

# 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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THE Protestant clergy in Rome, Italy, are moving for a better observance of Sunday.

THE Presbyterians in Ireland provide 228,239 sittings and have 106,776 communicants.

TEN missionaries—six of them women—were sent to the East, week before last, by the American Board.

FATHER MACNAMARA, of the Independent Irish Catholic Church, New York city, has excommunicated the Pope.

WE see that an old Canadian brother, the Rev. Richard Lewis, once of Belleville, has accepted a call to the church in Grand Haven, Michigan.

THE Evangelical Alliance of the city of Hamilton, at its last monthly meeting, held on the 1st instant, passed a resolution strongly condemning the Sunday excursions which have afflicted the city and neighbourhood, and appointing a Committee to deal with the matter.

IN Birmingham, England, the establishment provides church accommodation for 47,315 persons out of a total of 343,787. And yet we hear such terms as "National Church" employed from time to time. The Episcopal Church is little more of a national church than is the Established Presbyterian Church of Scotland.

THE "Christian Union" gives a hint to its readers in a recent number that there is nothing that answers to the designation of "the Congregational Church." We have thought that, even in our own churches, this fact was sometimes forgotten, or, possibly, some brethren whose acquaintance with Congregationalism has not been long, have never been aware of it.

THE missionaries of the London Missionary Society in Madagascar publish annually a magazine under the title "The Antananarivo Annual and Madagascar Magazine." It gives a great deal of information about the topography and productions of Madagascar, and the language, customs, traditions and religious beliefs of the people. The present editor is the Rev. G. Cousins.

THE whole philosophy of the liquor traffic was explained a few days ago when at a liquor trial an irate dealer broke out as follows: "Judge, there's no use

of your trying to stop liquor selling. Just as long as there is eight cents profit on a ten cent drink, rum will be sold, and no one can stop it." The love of money is the root of this "gigantic crime of crimes."

PAPAL blessing has been given in the past to all sorts of objects and enterprises. And now we learn that M. de Lesseps' Panama Canal scheme has been favoured in this way. We shall see by and by if the blessing is worth anything. What can it do anyway to unite the Atlantic and Pacific? Will it make it easier to dig the soil and to blast the rocks? Who will enlighten us on this subject?

THE question of Sunday excursions has been agitating the people of Norwich, Conn. The Rev. Leonard Woolsey Bacon set the ball rolling. He seems to have been successful in accomplishing something. We judge that it must be so because we learn that the opponents of the Sunday law have been trying to do him injury. They plastered his house with mortar, on a certain occasion. Mr. Bacon is not the man to be daunted by such exhibitions of spite, and we think that he is pretty well supported by the good citizens of his town.

OUR Scotch Congregational friends are exercised over some recent secessions from their Union. They seem to be unable to agree as to the cause. One writer claims that the teaching in the Theological Hall has something to do with them. Another attributes them partly to the coldness and crotchitiness and stereotypedness and pride of some of the churches. We hope that no serious division will arise among our Scotch brethren. But, possibly, there may be a little too much conservatism about them. We understand that the Evangelical Union is somewhat broader and more progressive.

WE rejoice to see that our American friends have succeeded in forcing the Oneida Community to adopt an important reformation. This body has applied the principle of communism to everything, to marriage as well as to business arrangements. The moral sentiment of the American people has long felt itself outraged by the condition of things which existed, and some time ago a Committee was formed to inquire as to what action should be taken in the case. Now, Noyes, the leader of the Community, proposes to give up the practice of free marriage, in "deference to the public sentiment which is rising against it." The Community now will allow marriage, but will prefer celibacy. The result which has now been reached might have been reached years ago with a little energy and interest on the part of a few prominent American Christians.

THERE should be some way of dealing with newspaper men who bespatter with mud the names of worthy men. There is a class of men connected with the press who delight in laying hold of any rumour derogatory to a Christian man, and it is all the better to them if he happens to be a prominent minister. Dr. Joseph P. Thompson, once of the Broadway Tabernacle, New York, now of Berlin, is the latest victim that we have heard of. An American newspaper—a Western one, we believe—published a story that, on the face of it, was false and absurd, and then other journals—not many, and none of any respectability—did their best to spread it, with their mean, contemptible comments attached. It looks as if no man was safe in these days. A reputation may be whispered away in a day at the whim or caprice or malice of any miscreant who can wield a pen. It is time that something were done.

## HE GIVETH MORE GRACE.

BY DR. W. S. PLUMPER.

That is good news. I do not know that I ever heard better. His giving great grace at first does not exhaust His loving kindness. It is rather a pledge that He will go on to do still more abundantly. We marvel to see a noble and virtuous prince marrying a poor damsel. That is condescension. But we marvel not to find that after he marries her he treats her like a queen. The Lord loved us, even when we were lost; how much more shall we be blessed of Him when we have been accepted in the Beloved! I know no stronger or fairer reasoning than that.

Even a little grace is a great thing. It is so rich and valuable that God never puts it into any but vessels of mercy. It is so excellent that whoever has grace has the promise of glory, if I understand the prophet, (Psalm lxxxiv. 1.) Grace leads to glory as certainly as sin leads to misery.

The apostle says the Lord gives grace to the humble. The proud refuse grace. They think they are good enough, and can do without it. It is with empty pitchers that we must draw water from the wells of salvation. The Lord knoweth the proud afar off. The reason why those who have grace have not more grace is, because they do not sufficiently humble themselves under the might hand of God. O, poor humanity!

The grace we have to-day is seldom, if ever enough for to-morrow. We, therefore, need a constant increase. Fresh supplies of food are daily needed by the healthy labourer. It is a great thing for a saint to gain one victory. That shows him that, by God's grace, he can overcome. But David's slaying of the lion and the bear did not make him victorious over Goliath. It was God who gave him the victory in each case. Himself said so. But his experience as a shepherd-boy encouraged him when he met the pride of Philistia.

One of our great errors is that we are satisfied with a little. God warns us on this point. "I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it." "I have done great things for you already; look to me, and I will do more for you. We are not straitened in God, but in our own compassions. O that our hearts were enlarged! We need full salvation, and it is provided. Let us come and drink abundantly.

He gives more grace when we need it. Dying grace is not given to the living. To fight well is often our highest duty. To exult in God through Christ, will be a blessed privilege indeed; but the spoils come after the battle. Harvest is preceded by ploughing and sowing. Peace will come soon enough, and will last long enough.

But let us never rest satisfied with past attainments. The secret of Paul's great growth is told us by himself. "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Jesus Christ. . . . I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Wellington did not think his work done till after the affair at Waterloo. Our work will not be done till we get our crown.

We need, and to the last shall need more grace. Whatever convinces us of our need is good for us, and it is a great thing to know that we are poor, if we only may lay hold of the unsearchable riches of Christ. It is a blessed thing to know our misery, if we are but led to find solace in Christ. None ever gets the linen white and clean who esteems his own righteousness as anything but filthy rags.

We may confidently trust Him for more grace, be-