

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## Topics of the Week.

**EDGAR.** Twenty-four members were received into the Congregational Church at Edgar, the first Sabbath in May, and twelve at Rugby, all on profession of faith. Special services had been held at Edgar by the pastor, J. I. Hindley.

The physicians of Paris are engaged in waging a war on tobacco. They urge that it depletes the vital forces, and claim that the long-lived men of the world are not its slaves. For illustration, they are holding up the experience of such aged anti-tobaccoists as Cremieux, Guizot, Thiers, Hugo, St. Hilaire, Gortschakoff, and others.

THE Rev. Charles Chiniquy arrived at St. Anne's, Ill., on the 5th inst., after being absent for about twenty-two months, during which time he has visited the principal cities of Australia and New Zealand, preaching and lecturing on temperance and Roman Catholicism. Mr. Chiniquy received a cordial welcome home.

ACCORDING to official reports, the population of the Sandwich Islands amounted in 1878 to 57,985, showing an increase since the census of 1872 of 1,088. During the last five years the number of immigrants had risen from 5,366 to 10,477, while the number of natives had decreased from 51,531 to 47,508. Of the foreigners in 1878, 833 were English, 1,276 Americans, and 5,916 Chinese.

THE Free Church Mission at Livingstonia, Lake Nyassa, continues to prosper. A grammar and vocabularies of the Chinyanju language which is spoken there have been published, and thus the first steps taken towards the translation of the Bible into the Nyassa and Zambesi dialects. This work has been accomplished by Mr. Alexander Riddell the agriculturist and schoolmaster of the mission.

REV. A. T. PIERSON, D.D., at a recent Christian Conference in Detroit presented the following array of facts and figures that are worth thinking about by the religious world. According to the latest and most accurate computation, the world's population is 1,423,917,000, and of these there are in papal, pagan and Mohammedan lands some 1,144,000,000. We suppose there are to-day 10,000,000 true followers of the Lord. Now let each one win one soul to Christ during the year 1880. In 1881 we have 20,000,000. Let these do the same in 1882, and we have 40,000,000. At the same rate in 1888 we have 2,560,000,000, or more than all the population of the world according to the most extravagant estimates.

QUITE a little crisis is imminent in the history of Protestant missions in Spain. Cabrera, formerly a priest, embraced Protestantism in 1861 at Gibraltar, and was, one year later, installed as pastor, under the auspices of the Scotch Presbyterian Society. In 1868 he was called to Seville, and in 1874 to Madrid, to succeed the lamented Carrasco. Last year the Scotch Society reduced its appropriation for the support of Cabrera from \$1,500 to \$900. Feeling aggrieved, Cabrera determined to relieve his church from the patronage of that Society, and turned to the English Episcopal Committee. Last February he published a pamphlet, proposing to the young Spanish churches that they organize on the model of the Episcopal churches of the United States; and in March he met at Seville the four Spanish pastors who depend on the Episcopal Committee, and also Bishop Riley, the American Bishop of the Mexican Episcopal Church,

and was by them elected "the first bishop" of Spain. He now proposes to erect in Madrid a beautiful Protestant cathedral, and to organize his diocese under the patronage of the wealthy and powerful Anglican Church.

THE treatment of the late King of the Zulus at Cape Castle appears to be of a character hardly creditable to the Cape Government. Cetewayo has now been for more than seven months a close prisoner, denied all communication with those Englishmen who, in former days, were his friends, and who are still disposed to pay him friendly attention, if they were allowed. All sorts of sightseers, who had no other object to gratify but a morbid curiosity, have, it is stated, been allowed to gaze at Cetewayo, but against all who have been known to be in friendly communication with Bishop Colenso the door has been resolutely closed. Mr. F. W. Chesson, on the part of the Aborigines Protection Society, furnishes the most explicit testimony upon this point. Last month Dr. Robert Colenso, a son of the Bishop of Natal, being at Cape Town, asked the Premier, Mr. Sprigg, for permission to see Cetewayo, but was refused. What can be the meaning of this ungenerous treatment of a fallen foe and of his friends? Can the Bishop's suggestion be true, that Cetewayo was perfectly free of all the hostile intentions towards the English which were attributed to him by Sir Bartle Frere as an excuse for entering into war against him?

