

# The Canadian Independent.

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"GOD IS YOUR MASTER, EVEN CHRIST, AND ALL YE ARE BROTHERS."

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## Current Topics.

The Independent gives the creed of pretensions unbelieved as first, ego, second, nego.

An illustration of an excessive desire of novelty and popularity in the pulpit is given in *Zion's Advocate*. A New York minister lately preached upon Eclipses of the Honey Moon, and the causes that produce them.

Dr Samuel Manning expresses his conviction from personal investigation of facts: that there has not been since the days of the Reformation, such a movement, such a revival, such an awakening, as seems now to be commenced in France.

It is reported that a whole town in Italy Bertolla, near Turin has gone over to Protestantism from Catholicism. The archbishop closed the doors of the church against the "apostates," and about 2,000 of them sent to Turin for Evangelical ministers to come and preach to them.

Henry Morehouse, the English evangelist who died recently, was converted while in a circus. Ever after he is said to have kept two vehicles and men distributing Bibles. How many of our readers who have abundant means are doing as much as this to spread the good news of the Gospel?

Professor Christlieb of Bonn, is to deliver the course of Lectures on Preaching at Yale Theological Seminary next year. The authorities there are to be congratulated upon having secured the services of so able and interesting a theologian, who will well sustain the reputation of this chair.

At the first sacred concert given recently in Madagascar, in the church, beginning at 8:30 a.m., the house was crowded before five o'clock, fully 1,500 persons being present. They remained to this service of song for six or seven hours, though many had barely room enough to stand. Some addresses were also made by the missionaries.

The Bible has been translated into two hundred and twenty six languages and dialects, and in the last eighty years one hundred and forty eight millions of copies have been printed and put in circulation. This does not look as if the book or the religion which it teaches were likely to pass from the memory of the world.

The Ministerial Union of San Francisco and Oakland issued a call acknowledging the good results of Moody and Sankey's meetings in "the awakening of Christian life and the salvation of hundreds of souls," and recommending that February 17th be observed on the Pacific Coast as a day of fasting and prayer for the continued success of revival efforts.

The Khedive of Egypt has given orders to the Grand Chief of the Religious Corporations that the ceremony known as the "Dossa" must henceforth cease. The "Dossa" was a procession which took place annually in Cairo, in the national ceremony known as "Mewledel-Nabi," and consisted of the passage of a sheik on horseback over his prostrate co-religionists.

The following saying of Carlyle, among many which have appeared in the papers, is stated to be well authenticated. He had been looking at Mr. Holman

Hunt's well known picture of Christ in the Temple, and, having expressed his admiration of the faces of the doctors of the law, added "I dislike all pictures of Christ, you will find that men never thought of painting Christ until they had begun to lose the impression of Him in their hearts."

In the fiscal year 1879 tax was paid in the United States on 13,881,417 cigarettes, and in the fiscal year 1880 on 408,708,365, an increase in ten years of 394,826,948 cigarettes. The doctors unfortunately are tolerably well agreed that the cigarette is a worse foe to health than the cigar. There is certainly grave danger in a direction little understood from their free use by growing boys. *Springfield Republican*.

In Hosea x. 14 occurs the clause "As Shalman destroyed Beth-Arbel in the day of battle." It has been supposed, of course, that Shalman was the same as Shalmaneser, although the name Shalman does not elsewhere occur. In the text of the inscription of Shalmaneser on the bronze gates of Balawat, as just published by Mr. Pinches, with the magnificent plates of the figures on the gates, the name appears in both forms.

A case of human sacrifice has occurred in the Vizagapatam Hill Tracts, India. A number of hill-men, who had planned a raid on a neighboring police station, sought to secure divine favor by the offering of a sacrifice. They made a descent on Chitrakonda, and carried off several villagers, including the head man. After the usual ceremonies, the heads of the victims were cut off by the leader of the party, who has been tried and sentenced to be hanged. The other eight accomplices have been released.

Quite a keen controversy is at present raging among our neighbors over a lecture recently delivered by Dr. Howard Crosby, in Tremont Temple, Boston, on the temperance question. The Doctor's peculiar views were given with a great deal of plainness, and total abstinents and total abstainers were denounced very vigorously and with anything rather than the "calmness" which the lecturer professed. Replies and re-replies are the order of the day, and a great deal of heat, not to say bad temper, is being displayed on both sides. The discussion will do good, however, in spite of the temper, though not through means of it.

No one thing in the Canadian Dominion has done more to hold back the proper development of the people than the prevalence of the drinking habit. It is pleasant, therefore, to note the fact that the good and illustrious example of Mrs. Hayes is beginning to be followed at Ottawa, the Capital of the Dominion, by the wives of leading members of the Cabinet Ministry, dispensing with wines at their grand receptions. Perceiving how harmful, how disastrous the habit of indulgence in intoxicating drinks has become, the unwillingness of these officials and their wives to appear to encourage the popular habit is vastly to their credit.

Let one try to imagine what was lost to the English nation by the long exclusion of Dissenters from the universities. In the last twenty one years fourteen of the Senior Wranglers have been Non-conformists—a remarkable fact, considering that the majority of the students are Churchmen.

