

The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 25.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, Jan. 15, 1879.

New Series. No. 2.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

Published by the Congregational Publishing Company

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All Subscriptions and advertisements should be sent to the Business Manager, Rev. J. B. Silcox, 340 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ont. Subscription \$1 per annum, payable in advance. Remit by Money Order, Draft, or Registered Letter. We want an active Agent in each Church. Advertising rates sent on application.

WE have used thus far the old mailing list, but will, we hope with the next issue, begin with the new—when all payments will be indicated on the address. We are grateful to the many friends who are helping on the new departure by paying up old accounts and sending in new subscribers. We need this, and trust that the efforts will not be slackened. If all the accounts out were paid in full,—and they are mostly all one and two dollar accounts—the publishers and directors would have no doubt about their having a happy New Year. So, brethren, give us your greeting.

RUSSIA'S system of suppression looks as if torpedoes were under it, and may blow it up. The outbreak of the students, and the closing of the universities, produces a dead-lock between the authorities and the revolutionists.

OUR friends across the line are showing a little nervousness at the threatened importation of the ostracized German Socialists. Certainly these men represent the worst type of this Socialistic evil, and are anything but an agreeable accession to any country.

ACCORDING to Leonard Bacon, the Old Catholic movement led by Dr. Dollinger, has collapsed. A great deal was expected from this revolt from Ultramontanism, perhaps too much; but it was clear to many that it wanted to dwell too near to the old fold to be safe.

THE United States Supreme Court has struck a blow at polygamy. Congress had passed a bill prohibiting "plural" marriages. The question of its constitutionality came up, and the decision of the court is for it. Now let the law be enforced by the government.

Dr. S. J. CURTISS, of Chicago Theological Seminary, says to theological students about to marry, "Don't." His reasons are: first, a theological student needs all his time for his studies; second, there is danger that the churches will disapprove and withdraw contributions. We, in Canada, are not afflicted with the disease of which Professor Curtiss complains.

BISHOP SIMPSON tells in one of his Yale lectures that a great difficulty in the way of his determining to become a minister was the fact that he had no gift of speech. His fellow-students told him this made it impossible for him either to become a preacher or a lawyer. But the call of God was strong upon his spirit,

and he felt, "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." The way in which he overcame his defects was almost equal to the triumph of Demosthenes, and the success he has achieved remains to encourage many another young man who hesitates respecting a call which he has reason to believe is from God.

THE "Christian World" gives the following about an old friend, Rev. Archibald Duff, late of Montreal. "The address delivered by Mr. Archibald Duff, M.A., upon his entrance on work at Airedale College, Bradford, as professor of Hebrew and Old Testament Theology, with adjunct professorship of Mathematics, has been published under the title, 'The use of the Old Testament in the Study of the Rise of Our Doctrines.' Speaking of the Jews in the time of our Saviour, he says:—'They spoke a Semitic language. Jesus spoke it, lived through it, preached in it, not in Hebrew, certainly, but in Aramaic, we might almost say in Syriac.'

THE pictures of the distress prevalent in England, do not seem overdrawn. Private letters corroborate the press-sketches. What with these enormous strikes, and the consequent closing of mills and mines, the labouring classes are in need, and in some instances, desperate need. In the large cities, the work-houses are full; and, then, to make bad worse, since the failure of the Glasgow bank, a spirit of distrust has swept over commercial circles, bringing anxiety and pain. When will men learn the absolute need of honesty, so that they may dwell peacefully beside their neighbours? The pulpits should ring out on this current dishonesty, which is endangering every nation's comfort.

HARPER'S WEEKLY says it is not a "waste of time" to read the periodical literature of the day, and argues that there is in the newspapers of the present time some of the best writing of which men are capable. Public men wish their thoughts to be brought quickly before the people, and resort to the newspapers and magazines, so that whatever is best is likely to be found there. It is true. And if people will refuse the trifling papers of which there are so many, and take those which have conscience and character, they will not need to complain of intellectual or moral deterioration. Providence makes it our duty to choose our books, papers and associates. If we take the bad instead of the good it is our own fault and misfortune.

