interesting journal of the daily life of Rev. G. Litchfield in Uganda, Central Africa, showing that a missionary's life is full of interest as well as privation. One day he works hard at washing and ironing, much preferring spading. Whole colonies of rats are in his bed-room, racing over the bed and about the wall. The work detailed is hard and wearing but full of incident.

—The following is the number of the leading church organizations and their sittings in the United States. Roman Catholics have 4,127 churches and 1,990,514 church sittings. The Baptists 14,474 churches; 3,997,116 church sittings. Christian, 3,578 churches; 865,602 sittings. Episcopal, 2,835

churches; 991,051 sittings. Congregational, 2,887 churches; 1,117,212 sittings. Lutherans, 3,032 churches; 977,332 sittings. Methodist, 25,378 churches; 6,528,200 sittings.

—The *Catholic Mirror* announces to its readers the pleasant intelligence that on Trinity Sunday, June 12, all Catholics "who should have approached the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist" during paschal time but have failed to do so, will be excommunicated from the church, and "their souls will be dead." This sounds like the days of the Duke of Alva, in the Spanish Campaigns against the Prince of Orange.

—The late millionaire, Mr. Charles McAllister, of Philadelphia, bequeathed \$10,000 toward founding a Presbyterian church in Townsdales, N. J., as soon as a "respectable number" of communicants could be got together to form a church. Seventeen persons constituted themselves a church and claimed the money. The executors refused to pay it, alleging that seventeen was not a "respectable number." The courts have just decided that it is, and have ordered the executors to pay.

—Rev. E. O. Bartlett says in the *Christian Intelligencer* that the Jews are now estimated to number 12,000,000. Their increase in population is more rapid than that of Christians, being 5.5 to 3.8 among the latter. Their death-rate is smaller than our own, being partly attributable to their temperate habits and Sabbath rest. In all countries they are among the most wealthy and learned. A large proportion of German newspapers are either edited or controlled by Jewish influence.

—Princess Eugenie, sister to the King of Sweden, has recently organized a society of ladies who devote their time and means to the spread of Christianity in Sweden. Five centuries ago Margaretha, a Lapp woman, besought the Queen of Sweden for the gospel for her countrymen, but little was done. Sixteen years ago Maria Mattsdotter travelled on foot to Stockholm, asking for missionaries for the Laplanders. This work is now being prosecuted. The Princess holds a sewing class fortnightly at her home, the proceeds being devoted to missions and she personally assists in the various kinds of work.

—The Belfast Presbytery has followed the example of the Belfast Methodist District Meeting, in expressing its indignation at the action of the three Belfast magistrates, who recently found certain Methodist ministers guilty of "indecent behavior," because of their singing hymns in the streets. The Presbytery is determined to take steps to have the liberty of open-air preaching vindicated. Two other ministers of the Methodist Church in Belfast have been summoned for similar "indecent" behavior, although it has been their practice for years to conduct open-air services in the Protestant districts of Belfast without the slightest molestation or disturbance.

—A mob of 2,000 infuriated Roman Catholics, crying: "Death to the Protestants," assaulted the Methodist

Mission at Queretaro, Mexico, recently, for four hours. The disturbance arose from the effects upon the people of a pastoral circular from the Bishop of Queretaro which denounced any favoring the mission work, and threatened excommunication to any who read our Bible or tracts. The government of the city of Mexico promised protection in the future, but the Governor of Queretaro would give no such assurance and urged the missionaries to leave the city, which they did. The Federal Government has requested the missionaries to return, and they will doubtless do so, as the place is a stronghold of fanaticism and needs the gospel. The Methodist mission has sustained another trial in the brutal murder of one of its missionaries, Rev. Mr. Monroy. He was returning from preaching at Santa Anita, when he was killed by a band of fourteen Romanists. A friend with him was so severely wounded that he probably will not survive.

