

The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 27.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, March 4, 1880.

New Series. No. 10.

Topics of the Week.

COFFEE Palaces, as an antidote to the liquor saloons, are coming widely into favour in Europe. A company has been formed at Amsterdam with a capital of \$75,000, and one has been opened there at a cost of \$17,500.

WE learn that the Collins street Church, Melbourne, Victoria, of which Thomas Jones is now pastor, has tried to secure the Rev. J. A. Macfadyen, Manchester, as successor to Mr. Jones, but has failed. Mr. Macfadyen is a power in Manchester, and would have been sorely missed had he gone to Melbourne. But what will Melbourne do?

THE Pope is said to have written a letter to the German bishops, in which he quotes the admonitions contained in the New Testament as to the duty of Christ's apostles to sacrifice and suffer all things for the welfare of the Church; and exhorts them to use their utmost efforts to bring about a *modus vivendi* between the Papacy and the German empire.

WHAT do you think of this? The Surrey Tabernacle people in the British metropolis, conduct in connection with the Tabernacle nineteen Sunday schools, in which there are five hundred teachers, and nearly six thousand scholars. Mr. Spurgeon has educated his brethren in the right direction. He has got them to believe in and obey the apostolic commission: "Go into all the world." Cannot others do the same thing?

WE see that the Augustine Church people in Edinburgh have given their new pastor, Rev. James Gregory, a hearty reception. They held a social meeting on the 20th of January, and fraternal addresses were delivered by Mr. McLaren, senior deacon, Dr. Lindsay Alexander, Dr. Walton Smith, and others. Augustine Church has a noble history before it. We hope that the history which it is still to make will be worthy of what it has made already.

THE many friends of Mr. George H. Stuart, of Philadelphia, who recently lost his fortune, and thereby failed of a re-election as President of the Mechanics' Bank, will be glad to read that a new bank has been established by those who honour him for his true record, of which he will be made President. The \$500,000 capital needed was subscribed in ten days, and a building has already been leased. It does one good now and then to know that virtue is really prized in this world, and sometimes rewarded.

TROUBLE has arisen in Horsham Workhouse in consequence of the chaplain, Rev. J. F. Cole, having cut out a piece from the apron of one of the female inmates. In administering to her the communion, a drop of the "consecrated" wine fell upon the apron, whereupon the chaplain insisted that he must cut out the portion touched by it, and reverently deposit it in a box in the church. He thus became liable for "damaging workhouse property." The fault was not Mr. Cole's, but that of the Anglican system, which fosters an absurd and superstitious reverence for the emblems of the eucharist, which it took from the Romish Church, and has not yet had spiritual vitality enough to slough off.

TEMPERANCE legislation is likely to come to the front in the British Parliament before long. The Church of England Temperance Society has suggested a measure for the restricting of the liquor traffic, and

one of the members for Manchester, Mr. Hugh Birley, has promised to introduce it in the House of Commons. We see, too, that several candidates for Parliament have declared themselves in favour of Sir Wilfrid Lawson's local option resolution. Among them is Mr. E. N. Buxton, a Liberal candidate for South Essex, who is a brewer, and Sir Arthur Hobhouse, a Liberal candidate for Westminster. "Agitate! agitate!" should be the motto of the friends of temperance in England. Keep the question before the people, and ere long the liquor traffic will be more restricted than it is at present, and the evils arising from it will be diminished.

THE South Country, or Negeb, of Palestine, and the regions adjoining the western shores of the Dead Sea, are inhabited by rather local yet nomadic tribes of Bedwân Arabs. Along the borders of both these districts toward the high land of Palestine proper, there is much fine pasturage in spring time, to which the *fellahin*, or native peasants, descend; but, in order to share it peacefully with the Arabs, they enter into an arrangement with some one of the tribes, by which they are protected from the rapacity of others, or from losses by strangers. In this, as it appears to Lieutenant Conder, the old system is perpetuated under which David's band refrained from and protected the possessions of Nabal. (Cf. 1 Sam. xxv. 7, 15).

