

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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REV. W. MANCHEE, *Managing Editor*  
REV. JOHN WOOD,  
" R. W. WALLACE, M.A., } *Associate Editors.*  
" JOSEPH GRIFFITH,  
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All communications for the Editorial, News of Churches, and Correspondence Columns should be addressed to the Managing Editor, the Rev. W. MANCHEE, Box 209, Guelph, Ont. Any article intended for the next issue must be in his hands not later than Monday morning.

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THE ministers of Utica, N.Y., won't preach any more sermons at funerals. It would be well if all ministers agreed to that.

THE native churches of South Africa have now a membership of 50,000, and the missionaries in that section number 500.

THE A. B. C. F. M. is to hold its next annual meeting in Syracuse, N.Y., beginning on the 7th of October. This will be a good opportunity for us Canadians.

DURING the last two years and a half, forty Congregational churches have been organized in Michigan. Our brethren across the line are progressive and aggressive.

A METHODIST paper gives the names of thirty-three ministers of that denomination who have been killed or maltreated in the Southern States since the close of the war.

THE Rev. James Lewis was ordained pastor of the new Congregational churches at Castlefin and St. Johnston, County Donegal, Ireland, on the 19th of June.

THE Rev. Samuel Colend has been carrying on evangelistic preaching services in Chickering Hall, New York, for three years, and last year shows the best results of all.

MR. GLADSTONE suggests the question whether the present divisions in the Church of England may not hasten its disestablishment. It need not be very difficult to answer that question.

RUSSIA has taken a step forward. It is in the direction of religious liberty. The "Old Believers," dissenters from the Established Church, are to have entire liberty of worship.

PROF. ROBERTSON SMITH'S case has been up before his Presbytery (that of Aberdeen) once again. It will be remembered that the General Assembly ordered the Presbytery to try him. September 2nd is to be the date of his trial.

THE Congregationalists lead in the United States in liberality to foreign missions. The contributions of the Presbyterian churches exceed those of the Congregational ones, but the Congregationalists give more

per capita than any others. They contributed \$457,000 last year.

WE hope that all will read Dr. Wilkes' statement concerning the Missionary Society on another page. There are only eleven more shares of eight dollars each required to completely cancel the debt. Will not those churches that have not yet responded do so at once.

DR. SCHAFF of New York, has been speaking in England on the subject of "Religion in America." The occasion was the anniversary of Regent's Park College, London. The Doctor claims that America, without a State Church, is as Christian as any other country. He claims also that the Lord's Day is as well observed there as in England.

THE thirty-sixth anniversary of Lancashire Independent College was held on the 3rd of July. Dr. Henry Allor addressed the students, and among the other speakers were Revs. E. Paxton Hood, Principal Scott of the College, Dr. Thomson and Mr. Hugh Mason. In the evening a soiree took place under the chairmanship of Mr. Henry Lee.

THERE is now a proposal to unite the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists with the English Presbyterians. There is no difference of any consequence between the two bodies, and they might as well draw closer together. If that result shall come to pass, the Presbyterian Synod of England will about triple the number of churches and members under its care.

ANY of our churches desiring to purchase a beautiful plated communion service, may hear of one almost new, and at much less than it can be obtained for elsewhere, by applying to the Rev. J. Wood of Ottawa. And any church wishing a few copies of the new Congregational Hymn Book, or of the "Hymns of Praise," published by Zion Church, Montreal, can obtain them very cheap by communicating with Mr. Wood.

THE case of Mr. McCrae of Gourrock has been decided practically by the United Presbyterian Synod of Scotland. There is little room for doubt that he will be cast out of the Church for his heresies. But now here comes another minister of the same Church, Rev. Fergus Ferguson of Glasgow, and speaks on the subject of future punishment very much as Mr. McCrae has spoken. Will he be dealt with as Mr. McCrae has been? There is no question about this.

THE English papers are making fun of the New York "Herald's" despatch concerning Dr. Talmage's first appearance in London. The "Herald" had it that half a mile before Dr. Thain Davidson's Church, in which he was to preach, was reached, "the carriage of the reverend gentleman was lifted from the ground, and carried bodily to the church." The story did look as if it was in the superlatives. Nevertheless, Dr. Talmage has been accorded an enthusiastic reception in the old country.

REV. A. P. SCHAUFFLER in the "Congregationalist," answers the question, "Which kind of man is to be preferred, a big preacher who is no big Sunday school man, or a big Sunday school man who is not a big preacher?" by saying, that in fair-sized, average churches, "put in one who neglects his school, and in the other a very moderate preacher who carefully nurses his school, and, for the first five years, the big preacher will draw ahead, but in the next five years, number Two will beat number One all hollow."

THE following words of the Emperor of Germany are right words, spoken at the right time, and in the right country: "If there is anything capable of acting as a stay to us in the life and turmoil of the present time, it is the support alone to be found in Jesus Christ. Let not yourselves, therefore, be misled, gentlemen, by the tendencies prevailing in the world, especially in our days; and do not join the great multitude who either entirely leave the Bible out of account as the only source of truth, or falsely interpret it in their own sense."

THE Rev. Dr. Reid at the opening social in Erskine Church on Monday evening made a good point when he said that as this decade had been the church building period, he hoped that the next decade would be known as the Church paying period. On the same subject Rev. Dr. Mutchmore, of Philadelphia, declared that debt was worse than heresy in the Church. It would breed more evils. Building Committees should consider for whom they are building—the sheriff or the Lord Jesus Christ. All church debts could be easily cancelled if men and women were willing to make the needed self-denial.

THE Baptist pastors of New York, at a recent conference, considered the question: "Is it right for a member of the Church to be a bookkeeper in a wholesale liquor store?" Dr. Swan, of Newark, knew of a man who was offered such a position, and who, if he took it, would be able to give a good deal more for his church and missionary objects. He, however, believed that a bookkeeper to a rum-seller must be a yoke-fellow of the devil. Dr. W. H. Miller thought that if it was wrong to serve in a wholesale liquor house, others might ask about tobacco; a large number of the Connecticut churches were supported by tobacco. Dr. Elder thought that if a man had any scruples himself, that was enough.

THERE are those who affect to regard the re-establishment of Romish bishops and archbishops, with territorial titles, in Scotland, as a matter of no moment; but there are also those—and they not the most ignorant of the papal *modus operandi*—who look upon this concession as one of the most serious encroachments made upon Protestantism for many years. The Scottish Reformation Society in its annual report expresses its forebodings in the following words: "It shall be written for the generations to come that one of the darkest years which Scotland has ever passed through has been the year when her reformation from Popery was formally reversed by the re-establishment of the old Popish hierarchy in her land."

SOME of the beauties of an Established Church are to be seen in the Mackonochie case, which has been before the English law courts for some time past. The Rev. A. H. Mackonochie, incumbent of St. Alban's, Holborn, London, was found guilty by the Ecclesiastical Court of Arches, of an illegal ritual and ordered to desist therefrom. He disobeyed the order, and Lord Penzance ordered him to be suspended from his office and benefice for three years. Mr. Mackonochie appealed to the Court of Queen's Bench for a writ to stay the execution of the sentence. That Court issued the writ, taking the ground that a man must be tried for a second offence before he can be punished. This decision was not acceptable to Lord Penzance. He brought the matter up in the Court of Appeal. That Court reversed the decision of the Queen's Bench. And now Mr. Mackonochie may go to the House of Lords if he likes. If he doesn't like that he must bear his penalties and disabilities.