

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Augustine Church, Edinburgh, has at last secured a successor to Dr. Lindsay Alexander in its pastorate. The Rev. James Gregory of Leeds is the man.

MICHIGAN is all the while adding to her list of Congregational churches. The last report from that State speaks of two just organized. How is it that they do these things over there?

THE Congregational churches of Connecticut gave the American Home Missionary Society \$75,000 during the past year. In addition to this, they contributed over \$14,000 for their State Society.

We regret to see that Dr. Edward Eggleston, of Brooklyn, has been compelled to desist from ministerial and literary work, and take a trip to Europe. Men who try to live two lives in the space of one are apt to suffer.

A DEPUTATION from the Evangelical Alliance recently waited on the Emperor of Austria, and presented a petition for freedom of worship for all Christian sects. The Emperor promised to have the subject fully investigated.

MR. R. W. DALE, at latest accounts, was delivering a series of lectures in Reading, England, on "Non-conformity." We have seen reports of three of the addresses. They are historical; and, of course, the subject is well discussed.

THE Rev. F. Haydn Williams, of Plumstead, who recently created a breeze at the meeting of the London Congregational Union, has been discussing the question in a sermon: "Is there a devil, and if so, who is responsible?" He claims that the notion of a personal devil must be dismissed with the belief in witchcraft and such things.

A WRITER in "The Fountain" has been criticising the Rev. T. P. Forsyth, the successor of Mr. J. Alanson Picton in the pastorate of St. Thomas' Square Church, Hackney, London. He was pleased to find so much that was evangelical in Mr. Forsyth's discourse when he attended his ministry on a recent occasion. We also are glad of this.

THE fourth anniversary services of the Western Congregational Church Sunday school of this city will be held next Sunday, 14th inst. Rev. Prof. McLaren will preach at eleven a.m., and the Rev. John Burton, B.A., at three p.m., and in the evening a platform meeting will be held, when addresses will be given to parents, teachers and scholars by several superintendents of schools in the city.

THE Rev. E. Paxton Hood has been preaching a sermon in Cavendish Chapel, Manchester, on "Criminals in High Places." He believes that the foreign policy of the Beaconsfield administration is immoral and wicked, and he says so plainly. Why not? Why should we discriminate between injustice in private life and injustice in public policy, and denounce the former while remaining silent about the latter or even commending it?

THE death of Dr. William Ives Budington, until recently pastor of the Clinton-avenue Church, Brooklyn, N. J., leaves quite a gap in the American Congregational ranks. He had occupied many positions of great trust and responsibility during his quiet uneventful life, and he had done solid, lasting work. His ministry in Brooklyn was a long one, and the results are seen in more than one way. In all denominational matters he was also a counsellor to whom many looked. His life shews what can be done by any man when he consecrates himself to noble ends.

WE are disappointed at the action of the Second Baptist Church in St. Louis. We had thought that it would stand firm for open communion practices. Now we see that a committee of the St. Louis Association was appointed to confer with the church regarding its "irregularities," and the church regrets that anything has been done "which offends any brother or brethren." It never authorized any invitation to the Unitarian Dr. Elliot to join it in the communion. It is sorry that anything done in the joint service with the Jews has displeased the members of the Immersion fraternity. And so everything is smoothed over, and the church is in good standing in the Association.

THE Evangelical Alliance, has, we understand, adopted the following programme for the usual week of prayer, January 4-10, 1880. Sunday, January 4th: Sermons on the "Fulness of Christ's Salvation."—Monday, January 5th: Thanksgiving for the blessings of the past year, and prayer for their continuance.—Tuesday, January 6th: Confession of sin, and humiliation before God.—Wednesday, January 7th: Prayer for the Church of Christ, its ministers, its growth in grace, and its enlargement; and for revivals of religion throughout our country.—Thursday, January 8th: Prayer for Christian education; for the family, and institutions of learning; for Sunday schools and Christian Associations.—Friday, January 9th: Prayer for nations, rulers and people; for peace and religious liberty.—Saturday, January 10th: Prayer for Home and Foreign Missions; for the outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh, and the conversion of the world.

MR. FROUDE, in a tolerably lengthy article in the "North American Review" for December, takes a very gloomy view of the future of the United States. He holds that it is absolutely certain the Roman Catholics will at no very distant date become a majority of the people, and that true to their instincts and to the spiritual instruction they have received, they will then abolish public schools, circumscribe if not altogether

destroy freedom of opinion, and bring back the reign of spiritual if not also of political despotism. This is surely very unwarranted. The Roman Catholic Church in the States has lost and is still losing multitudes of those who were born within her pale. Instead of six millions of Roman Catholics in the Great Republic there ought to be ten or twelve, if all had been true to the Church of their fathers, and this without reckoning on a single convert from Protestantism. The triumph of Romanism on this continent is not at all so near as Mr. Froude anticipates; though there is cause enough in the outlook for Protestants being, if not anxious, at least active.

HON. GEORGE R. WENDLING, who has twice lectured in Toronto in reply to Col. Ingersoll's attacks on the Bible and Christianity, says: "The whole trouble with Ingersoll is that he has mistaken Calvin for Christ. He confounds Tertullian laughing at sinners in hell, with St. John proclaiming a Gospel of love. He listens to the theology of Edwards and fancies he is hearing St. Paul, and looks at Roman Catholic inquisition and Protestant mobs and believes that religion has triumphed over human nature, when he simply sees human nature triumphing over religion." Referring to Ingersoll's attacks on theologians and ministers, he says: "The clergy constitute the most humane and self-sacrificing class of men on earth today. I have been, in the last year, in nearly every Northern State from Maine to Nebraska, and everywhere the clergy are doing the most for humanity, not only in the way of religious ministrations, but I mean in caring for the poor, the wretched, the homeless, the sick, the weak, the intemperate. They are the men who are at the front in movements designed to alleviate human suffering, working by sunlight and by starlight; and four-fifths of them half paid, having poor fare, poor libraries, poor homes, and a portion of every community prejudiced against them. The men I say, who are doing this are the same preachers whom Ingersoll would cast out. Robert Ingersoll may make pretty speeches about humanity, but here is a class of men whose hats neither he nor I are worthy to hold."

IN the course of his sermon last Sabbath evening, the Rev. J. K. Smith of Galt spoke "to the times" in the following direct and unmistakable terms: "We need to be aroused against the demoralizing influences of the present day. It will not do to go back to long past years and speak of the evils that existed then. We must raise our voices against existing evils—those on every hand. What a waste there is in tobacco! What a waste in intemperance! Christians should be abstainers. What a mass of pernicious, poisonous literature we have in our day! We have vice planting itself in the streets of our cities. And now we have something in our town that men call "sports"—that I do not consider sports at all. The Church does not wage war against the manly sports, those which give health and exercise to the body—it would be wrong if it did. But, what is this coming in among us? Pedestrianism: A shameful thing, in which the stakes are money. It is not for healthful exercise, but the baseness of it is, that it is for money. And men spend their strength and health in such demoralizing and crushing influences. What are they? They are brutal and inhuman. They are disgraceful in the extreme. Now we have another thing. Men who could not find an arena in other cities and towns find an arena here, and Galt—of which we were so proud what is becoming of it? When such disgraceful things occur it is time we see our duty and raise our voices against it."