

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

A MISSIONARY of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland in Old Calabar, writes that one of the converts, a woman, is so anxious to keep the Sabbath regularly that she has provided herself with a board with seven holes and a peg tied to a string. The peg is shifted every day. Whenever it is in the first hole, she knows that Sunday has come. He says the heathen, whom he addressed in a recent tour strenuously objected to the fourth and seventh commandments, and declared that it was impossible to keep them.

THE Prince of Bulgaria, as a Protestant, adds one more to the number of rulers who adhere to a different religious profession from that held by the majority of their subjects. Herr Koch, professor of the German language and literature at Schaffhausen, has just been nominated Court Chaplain to Prince Alexander. We may add that the private secretaries of the Prince are young men educated at Robert College, Constantinople; and at Tirnova no fewer than forty members of the National Assembly are said to have been educated in that establishment.

SINCE the American Board of Foreign Missions was organized, seventy years ago, it has received and expended \$17,000,000 on Foreign Missions, has organized 350 churches, with 83,000 communicants; has sent abroad 550 ordained missionaries and 250 unmarried lady missionaries. The Board, through its servants, has also reduced to writing twenty-six languages, and has issued in forty-six languages upwards of 2,300 different educational and religious publications. There are 400,000 pupils under instruction in its schools, and its missionary constituency is estimated at 100,000,000 heathen. Twenty-six missionaries and assistants were sent out during the current year.

CLERICAL intolerance in England is not confined to the churchyard, as the Rev. Carr Glyn, Vicar of Kensington, is finding out. This gentleman is lessee of a house in Kensington, the lessors being the vicar and curate of another London parish. Mr. Glyn has turned the house into a boys' coffee palace, and, it will hardly be credited, the reverend lessors have begun an action of ejectment against him for so doing. It is pretty well understood that if Mr. Glyn, who is one of the most hard working clergymen in London, had stuck to questions of candles, ornaments, and vestments, instead of trying to do some real good in the world, he would have been free from such annoyance and parsonic opposition.

THE Pope's new organ, "The Aurora," announced some time ago, has made its appearance in Rome. The salutatory, according to a cable despatch, sets forth its programme as follows: It proposes to defend the liberty of the Holy See, to combat error, to respect persons, and to maintain justice and right. In another article it answers a Russian gentleman's exhortation to the Pope, advising him to give up Rome to the secular power, and, accepting Sardinia in exchange, to crown King Humbert Emperor of Italy. "The Aurora" demonstrates that Providence has destined Rome, not Cagliari, as the seat of Christ's vicar. "Italian traditions, from Dante to Foscolo," it says, "uphold the principle of the Pope's residence as sovereign at Rome."

THE December number of "The Missionary Record" of the Church of Scotland contains an account of the baptism of a Brahmin at Calcutta, which is full

of interest. Bisheswar Roy is about thirty-eight years of age. He was sent to the Church of Scotland's Institution at Calcutta when a boy, and subsequently to that of the Free Church. In the latter he received spiritual instruction from Drs. Duff and Ewart. He heard unwillingly, however, and would absent himself, sometimes for a week or so, to avoid hearing about the Scriptures. About nine years ago, some years after he had left the school, he became alarmed for himself, upon the thought of death. Circumstances threw him in the way of the Brahmo Samaj, whose religious system he carefully examined. He could not find that the Brahmos had any knowledge of the state of the soul after death. Mr. Sen admitted to him that he was collecting principles of morality from all religions and creating a new faith for India. Mr. Roy thereupon turned his attention to Christianity, and after four years of instruction decided, finally, at the cost of separation from a beloved wife and four children, to make a profession of Christianity.

A ROMAN CATHOLIC journal of Milan says. Since 1870 the Protestants built fourteen new churches in free Rome, opened many schools, asylums, meeting rooms; gave away millions of Bibles and tracts; distributed alms and made use of various means to induce the sheep to enter their fold. More churches and schools are to be built, and another new conventicle will be shortly erected in the Via Nazionale, near the Piazza Odeschalchi. This building is to form another Waldensian establishment. The Waldensian community is possessed of considerable resources, and has several houses in Rome, including one in the Corso near the Sciarra Palace. The Waldensians have twelve or thirteen thousand pounds sterling in hand ready for purchasing a site for a new church. This money was collected in a few months in Scotland by the exertion of Mr. Stewart, of Leghorn. The Waldensians offered a large sum of money for Dr. Gason's church in the Piazza San Silvestro, but that gentleman refused to sell it. Sir Augustus and Lady Paget are among the patrons of the Waldensians in Rome, and her ladyship was active in promoting the Waldensian bazaar this summer. The British Ambassador is not so liberal towards the British church, and, in fact, has deserted Mr. Wass, the Anglican chaplain, for the American church in Via Nazionale.