It is stated, on the authority of Dr. Schaff, that the new version of the New

Testament will not appear before the first of May, until after the Convocation of Canterbury, the official body where the scheme for the revision formerly originated, shall have taken some final action in regard to it. But it is also stated that half a million copies have already been printed in England, and that one hundred thousand copies are even now in New York, but all sacredly kept from the public eye until the word shall be given for their release and dispersion. The American Book Exchange announces that it has made arrangements such that instantly, when the first copy of the English edition comes to hand, within twenty-four hours, it will have the entire book in print, and within three days it will have at least ten thousand copies ready for delivery. It would not surprise us if the New York Herald, or some of the enterprising dailies of this city should produce a "New Testament Extra," next morning.

The whirligig of time is certainly bringing about its revenges when we find the Jesuits compelled to fly for shelter from the hostile feeling which they have provoked in Roman Catholic countries to that home of civil and religious liberty against which their intrigues have, from the days of the Spanish Armada downwards, been unceasingly directed. Jersey seems the special point of attraction, but the Trappists, not finding that location sufficiently secluded for their purposes, are contemplating the purchase of the island of Herin, if the right of the public to land there may by any contrivance be barred. The Times, drawing attention to an episode in the history of the island of Sark, offers this warning: "If the Trappists establish themselves there they will be able to hold possession of the island against any force, should their religion or their politics so incline them." The consent of the Crown is very properly rendered necessary to the transference of such an island by purchase.

We regret to chronicle a most disgraceful outrage in Hull, P. Q. As the Rev. Mr. Syvret was about to proceed with his Sunday School scholars and their friends to Ottawa to engage in a joint Sunday School gathering in the Dominion Church there, the party was intercepted by a crowd of French Roman Catholics, numbering upwards of one hundred, and forbidden to proceed. On Mr. Syvret remonstrating, the crowd attacked him, injuring several in the party. The children scattered in terror. One young woman, named Charette, who attended Mr. Syvret's mission Sunday School in Hull, was violently carried off and concealed for a few days. Great indignation is felt among the Protestant population in consequence of this outrageous attack. We trust that the outrage will be dealt with as it deserves. It is really too bad that a peaceful company, on their way to the house of God on the Lord's day, should be made the object of a wanton attack of this kind.

The Catholic Review, a Romish newspaper, in a recent article, is quite jubilant at the "presence of so many Bibles among American Catholics," and with the enterprise of its publishers, by which New York is pervaded "from end to end with the Douay version of the Bible." One of our Protestant newspapers remarks:—We fear, however, that it does not quite sympathize with the Psalmist, who reverently exclaims,

"The entrance of Thy Word giveth light, for the Catholic Review adds, 'Frankly, very little good seems to have come from the reading of the Scriptures by the people at large. . . . Even among Roman Catholics it fosters a Calvinistic spirit, which in many cases induces individuals to set up their judgment against the will of the Church. The indiscriminate circulation of the Bible, even with notes approved by the Church, has not always been productive of good.' The Protestant newspaper adds, 'We think from this admission that David was nearer right after all than our neighbor, and wish that he and other devout Catholics would remember the words of the Apostle Peter, which certainly should have weight with them: 'We have also a more sure word of prophecy, whereunto ye do well that ye take heed.' Weekly Review.

We occasionally hear good people chiefly those inclined to chiliastic views lament that there is no really Christian nation on the earth. We think there is, and the fact that we have not a leading paper in the country that wishes or dares to speak otherwise than respectfully of Christianity is indication enough that the Christian religion rules here. Secretary Evarts evidently also thinks so, if we may judge from a paragraph in his address at the presentation of the Egyptian obelisk:

"At the very time that Thothmes was rearing these great monuments of his power, a feeble Hebrew infant, doomed to death from his birth, uttered a feeble cry amid the bulrushes, when the daughter of Pharaoh disturbed his sleep. And Moses has come here, long before this obelisk. Moses, the greatest law-giver that the world ever saw; Moses, with his ten commandments, is in possession of the churches, and of the schools, and of the literature, and of the morals of society. Egypt is perpetuated not only here, but throughout our system of civilization, by the cry of the infant Moses, which has been expanded into a voice spreading over the whole modern world. Twenty-two years after this obelisk was raised at Alexandria, to mark perpetual dominion, there was born in the neighboring and subject province of Palestine another infant, destined also to death. Christ, the Saviour, born then, has been a power and a light before which all kings and conquerors, all dynasties, all principalities and powers have fallen in obedience. Before this obelisk from Alexandria reached our shores we had heard of the names of Moses and Christ, and had seen the morality of Moses and the religion of Christ made a basis for civilization, for society, for national strength and national permanence, which will last forever and forever, and which can never be overthrown by any of the causes that overwhelmed dynasties and ruined nations."

—A clergyman, after preaching on the "Recognition of friends in heaven," was accosted by a hearer, who said, "I like that sermon, and I now wish you would preach another on the recognizing of people in this world. I have been attending your church three years, and not five persons in the congregation have so much as bowed to me in all that time."