

# The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 27.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, June 3, 1880.

New Series. No. 23.

## Topics of the Week.

DR. DUNLOP, of Edinburgh, has left \$200,000 to the University of that city.

THERE is a proposition among Reformed Episcopalians, that at the end of ten years, their bishops shall return to the pastorate, if not re-elected.

THERE are now 1,650 native Christians in the city of Calcutta. They contribute annually for religious purposes something over \$1 per member.

THE Bible House at Constantinople keeps on sale 1,082 different books, in eighteen Oriental languages; and an unprecedented inquiry prevails for all.

THE Pope has recently undergone successfully a painful operation, and his medical advisers have advised him that to remain in Rome all the summer is, perhaps, to run an immediate risk of his life and certainly to shorten it.

THE Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions in the United States has had a wonderfully successful year. Last year the General Assembly passed a resolution asking the Church to increase its contributions to \$500,000. The Church has promptly responded, giving not only the \$500,000 asked for, but \$60,844 more — an advance for the year of more than \$150,000. The debt of \$60,000 has been paid, the loss of \$48,000 met, the work of the Board enlarged, and there is a balance of \$7,048 in the treasury.

IN 1846, Father Gossner, of Berlin, Germany, sent out six missionaries to the Kols, of Nagpore, India. In three years four of the six died, and the two men worked on alone, yet without any sign of spiritual success, though the natives had come to shew themselves very plainly. They persevered, and in the fifth year there were indications of religious awakening, and eleven converts were baptized. The next year there were nineteen more, then the conversions were counted by hundreds, and now there are 40,000 Christians among these natives of Nagpore.

PRESIDENT ELIOT, of Harvard University, said recently, that "since 1870 there had been given to the university, in money, over £350,000, and in buildings more than £250,000. One of these benefactors alone had given £46,000 in that time, although the public only knew of £13,000. He had a peculiar way of giving, for, as he was himself one of the professors, he knew well what was needful, and seeing a need, he simply supplied it, and only he (Professor Eliot) knew at the time who was doing it." This was Professor Agassiz, the son of the noted scientist of that name.

LETTERS from the intruding French Catholic missionaries in Uganda, Central Africa, mention that they were most kindly received by the Anglican missionaries, who had long been in possession of the field. They also describe several conferences with King Mtesa, at one of which, held June 8th, the monarch decided that he would follow the teachings of the Catholics. The writers admit that Mtesa was probably induced to accept the French priests because of his fear that England would seize upon his possessions and subject him to its own authority if he encouraged the English missionaries.

AT a recent meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, a paper was read by the Rev. Chauncey Maples, of the Universities' Mission, descriptive of Masasi and Rovuma district, in East Africa, a country lying about 300 miles south of Zanzibar. The Makonde

people have a king named Matola, one of whose subjects gave Mr. Maples an old coat, which he said belonged to a white man "whose words were always gentle, and whose manners were always kind; whom as a leader it was a privilege to follow, and who knew the way to the hearts of all men." The white man was Dr. Livingstone.

THE income of the Church Missionary Society for the past year, if not the largest in the history of the Society, has never been surpassed or equalled but once before. It amounted to the magnificent sum of \$1,108,615, which was sufficient to carry on the great missions of the Society and to pay off the large deficiency which had accumulated in two years. At the anniversary there were some very fine speakers from the mission fields. Among those who were regarded with the most interest was the Rev. C. Wilson, lately arrived from Uganda, on Lake Nyanza, Central Africa. Upon the platform, in company with him, were the chiefs sent by Mtesa to bear a message to the Queen of England. A local report says these sable and savage ambassadors conducted themselves with great propriety and acknowledged with a kind of salaam the cheers with which their appearance was greeted.