—The *Fountain* says:—It is a slight consolation, in view of the great prevalence of drunkenness in England, that in comparison with continental countries it stands in a favorable light. A hundred and twenty-two millions is an enormous sum to spend on one kind of beverage, and yet, great as it seems, the *Times* says that the amount per head is less than the proportionate outlay in France. Industrious Belgium, decorous Norway, would not stand the arithmetical test better. Germany might be demonstrated to be in the balance a nation of continuous drinkers. The countrymen of Gustavus Adolphus are much worse. In Switzerland, to which reformers of the condition of the working-classes point the finger of envy and emulation, the rate of alcoholic consumption nearly doubles that of England. Considering the strenuous and noble efforts put forth by the various temperance agencies, the enthusiasm of temperance men, and the general credit which now attends the temperance movement in all its multifarious forms, there need, we think, be no hesitation in ascribing this result as testifying to the success of the temperance cause.

—It is said that the heavy tax which the Government of Great Britain has recently imposed upon saloons has not only resulted in shutting up many low dens, but in a very material decrease in the quantity of spirituous and malt liquors consumed, although the population has increased. In 1878 1,190,886,401 gallons of wine, rum, and beer, were consumed, involving an expense of \$710,975,000. During the last year the quantity was reduced to 982,876,311 gallons, and the cost to \$611,396,375. The consumption *per capita* still amounts to 28.19 gallons. The room for further legislation is still very wide. But this estimate of the influence exerted by heavy taxation is misleading in these respects: it does not take note of the fact that the principle of voluntary total abstinence has, during the last decade, been pressed upon the attention of all classes of the population; nor that among its advocates and exemplars there have been many persons of great social and religious influence; nor that the number of total abstinenters on principle has therefore become very large. We do not deny that taxation has di-

minished the number of saloons, but the diminution in the amount of liquor consumed is chiefly due to the steady advance of the temperance or total abstinence sentiment.

The Berlin correspondent of the *Boston Post* relates the following anecdote concerning the Emperor William:

Last year, while hunting in Silesia, with the Duke of Mecklenburg and the King of Saxony, the aged Kaiser proposed returning to their castle on foot; but, soon becoming weary of the walk, he hailed a passing waggon and requested the driver to take them home. The peasant complied, but could not long restrain his curiosity, and soon remarked: "I suppose it is all right, and you look all right; but will you please tell me who you are?" "I am the Grand Duke of Mecklenburg." "Oho o o!" exclaimed the rustic. "And who are you?" "I am the King of Saxony." "Oho! ahem!" ejaculated their driver. "And you, mister, who are you?" "I am the Emperor." "There, that will do, my friends," grinned the peasant; "and I dare say you would like to know who I am. I am the Shah of Persia, and when it comes to joking I can take my part as well as the next man." The three sovereigns were convulsed with laughter; but the peasant drew a long face when he found that he had been the only joker.

—The *N. Y. Independent* says:—Very great gains are to be credited to the temperance cause in the past six or eight months. In our own country there has been much good and practical legislation in various states, designed to suppress or, at least, to regulate more stringently the sale of intoxicating drinks. The new law in Kansas, if properly enforced, as it is expected to be, will effectually close all the drinking saloons and prevent an enormous needless waste of money. In Great Britain a greater degree of interest seems to be felt in the suppression of intemperance. The churches are putting themselves right on the question. It seems strange to American Christians, to whom drinking habits among members of the churches seem as much out of character with the profession of religion as violations of the Commandments, to read in the proceedings of the Synod of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland a recommendation that the use of liquor at induction or ordination dinners be discouraged. Not long ago it was stated that total abstinence principles were professed by a certain number of English bishops, less than half, we believe, of the whole number, and that the cause was gaining. In the way of legislation, a bill has been passed for Wales for the closing of drinking-houses on Sunday, and it gives great satisfaction in that principality. Says a London paper:

"The measures of a similar character already in force in Scotland and Ireland have already produced secondary as well as immediate effects. In both countries they have reduced the sum total of drunkenness. They have also educated public opinion in the other parts of Great Britain. Now Wales is to come under the protection of similar legislation. The success of this experiment in Scotland, Ireland, and Wales is bound to influence opinion in England."