THE gambling fever for the season has already set in with great intensity and promises to be as bad as ever if not worse. In spite of the utter discredit into which boat-racing was brought last season in the estimation of every respectable person, by the frauds, lies, and general "crookedness" universally prevalent, we have again an eager attempt made to rehabilitate the performers and the sport, and some people calling themselves respectable join in the effort. Then the walking mania seems not quite dead, though the exhibitions of last year were sufficient to cover it with scorn in the estimation of every person possessed of a shred either of character or common sense. Anything, apparently, in order to have an opportunity for gambling and for thus gaining money without honestly working for it. No doubt, as the season goes on, we shall have advocates of dog-fights and cocking mains, and all such other "sports" which are just as reasonable and not a whit less disreputable than those which too many are now excusing and which not a few are even earnestly defending as highly moral, strictly patriotic, and undoubtedly calculated to make Canada's name more honoured and Canada's people more prosperous in every respect. That such things should be a matter for regret, that members of churches should countenance and encourage them is simply disgraceful.

THE American Bible Society, at its sixty-fourth annual meeting, reported that there are engaged in the Society's work in this country 18 district superintendents, 75 agents, and 4,528 unpaid volunteer distributors. The receipts for the year were \$608,342.28. For the foreign work of the Society, to be expended during the year, the amount of \$119,792 has been appropriated. The New Testament has been translated into Japanese and is already published, and the translators are at work on the Old Testament. Aid has been afforded to the work of translating portions of the Bible into several of the colloquial languages of China. In India work upon the Telugu Scriptures has been resumed. Some portions of the Old Testament in the Zulu language are nearly ready for the press, while the Gospels of Mark and Luke in the

Muskokee language are ready for publication. Editions of the Reval Esthonian and of the Dakota Bible have been printed, also a part of Isaiah in Mpongwe, the Gospel of John in Dikele, and a revised edition of the Psalms in Spanish. There were prepared for distribution at the Bible House 1,134,438 Bibles. Several thousand purchasers were found for them abroad and nearly all of them were distributed. The whole number issued by the Society during sixty-four years amounted to 37,408,208 copies. The gratuitous work for the year amounted to \$338,187.08.

A VERY striking illustration is given of the power of Christian willinghood, in the history of Free St. George's Church, Edinburgh. As most of our readers are aware, this is the church of which Dr. Candlish was the first pastor. It has always been distinguished for its zeal and liberality in every good work. Since 1843 it has raised the large sum of £295,889 11s. 9d., or nearly a million and a half of dollars. Of this amount nearly one-half has gone to the general Sustentation Fund. In its contributions to that fund it has never gone back even for a single year. Amid all the excitement of the Disruption and all the enthusiasm of novelty it contributed in 1843-4 to this fund what was thought then the very large sum of £2,409 16s. 3d. It has however never given so little during any one year from that time to the present. Its contribution for 1879-80 stands the highest even in its record, viz., £5,294. For "strictly local and congregational purposes" it has reserved of the whole raised only £91,247 12s., and even of that a very large proportion was not exclusively for the benefit of the worshippers in Free St. George's, but went to build and support mission churches in destitute localities in the city. All this tells of a marvellously effective and well directed congregational organization, and shews beyond all cavil that Christianity has within itself in the native influence of its doctrines on the minds of those who believe, everything which is requisite for its efficient support and indefinite extension.

EVERYWHERE there is more or less of a protest being raised against the excessive strain put upon the mental powers of the children at school by the number and character of the tasks assigned them. The somewhat celebrated Miss Jex. Blake, M.D., of Edinburgh, in a recent letter to the London "Times," says: "In dispensary practice I have lately seen several cases of habitual headache and other cerebral affections among children of all ages attending our Board Schools, and have traced their origin to overstrain caused by the ordinary school work, which the ill-nourished physical frames are often quite unfit to bear. I have spoken repeatedly on the subject to the members of school boards, and also to teachers in the schools, and have again and again been assured by them that they were quite alive to the danger, and heartily wished that it was in their power to avert it; but that the constantly advancing requirements of the Education Code left them no option in the matter, and, indeed, that the evil has been steadily increasing, and appears likely still to increase." Miss Blake says further that a majority of the most intelligent teachers could testify that a majority of the children find themselves habitually over-tasked, so that though temporary precocity is secured, the result is sure to be marked and permanent dulness. We are quite sure the same thing can be said of the system in Canada as very generally carried out. Many here will re-echo Miss Blake's hope that the educational authorities will consider "not how much more can be piled on to existing demands" but "how far the present requirements can be relaxed, while yet a really sound general education in the public schools is secured."