

1 July 81
Wm. Ross,
478 City St.

The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 29.]

TORONTO, THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 1881.

[New Series. No. 41

Current Topics.

—Liverpool has now forty-one cocoa-rooms; a dividend of 10 per cent. on the business of last year has been declared.

—Rev. Dr. Jessup's Sunday-school, in Beirut, employs a colporteur to visit the khans on the road to Damascus, where travelers and muleteers rest at night, and distribute Bibles and other religious books.

—The Glasgow *Christian News* says, "There has never been such activity among the churches of Scotland as at this moment. All denominations have extra services on the Sabbath day, as well as extra services throughout the week.

—More than one-fourth part of the income of the Basle mission, which now sustains 115 missionaries in India, Africa and China, and which has already gathered 13,245 church members, is derived from a system of penny collections. There are now about 120,000 persons who contribute a penny a week to this society. Their gifts amounted in 1879 to over \$33,000.

—The manager of the festival at the Crystal Palace in London, June 30, during the week of the Sunday School Centenary, has made his full report, from which it appears that it entailed a loss of about \$60. The cost of the great concert, which gave enjoyment to so many Canadians as well as others, was \$625; \$365 was paid as the expense of the London Sunday school choir, and the expense of the sports for the children is put down at \$85.

—An evidence of the success that has attended the work of Messrs. Moody and Sankey in San Francisco was the addition of one hundred and seven to Howard Presbyterian church, at their communion on the second Tuesday in February. Nearly all were adults and more than half were men. Calvary church received sixty-five, the United Presbyterian, twenty-eight, and other churches have received large accessions.

—A striking proof of the reality of Christian mission work was witnessed in the Church of St. Peter, Cornhill, on Sunday, 20th March, when the pulpit was occupied by the hereditary Chief of the Ojibbeway Indians, and President of the Grand Council of Indians, now the Rev. H. Puhtahquahong Chase, for eighteen years a missionary in connection with the Colonial and Continental Church Society.

—The Legislature of Wisconsin has passed and the governor of the state has signed a bill which imposes a fine and imprisonment upon any person who shall "treat" another by offering him intoxicating liquor free of expense, and also imposes a similar punishment upon any person who shall accept such a "treat" or free drink. This is carrying legislative restrictions to a very extreme if not doubtful length.

—Papacy is as intolerant as ever. A monument erected near the Vatican in 1600 to commemorate the abjuration of Protestantism by Henry IV. of France, was some years ago removed by city improvements. It has just been decided to re-erect it in one of the public places of the city. The Protestant press of France is earnestly protesting. In Rome an old man, a Protestant, was made by

the priest by force to kiss the crucifix, and was buried, against his wishes, among the Romanists.

—Insanity is on the increase in Great Britain. Last year, says the *Sanitarian*, the whole number of insane in England and Wales was registered as 69,885, of whom 62,108 were paupers. Twenty years ago there were only 35,762. In the last twenty-one years the ratio of insane to the population has increased fifty per cent., and this largely among paupers. Of men, twenty-one per cent. of the insanity is attributed to drink; of women seven per cent. The causes of this alarming increase of lunacy form an interesting study in social science.

—The report of the New York State Board of Charities shows that not less than 22,000 persons in that city are habitually dependent upon the public funds. Last year the appropriations from the city treasury were over two million dollars, and private contributions for the same purpose over a million more. While during the last thirty years the population has increased 134 per cent. The cost of charity has increased 539 per cent.

—The Lord Mayor of London, Mr. W. McArthur, M.P., is showing a most praiseworthy and indefatigable zeal in using his influential official position for the furtherance of good objects and the encouragement of good people. The latest announcements are to the effect that the Lord Mayor intends to give a banquet at the Mansion House, on May 2nd, in honor of the venerable Dr. Moffat, and that the annual Conversazione of the Evangelical Alliance is to be held at the Mansion House on the 13th of the same month.

—Among all its wealth of minerals, the United States cannot reckon tin. Wales furnishes most of what it used on this continent. At a recent meeting of the mineralogical section of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Mr. Henry Carrill Lewis, a young scientist, but already of considerable celebrity, exhibited a small piece of tin ore, said to have been found in Surry County, N. C. The fact that it was a genuine native product was, however, received by the body with some hesitation.

—Among the princely philanthropists of the United States—of whom, happily, there are not a few—is Mr. Peter Cooper, of New York, who has given to the institution that bears his name not less than two millions of dollars. This venerable gentleman celebrated his ninety-third birthday last February by giving to the trustees of the Cooper Union 30,000 dollars in cash, and by handing them receipts for 70,000 dollars more, expended during the last year to enlarge and improve the building. A further sum of 10,000 he gave for the benefit of institutions aiding poor children.

—Romantic young ladies who believe in elopements have an illustration of their usually sad ending in the recent death of Lady Blanch, Murphy, at North Conway, daughter of the Earl of Gainsborough. She ran away with a poor Irish music teacher who proved unable to support her, came to America, earned a bare subsistence by writing for the press, and has died at the early age of thirty-five. Her father offered her a home if she would leave her husband, but she kept her pledge to the man to whom she unwisely made it at first.