It was stated at the anniversary of the English Baptist Missionary Society that the Congo Mission, which has established its base of operation at San Salvador, is threatened with expulsion. He said, upon hearing of the project of the Society, the Pope communicated with the King of Portugal, and instigated him to demand the expulsion of the missionaries from the dominions of the King of Congo, who owes the king some sort of allegiance. He, the Pope, has also stirred up the priestly missionaries. It appears that some twelve years ago a priest was sent to San Salvador. The Baptist missionaries gave the priest about eleven years' start, and they have beaten him, for he is not there yet. However, he now writes from the coast, at a place not far from the mouth of the Congo, to say that he is, at last, coming. He writes to the king as follows, of the Baptist mission: "Your majesty and your subjects are, without knowing it, without warning, in the presence of a terrible spiritual calamity, seeing that the devil and hell are always where the enemies of our Lord Jesus Christ and his Holy Church are, preparing to fight against this Church in the very kingdom of Congo, to destroy the remnants of the religion of God which yet linger there." At the zenana missionary breakfast it was stated that connected with this work is a staff of 27 lady visitors and 44 native teachers and Bible-women who visit 700 women in the zenanas and give them religious instruction. There are also 600 children in schools.

THE following notice from the May number of the London "Missionary Societies' Chronicle," is suggestive and indicates very clearly how matters are progressing in Madagascar. It says:—"In our number for January, 1879, we announced the return to Madagascar of Rapenoelina, the son of his Excellency Ranilalarivony, the Prime Minister, after having received in this country the advantages of an English Education. In a recent letter the Rev. B. Briggs writes from the capital:—"On the 18th of December Rapenoelina was publicly received by the Queen. His reception has been delayed until now on account of the weak state of his health. We are happy to say that his health is very much improved. At the request of the Prime Minister a few of us accompanied Rapenoelina to the Palace and witnessed his reception by the Queen, which was attended by more than the usual honours, and proved the interest which both the

Queen and the Prime Minister have taken in him, and their deep thankfulness for his restored health. After the usual formalities we adjourned to the room in the Palace where religious worship is usually conducted, and a short thanksgiving service was held, most of the chief officers being present, and all seeming pleased and thankful that the young man's life had been spared and his health so far restored. The Queen and Prime Minister requested us to communicate their sincere thanks to the Directors for the care they took of Rapenoelina during his residence in England, and for their kind attention in providing for his comfort on his return to Madagascar."

THE ecclesiastical question has come to the front again in Germany. The negotiations between the Government and the Vatican, opened on the accession of Leo XIII, have not produced anything satisfactory, either to the Church or the State. Bismarck, wearied with the protracted and fruitless conference, has resolved to bring the matter to a crisis. On the 17th of March the State notified the Vatican what concessions it was willing to make. To this communication the State received no reply. Bismarck, therefore, introduced, May 20th, in the Prussian Diet, a bill giving Prussia certain discretionary power in administering the ecclesiastical laws, with the expectation that it would bring out a declaration on the part of the Church. The bill contains the following provisions: "The Prussian Ministry is authorized, with the consent of the King, to dispense with certain specified requirements of the law relating to the training and appointment of the clergy, and further to accord to foreign clergy permission to perform their duties in Prussian territory. Ecclesiastics who commit gross breaches of the laws will be proceeded against on the ground of incapacity. For their offence conviction will entail loss of salary. A bishop expelled from his see may again obtain from the King official recognition as a bishop of his former diocese. In case of vacant Catholic bishoprics, the Government is empowered to confer Episcopal rights upon ecclesiastics who can shew that they possess the mandate of the Church. Such persons will not necessarily be required to take the prescribed oath. Government grants which have been stopped may be restored by ministerial decree, which, however, will be revocable. Prosecutions for offences against the May Laws are to be instituted at the instance of the governor of a province only. Ministers of the interior and of worship are empowered to permit the creation of new branches of associations for tending the sick, already existing in Prussia, and also to grant authority (with the same liability to revocation) to sisterhoods, whose present duties are confined to tending the sick, to undertake also the care and education of children who are unfit to attend school." The Ultramontanes immediately declared war against this measure, announcing that they would resist it to the utmost. It is said that the provisions of the bill have been made known to the Vatican, and that the latter is not at all satisfied with them. The Government hopes to be supported by a sufficient majority in these measures, but a general distrust of the Minister of Worship prevails among the National Liberals, and they will only vote for the bill if the powers proposed to be granted by it to the Government be put under control of the whole Cabinet, instead of a single Minister alone. The Ultramontanes will be satisfied with nothing less than the abolition of the May Laws. They have begun to stir up the population, so cable despatches say, against the Government. A meeting attended by 20,000 Catholics has been held at Dortmund, at which the attitude of the Ultramontane party was approved. The Emperor is said to be pleased with the bill.