A STRONG proof of the progress made by Protestantism in France is given in an article describing the "Religious movement at St. Just (Oise)." In the public square of the city is a spacious and imposing church, where, till a few months ago, the Catholics worshipped. As this church is replaced by a new edifice, they do not occupy it any longer, and the municipality disposed of it at its pleasure, and the Protestants have engaged it for their services. M. de Pressensé and M. Dhombres have preached there to a thousand or twelve hundred listeners crowding in the hall. As the latter was recently preaching on the distinctive characteristics of Protestantism the large audience listened with great satisfaction, and at every instant they applauded his sentiments. When his discourse was at an end M. Dhombres said: "Gentlemen, I am going to do an act of courage and of Christian fidelity. I invite you to stand up and to join in the prayer which I am about to address to our Heavenly Father;" and lo, the entire assembly stood up, and a thousand Catholics joined in an evangelical prayer, offered with deep emotion in the French language, under the astonished vaults which for centuries have been the witnesses of Roman ceremonies.

A GENEVA paper says a temperance movement has been started in Switzerland. M. Bodenheimer, formerly of the Federal Assembly, has been delivering lectures in Neuf-hôtel and other places, exhorting the people to take measures to prevent the further spread of drunkenness, which is increasing at an alarming rate. The number of distilleries has increased enormously, especially in the cantons of Argau, Soleure, and Lucerne, while in the canton of Berne alone there are 12,000 stills. There are stills in nearly every farmer's house and peasant's cottage, alcohol being made from potatoes and beet root; while from Germany is imported a quantity of so-called "mixed brandy," which possesses the most deleterious properties. M. Bodenheimer suggests that the most effectual means of meeting the evil would be to increase the duty upon alcohol, which at present amounts only to thirty-five centimes per head of population, while wheat is taxed at the rate of forty-four

centimes per head, or twenty per cent. more than alcohol. In other words, the duty on alcohol imported into Switzerland is less than a thirtieth of the amount levied in England; while there is no restriction upon the number of distilleries, which do not require a license and pay no tax.

ADVICES received state that in Uganda the French missionaries still enjoyed the protection of King Mtesa. The English, for unknown reasons, were about to leave that region. In Ulundi the French missionaries had erected a station, where they rescued abandoned infants. The Belgian explorers had reached Tabara, two of their four elephants surviving this experimental journey. Dr. Van den Hercken was there awaiting the two other Belgian explorers, who left Brindisi last month, while Captain Popelin had gone on to Tanganyika to rejoin M. Gambier. Two new members had reached the English mission at Ujji, but the third had died *en route*. M. Debaiza, after long absence in search of his baggage, left at Simba, had returned to Ujji. Mr. Stanley's expedition up the Congo, Captain Carter's arrival at Unyanyembe with the elephants sent by the King of the Belgians, and the impending arrival of a caravan of Algerian missionaries, with Belgian and English auxiliaries, were known at Tanganyika. The death of Mirambo was positively asserted, but required confirmation. The Algerian missionaries were enraptured with the kindness of the English encountered on their route. Missionaries of the Church Missionary Society gave them oxen and sheep, the Uganda English lent them a sailing boat to cross the Victoria Nyanza, and the Tanganyika English lent them their warehouses, thus following the example set by Dr. Kirk, the Consul at Zanzibar. One of the Algerians, on the other hand, cured an English missionary of a wound in the hand, threatening mortification.

THE American Missionary Association records a good year's work in its thirty-third annual report. The debt of \$37,380.79, with which it was burdened at the beginning of last year, has been paid, and for the first time in sixteen years the Association is free from that incubus. Its work among the Freedmen, the importance of which is not at all understood by the majority of Northern people, has been carried on with energy and wisdom. The report says very suggestively: "The only permanent guarantee against the abuse of any race or class, either North or South, is the diffusion of Christian intelligence among the abused, and of the spirit of Christian love among those who abuse them." The Association has 8 chartered institutions, 12 high schools and 24 common schools under its charge in the Southern States, with 163 teachers and 7,207 pupils. To these must be added 5,265 Sunday school scholars. These institutions are all schools of training in Christian knowledge and character. Of 52 graduates of Atlanta, 50 were professing Christians at graduation. Churches to the number of 67 are kept in active operation, with a membership of 4,600, of whom 745 were added during the past year. Three new churches were established during the same period. The work in Africa has made similar progress. The Association has decided, on the condition of the receipt of £3,000 from Mr. Robert Arthington, of Leeds, England, and of £3,000 additional through the efforts of Dr. O. H. White in England, to establish and permanently sustain a new mission in Eastern Africa. The twelve schools for the Chinese which the Association carries on on the Pacific Coast have done good work and promise the most substantial results. The total income of the year was \$215,431.17, an increase of nearly \$20,000 over that of the previous year.