

The Canadian Independent

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TORONTO, NOV. 3, 1881.

THAT DOLLAR.

A fortnight ago we inserted the following statement of the indebtedness of subscribers to the INDEPENDENT:—

200 Subscribers owe from 1879—some of them longer—but from that year at \$3.00 each, the indebtedness is	\$600
154 owe for 1880 and 1881—at \$2.00 each	\$308
338 owe for 1881—at \$1.00 each	\$338
A total of	\$1,246

Since then, in the two weeks, we have received less than Twenty Dollars. More than SIX HUNDRED of our subscribers have not yet paid for their paper. Shall we not have THAT DOLLAR from you?

THE MEETINGS OF THE ENGLISH UNION.

We should have liked to give another week's issue to those most important and interesting meetings, but the press of other matter forbids. We therefore give a very brief synopsis of the *Nonconformist* report on first page, with Mr. Burton's most interesting sketch following this. We have also further notes of the meetings, from his pen, which we hope to insert next week.

THE JUBILEE MEETINGS.

In looking back upon the Jubilee meetings as a whole, the question naturally is asked, what do you think of them? I shall endeavour to give a few personal judgments, asking no one to either share their responsibilities or to accept their dicta.

The meetings were immense. Sixteen hundred delegates, and at the principal meetings three thousand on-lookers, even more. Hence there was generated that enthusiasm which only numbers can give, and which was sustained even to the end. In that respect the gatherings were a complete success. In general, meetings protracted over several days thin and lose force. Apparently every one stayed to the end, and the fire was unabated; when parting came there was but one voice—"Grand meeting."

THE magnitude of the meetings determined irresistibly their character. Information was subordinated to rhetoric. Even figures were given with a flourish. This is said without depreciation, simply indicating the

direction of thought and power. They were calculated to inspire rather than instruct, not that instruction was lost sight of, but inspiration overpowered all. No deprecatory remarks, however well founded, would have been even listened to. The tone was jubilant throughout. It is well that moments are found amid the toil and disappointments of life in which workers can forget their toil, and draw in one long draught of hopeful expectation, unembittered by any admixture of fear. The earnest hope is that the inspiration will not have spent itself in the exuberance of the meetings; and the eminently practical Jubilee fund, which was fairly started, gives hope, not ill-founded, that the air was laden with sweets which have been, and are yet to be deposited, leaving tangible results behind.

CONGREGATIONALISM in England is evidently a political power, that was manifested by the frequent allusions to current events, and by the enthusiasm with which ever the name of W. E. Gladstone was received. That name had only to be mentioned to call forth one loud, long, continuous cheer, at one time the immense audience rose as one man and handkerchiefs were waved aloft. This is not to be esteemed altogether an evil. Political forces should be religious, and social reforms are not to be left in the hands of irreligious bodies. Force of circumstances in Canada have in days past compelled a voice from churches on political questions of the day. The questions of education and temperance, also of Sabbath observance, in their political aspect, call forth declarations from various churches. They who know England best will be the least disposed to fault political bias among Christian organizations. Yet there is danger lest in the strong excitement of political struggle the great work of converting men, in the Evangelical sense of the term, should be overlooked. I was very much struck with the remark of a New York delegate, as we sat by the parlour fire of the City Hotel, reviewing the meetings then over. The subject at the moment was Evangelical progress in the United States, in which progress my friend felt the Methodist Churches were the greatest power. "They go in for converting the sinner to Christ and God," said my friend, "and that wherever they find the unconverted. We have been in the country two hundred and fifty years, the Methodists scarcely a hundred, and they are eight times as numerous as we." It is scarcely to be questioned that at these Jubilee meetings the political tone was more evident than the work of conversion. Not that the latter was ignored, far from it, or that the former was offensively pressed to the front; but, scorning all cant, we could have wished comparatively more of the Evangelical which is world-wide, and less of the decidedly political which is local.

THE meetings were thoroughly arranged with decency and order, subjects and speakers having their definite place. In no sense was the meeting a conference. It was a continued series of addresses, in many respects, as it seemed to me, there would have been gain and variety had time been given for open discus-

sion. It is not well ever "to have one's own way." On the other side, we confess the difficulty of holding a mass of people together in what might prove at times a fitful commonplace conference. Still we do think more far-off good would have been secured by a more free handling of the great subjects discussed at those meetings. We know the speakers did not, could not, speak for all.