Dr. ALEXANDER MACLAREN has recently completed the twentieth year of his ministry in Union Chapel, Manchester, and on the 27th of November last, his people presented him with a substantial testimonial, consisting of a cheque for 2,000 guineas, a timepiece, a type-writer, and a gold watch. Dr. McLaren in his response, spoke of thirty-three years of ministerial work, and 5,000 sermons preached. We hope that this testimonial is but the beginning of the end; for Alexander McLaren has for many years addressed a larger congregation than is assembled within the walls of Union chapel, from Sabbath to Sabbath. A more thoughtful, suggestive, preacher does not live, nor one who presents the Gospel of Christ to his hearers with more simplicity, and directness, and fervor.

AT a parlor gathering of liberal and orthodox worthies at the home of Joseph Cook, lately, the subject of discussion was "the Character of Dr. Channing." Mr. Cook, in closing the discussion spoke as follows:—"Because I am a radical of the radicals, I have the greatest admiration for Dr. Channing's saintliness as a literary and philanthropic power. But my first feeling is the utter insufficiency of his theological

views to give me peace. I hope that I am a free thinker. And yet I cannot get away from three things—God, myself, and my record. Herbert Spencer says truly that I must be in harmony with my environment. Unitarianism doesn't give it to me. Only when I behold a Mediator am I in harmony with my past, my God, myself. Only so do I find myself at peace."

AN American exchange, alluding to greater caution in ordaining ministerial candidates, talks in this way:—"A prophetic imagination can easily discern, under the workings of the improved Congregationalism of the future, a process of ordination and installation government after this wise: The council will be called for the purpose of examining the candidate without pressure of haste, favoritism, or other disturbing influences. If the candidate be not approved, no harm results. If he be approved, a committee of the council will be appointed to carry out the installation on such a subsequent day as will suit the convenience and wishes of all concerned. Such a plan would, of course, detract a little from the apostolic grandeur of an ordaining council of Congregational churches as now held; but it would conduce vastly to the orderly life, and satisfactory working of the churches."

PROF DAVID SWING'S last sermon of the old year was a gem. The following paragraph is good advice to all our young people who desire to realize a "Happy New Year":—"And all ye young hearts who are just entering upon this great debate about pleasure, where it is to be found, do not fall into the error that when you become rich, then you will try to be happy. Happiness is the most accommodating of all things. It will come to a cottage as soon as to a palace. You need never wait for any outward pomp to come. As the sunshine of the Almighty will shine through a simple vine as richly as upon the velvet of a king, or upon the gilded dome of a temple; so happiness falls with equal sweetness upon all whose minds are at peace, and in whose hearts flow the good thoughts and good sentiments of life. Never for a moment admit that any millionaire or king can surpass you in the possession of that peace of mind, and smile of existence, which we call happiness. Here you are equal to the highest."

HENRY VINCENT, the popular lecturer of England, is dead. His early life was spent in political strife. He was a compeer with the renowned Thomas Cooper, and fought side by side with him in the great Chartist agitation. Vincent was once at least imprisoned for his political opinions. The larger portion of his public life was spent upon the platform, where as a delineator of social life with its lights and shades and endless foibles, he was without rival. In later years he devoted himself to the study of the 16th and 17th centuries. He took a strong nonconformist view of the political and religious struggles of those times and was therefore an especial favorite amongst the Congregationalists and Baptists of England. Occasionally he preached in their pulpits. But his sermons were always sacred lectures. At the opening of his tabernacle Mr. Spurgeon invited Mr. Vincent to lecture on the "History of Nonconformity," which lecture was considered one of his most masterly efforts. Speaking of Lectures, the Rev. Arthur Mursell is now in Canada. Mr. Mursell was the most successful of all the men who undertook to address the working classes. For years Free Trade Hall in Manchester was crowded with an audience of 6,000 to 7,000 to hear the Sunday Afternoon Lectures. Mr. Mursell visits Toronto on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday next, to preach and lecture for our Bond Street friends.