

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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REV. JOHN WOOD,  
" R. W. WALLACE, M.A., } Associate Editors.  
" JOSEPH GRIFFITH.

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JOHN B. GOUGH was announced to deliver his last lecture in London at the Metropolitan Tabernacle on the 3rd.

THE Evangelical Union of Scotland was to hold its annual meeting in Glasgow in the beginning of this month.

THE GENERAL ASSOCIATION of Congregational Churches in New York is to meet in Canandaigua on the 28th instant.

It is reported that Professor Christlieb, of Bonn, has been invited to deliver the Lyman Beecher lectures on Preaching before the Theological Department of Yale this session.

THE session in New College, London, began on the 30th of September. There are now 51 ministerial students in the institution. The address was delivered by the Rev. Edwin Johnson, M.A., the newly appointed classical lecturer.

DAVID MACRAE leaves his Gourock congregation, and advises it to remain in the United Presbyterian Church. It looks as if he were going to Dundee, as successor to George Gilfillan. But the Dundee church must stand alone in that case.

WE rejoice to see that a testimonial is on foot in the old country to the Rev. John Pulsford, of Edinburgh. Mr. Pulsford was one of the shareholders in the City of Glasgow Bank, and was left in comparative poverty by the mishaps of that institution.

THE coloured Baptists of Virginia support four missionaries at home and one in Africa. The four home missionaries preached last year 491 sermons, held 337 prayer-meetings, organized 7 churches and 17 Sunday schools, and collected \$255. An appeal is made for money for a chapel and mission building.

WE see that the American Baptist newspapers are not jubilant over the action of the St. Louis Association in cutting off Dr. Boyd and his church. Certainly, there is no room for congratulation. The step was a crime; and, worse than that, it was a blunder, a blunder which will do great harm to those who have committed it.

A LETTER from the Rev. L. H. Cobb, Secretary of the American Home Missionary Society, Rev. R. K. Black's account of his visit to the Maritime Provinces, an obituary notice, and an account of the annual meeting of the American Board just held at Syracuse, are held over for want of space and will appear in our next issue.

BOSTON was to have a State Sabbath Convention on the 21st and 22nd of October. Among the speakers announced are Dr. Duryea, Joseph Cook and L. W. Bacon. The subject of Sabbath observance needs discussion in the United States and Canada just now. We hardly know where we are in reference to the question of the relation of civil law to the Sabbath. It would be well to come to some finality.

THE Congregational Union of England and Wales was to begin its autumnal meeting in Cardiff on the 13th. The programme announced is a good one. We wish, however, that the arrangements for these gatherings were not so complete. It looks as if nothing could be done that had not been cut and dried by committees before hand.

THEY have had a case of clerical plagiarism in Chicago. The culprit is Dr. George C. Lorimer, the famous Baptist preacher. He has been making use of one of Dr. Joseph Parker's sermons. He claims that he has done so unconsciously. But the parallel between his sermon and that of Dr. Parker is evident to every one. Still, we fancy that Dr. Lorimer did not mean to commit the offence charged against him.

IT seems that the infallibility of the Czar is an article of belief in the Holy Orthodox church of Russia. The Metropolitan of Moscow preached a sermon on the subject recently. A daring newspaper editor criticised it pretty freely, and his paper was suppressed and he was sentenced to Siberia. That is a good way to keep people from heterodoxy. Something of that sort is needed in Canada, and we think it has been introduced more than once.

DR. WILKES wishes us to say that with reference to the appointment of district agents to befriend the College by stirring up the congregations within their bounds to contribute annually to its funds, it should be noted that Rev. R. K. Black of Granby is compelled by circumstances to decline the appointment for the Quebec district, and that the Rev. J. G. Sanderson of Danville has consented to take it. The Board has also named Rev. J. W. Cox, B.A., of Noel, N.S., to act for the Maritime Provinces.