Archbishop McCabe denounces the women who are raising money for the Land League movement and says to the priests "Reverend fathers, set your faces against this dishonoring attempt. Do not tolerate in your sodalities a woman who so far disavows her modesty as to parade herself publicly in a character so unworthy of a child of Mary." And yet women in this country who raise large sums for the Pope, for instance, Mrs. General Sherman, who is said to have collected \$100,000 for him, are accounted worthy of all honor. But money raised for the Pope is one thing, and for the Land League quite another.

Religious freedom is at length to find a home even in Spain. The newly organized Council of Ministers have resolved to give a free pardon and liberty to the native Protestant pastor who was some time since condemned to several months' imprisonment for holding prayer meetings in Catalonia; and the vexatious proceedings which had been set on foot against Protestants in districts remote from the capital have been summarily stayed. To the protests which the Papal Nuncio has made against toleration of Protestantism, the reply has been given that the Government will pursue its own course, and will not submit to any interference by the Bishops and the Papacy hostile to the rights secured to non-Catholic subjects by the Constitution.

—It looks as though there were a decided revival of what is known as temperance sentiment on this continent. From Canada to Tennessee there is hardly a large community in which this is not a living and burning question, and there are more pending bills on this subject than on any other. Every patriotic citizen who has faced this question seriously, and with a genuine appreciation of the mischief done to health and character by the popular use of intoxicating drinks, must feel a warm sympathy with the sentiment behind the crusade, even though he regard the legal methods of reform it proposes as wrong in principle as well as inexpedient.

One of the great religious institutions of Boston is the *Bible Class*, which meets every Saturday afternoon in Tremont Temple. It is a grand sight to see two thousand people come together on Saturday afternoon and spend an hour in the study of God's Word. It shows that the exposition of Scripture can be made attractive to the people. It seems desirable that something of the kind should be established in every town so as to cultivate a taste for the study of God's Word; as our only hope of meeting the skepticism of the age lies in making Bible students who shall be able to recognize error when it is presented to them.

—From the *Missionary Herald* we learn that at least twenty-nine exploring or commercial expeditions, to say nothing of missionary parties, are now moving from various quarters towards the interior of Africa. Business enterprises are being inaugurated, new lines of steamships established along the coast, and scores of commercial and scientific stations have been permanently occupied in regions which heretofore have rarely been visited by travelers. The Christian Church in its various branches

is doing much for the opening of Africa but she must bestir herself greatly if she is to be in advance of commerce in reaching the native population of the interior.

—In Canada there is a Local Option Law, by which any county can make the sale and manufacture of such drinks illegal within its own boundaries. The number of counties which take advantage of this is increasing, and the *Globe* has sent into Maine two Commissioners to report on the actual workings of legal prohibition in its native home. In Ohio and Massachusetts the situation is not materially changed. In several Western States there is a disposition to adopt Prohibition, through the fear that the act of Kansas in making this a part of her Constitutional law will attract to that State the most desirable class of emigrants. In North Carolina the advocates of Prohibition are quite dissatisfied with the bill for that purpose which the State Senate has originated. It does not touch either wine or beer, so that toppers can still enjoy their brandy in the more or less diluted form of sherry; and it puts the matter to the popular vote in a shape which will not command the united support, even, of the friends of Prohibition. It looks as if the politicians had been managing matters so as to shut the mouths of the temperance people, without doing anything they wanted done. In Tennessee the law forbids the establishment of a liquor-store within four miles of a school-house, except inside the bounds of an incorporated town. For this reason, the town of Lebanon has secured the repeal of its charter by the Legislature, so that it comes under the rule.

—The Waldensian Church reports that progress has been made in all departments the past year. Matteo Prochet writes of changes in public opinion as follows: "At Pignerol, at the very gates of the Vaudois Valleys, clerical agitation, which has for its centre the pulpit of the Catholic cathedral, has had the effect of bringing hundreds of hearers to the meetings of our evangelist and to the funeral services conducted by him in the cemetery. All honor to the authorities who have done away with the distinction between a Protestant and a Catholic cemetery! The good examples which they have given in this matter has greatly contributed to remove the prejudices of the middle class of society. At Susa the gross attacks of the Canon Peinetti have also served to bring us a number of hearers. At Aosta the front of our chapel, decorated with the inscription *Capella Evangelica* and the escutcheon of the Vaudois Church, is set exactly opposite and in contrast to the famous fountain erected in memory of the flight of Calvin. At Ivrea a pastoral diatribe of the bishop, directed expressly against the evangelicals, has called forth on the part of our evangelist a pamphlet, 800 copies of which have been sold. At Favale (Liguria) where itinerant evangelization is pursued with success, many thousands of copies of the most beautiful of our hymns have been bought up, and may be heard sung in stables, houses, schools, in the fields, and even in certain Catholic churches."