WITH singular patience and devotion, the Moravian missionaries have been working at Kyelang, in the Province of Lahoul, India, and waiting for an opportunity to enter Chinese Thibet. There has not been much encouragement for the missionaries, though their labours have not been wholly without results. Two small congregations have been gathered, one at Kyelang and the other at Poo, in the Province of Kunawur. Starting from Kyelang, as a centre, the missionaries during the last decade have made seven long journeys, preaching and distributing reading matter in the Thibetan language. They always visit the Buddhist convents and leave books and tracts, which they are sure will be preserved, because of the respect with which Buddhists treat all writings. There is no open hostility to the missionaries, save from the Mohammedans; but the Buddhists are difficult of access in the provinces of Lahoul and Kunawur because of the system of caste which they have. In the past ten years nine persons have been baptized, of whom six were natives of Ladak, in Kashmir. Among these converts was a Lama, a native of Lhasa, of high rank. Several attempts have been made to enter Chinese Thibet; but the officials always turn the missionaries back. Permission has also earnestly been sought for the opening of a station in Ladak; but it has not yet been granted.

FAITH AND HEALING.

BY REV. EDWARD MORRIS.

Many of the readers of this paper can remember Mr. James Hart, who, many years ago, resided about twenty miles west of London, an enthusiastic Christian pioneer, whose chosen line of work was in planning and fostering Sabbath schools. His sphere of effort embraced several townships, viz. Adelaide, Ekfrid, Mosa, and Metcalf, visiting them a-foot, in regular rotation, and conducting religious services. His memory is blessed! At a Sunday School Convention, held in Hamilton, some years ago, I referred to his labours and the large blessing that had crowned them, asserting that not less than *twenty congregations*, of various denominations, have sprung up in his tracks, when some person on the floor of the house interposed the qualification "*Say fifty.*" (Fifty congregations, instead of twenty).

Over thirty years ago this good man, and his whole family, who, like himself, walked diligently in the Lord's ways, removed to the state of Illinois. His eldest son, Joseph and wife, who came with his father, have remained in the same neighbourhood, (P. O. now Earl). He has filled various public trusts, political and social, as well as religious, having occupied a seat in the State Legislature, and long served as deacon of the Congregational church. Of their family consisting of four sons and four daughters, the youngest, Miss Anne Maulda, seventeen years of age, has for two years engrossed the sympathy and attention of all the household. For over twenty months she was closely confined to the bed. Excessive mental activity induced a morbid nervous excitability, which caused complete prostration, and physical derangement. At times, for six or eight days together, she could not take any kind of food. Her sense of hearing was so acute that it was necessary to keep the whole house painfully hushed. Not a slipped footstep, nor a whisper could escape her notice. In like manner her sight at times had to be guarded by the utter exclusion of light. Her sense of touch was sometimes so sensitive all over the body, that it was exceedingly difficult to render her necessary attentions. Her physical sufferings were greatly aggravated by occasional spells of cramping, when she lost muscular self-control but retained full consciousness. Her arms and limbs would then be drawn backward, and with sudden relaxation, unless prevented by force, her body would be projected off the bed. These paroxysms were occasional, and infrequent; they were accompanied by loss of speech. Three skilful medical advisers had her case in constant attendance; often one of them would watch her symptoms throughout the whole night. But they were entirely baffled, and at length, the patient manifestly failing, they confessed that their resources were nonplussed.

For a week or ten days, the parents had been intensely exercised in heart, and agreed that they would beseech the Lord, that if not consistent with His will to heal her, He would release her from life. In this extremity, the father had gone to Ottawa to have yet another conference with one of the advising physicians. The mother, left in charge of the sufferer, who by the way, was very exacting and difficult to please by anybody else, took up the Bible and proposed to read a few verses. She turned to Matt. ix. 20-22, and the parallel passage in Mark. After reading she said, "Tilla, do you believe that Christ is *able now* to heal you as He did this woman?" She responded promptly in the affirmative. The mother responded, "Do you believe He is *willing* to do so?" The daughter replied "No." After a short silence she qualified this, which led the mother to add, "I believe *He is willing!* Pray that He may give you faith to ask this blessing." Tilla was a pro-