THE biennial conference of the Evangelical Alliance of the United States will be held in St. Louis, beginning October 28th. Among the subjects and speakers are the following: "Harmony in Spiritual Doctrines Promoted by the Alliance," Dr. J. S. Burrows; "Christian Scholarship and the Evangelical Alliance," Dr. J. S. Bush; "Christian Truth and the Periodical Press," the Rev. W. G. Craig; "The Churches and Social Reform," Dr. T. M. Post; "The Sunday Question," Dr. T. D. Woolsey; "Christian Morals and the Public Schools," Dr. T. M. King. Also papers by Dr. Stuart Robinson, Dr. Galusha Anderson, and Dr. Tudor.

THE temperance work continues to make progress in France. The Société Française de Temperance has now been in existence eight years, and during that time has accomplished excellent results. It sustains a newspaper, "La Temperance," which is published quarterly, and deals chiefly with scientific facts and statistical matters bearing upon the drink question. It has, however, lately started a more popular serial, "Le Bon Conseiller," a paper for the family, the school, the workshop, and the barracks. Its aim will be "to destroy abuses, to combat prejudices, and to oppose those ravages of drink in France which nothing has yet been able to arrest."

## THE PULPIT VS. THE BAR.

BY KNOXONION.

Why don't our ministers drop their stiff, professional style of preaching and speak more like members of the Bar? Why don't they hold the attention of their hearers as counsel do the attention of jurors? The story of King Charles and the egg comes in here. As a matter of fact some lawyers do speak in as stiff and stilted a style as ever grated on the ear of a long-suffering pew-holder. As a matter of fact counsel do not always hold the attention of jurors. Just the other day a prisoner in one of our courts, when asked to give reasons why sentence should not be passed upon him, complained that two or three of the jurors who had found him guilty were sound asleep during his trial. We have even heard of a learned judge who takes an occasional nap during the delivery of long addresses by counsel.

But supposing it were true that gentlemen of the long robe were able in all their efforts to keep the court and jury spell-bound by their eloquence, it would not even then follow that the oratory of the bar is superior to that of the pulpit. The work of the preacher is so utterly unlike that of the pleader that no analogy will hold. To begin with, the lawyer's audience take a solemn oath to hear all that he has got to say, and to come to some conclusion about the merits of the case immediately after the case has been heard. They have a judge set over them who may rebuke and punish anything like marked inattention on the part of a juror, if noticed. If a congregation could be sworn at the beginning of each service to listen to the sermon and "a true deliverance make" concerning it, probably a very small number of them would be inattentive. There is no precedent, however, for "swearing in" a congregation, and we are not aware that any ecclesiastical reformer is taking steps in that direction. As long as jurors are sworn to attend to a case, and hearers can do as they please about attending to sermons, lawyers will always have the advantage in this regard. There are other circumstances too in favour of the lawyer. The jurors who listen to him do not probably serve more than once or twice in five years. His task is simply to address them at intervals of several years in connection with certain matters which they are sworn to investigate. The preacher often addresses the same people one hundred and fifty times a year, and continues at his work for twenty years. Assuming that he preaches twice every Sabbath and conducts a weekly meeting and remains in his congregation twenty years, he addresses the same people 3,000 times! During these twenty years a barrister practising in the same town would not in all probability address the same jurors more than a dozen times. Let the average lawyer address the same jury three times a week on the same case for twenty years, and both he and they would most likely die of sheer weariness before half the time had expired. Holding the attention of the jurors for 3,000 addresses on the same case, however, is a small matter compared with some other things which must be done to make the work of the preacher and the pleader anything like analagous. The preacher's audience come voluntarily. The lawyer's are summoned by the sheriff and fined if they don't attend. To make both alike in this regard jurors must be allowed to remain away if they wish so to do, or congregations must be fined for not attending church. The preacher's audience have to pay his salary. How would a lawyer get on if he had to "dun" the jury for his fees? The preacher's audience build the church and keep it in repair. What would the gentlemen of the long robe think if in every town they were charged with the duty of collecting money