MAKING all necessary discount, remembering the imperfection of all things human, we look back upon the meeting as a whole with enthusiastic pleasure,—the occasion, the men, the subjects, the hosts, the place, were all worthy of each other, and could the statue of the great Protector have moved from its granite pedestal into the Free Trade Hall during the week, animated by the spirit of him it represents, Oliver Cromwell would not have been ashamed of the men who look back with reverence to the memory of England's greatest though uncrowned king.

OUR friends from the United States justly received a large share of attention on the day specially set apart for hearing reports regarding missions, Home and Foreign. The principal speaker was Dr. H. M. Storrs, of the American Home Missionary Society, who spoke for an hour and a half. Making allowance for some spread-eagleism, the address was as an oratorical effect, a perfect success.

MCMASTER HALL.

On Tuesday of last week, the very handsome building on Bloor St. West, Toronto, which the munificence of Hon. William McMaster has presented to the Baptist body, as a Theological College, was formally dedicated to Almighty God in this work, a number of distinguished ministers and laymen, not only of the Baptist, but of other bodies, joining in the services. We wish that we could reproduce in our columns one, at least, of the addresses delivered on that occasion, the one by Rev. A. H. Munro, of Montreal, it was so much in the line of the letters of "Mnason" in the INDEPENDENT on our own College, what is expected, and what ought to be expected from it, that it would prove a most valuable confirmation of our correspondent's views from another body and a different standpoint. He particularly emphasized the fact that their churches have a duty as well as the faculty of the College, a prior duty, to see that they send the right men, men of piety, ability, and with a good foundation of culture on which to build. He protested against the idea that their professors would be responsible, if, failing this duty on the part of the churches, there was afterwards a failure in the men whom they sent out.

The building itself is an imposing structure externally, while the interior has been carefully fitted with every convenience for the health and comfort of the students. And now for our own College building. A good start has been made toward a fund for that purpose, but it must not be allowed to drag; until we have a separate, suitable building, we are working under great disadvantages. We may not have a McMaster in wealth amongst us—we don't know,

but if the means of those who can give were consecrated to this object we should not long have to wait for our building.

DRINK.

The London gin palaces are of world-wide fame, with their mirrors, cut glass decanters, gas lights and chief corner sites. Liverpool is fast rivalling London. Up town, down town, perfect illuminations to guide or entrap the heedless or wearied passer-by. A favourite sign is a large glass barrel over the window projecting into the street, which, lit up by gas at night, gleams from afar. One public house in the second storey seemed one glare of coloured light, every window being lit with gas which shone through stained glass, and flashed out BILLIARD PARLOUR, SMOKING-ROOM. Peep into these flaming hells—ah! women with children in their arms, men bloated with beer or emaciated with gin, youth, too, learning the easy downward way; and yet the traffic socially respectable!

A LIVERPOOL paper asks the question, "Are we civilized?" The occasion of which question was a fatal drunken brawl in the city. Some trouble arose between a mother, son and daughter, and another son; the latter seemed to have offended the rest, for which the two women and lad all fell with chair, and boot, and fist, and nail, upon the offending party, the mother urging on the fray, until the object of their wrath lay dead and mangled before them. From this class come the crowds who Sunday evenings throng a hall to hear Mrs. Annie Besant prove, amidst deafening applause, that God is a dream, man developed protoplasm, and death the end of the individual, for Liverpool, like our Toronto, can find its applauding crowd, anxious to be demoralized and find some opiate to conscience, that life may be free from self-denial and sacrifice.

THE British Workman Coffee and Cocoa Rooms are providing for a want in Liverpool, and many find a refuge there when otherwise the gin palace would be their home. There are also two good temperance hotels in the city, the comfort of one of which I enjoyed during my stay, yet the external attractiveness of the cocoa rooms is as yet far behind that of the public houses whose dire influence they are designed to counteract. The devil spends money freely, and if his interest is large, his investments are large also. The children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light.

WE must apologize to some of our friends for delay in the insertion of Church News items that have been sent us, especially to the Western Church of Toronto, the report of whose anniversary services should have been inserted two weeks ago; also the report of the meeting of the Central Association, of the Welcome Meeting to the Pastor of the Northern Church, a further letter of "Mnason" on College management, etc. We hope next week to overtake all back matter.