

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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### BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

All Subscriptions and advertisements should be sent to the Business Manager, Rev. J. B. Silcox, 349 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.

IN this week's issue we give two Sunday school lessons instead of one. Hereafter, for the greater convenience of teachers and scholars, the lesson will be given ten days in advance.

THE "Record" is of the opinion that if the English Church will so persistently follow Romish absurdities the Reformed Episcopal Church will become a necessity.

IN Japan, two years and a half ago, there was published a translation of the Gospel of Matthew. The publishers of this are now about to issue a pocket New Testament, with references, &c., in fine style.

THE relation between temperance and wise political economy is illustrated in the fact that in Greeley, Colorado, where no liquor is allowed, there is no police force in a population of 3,000, and in two years only \$7 were called for out of the poor fund.

THE second and final revision of the New Testament has been completed by the Committee. Eighty-five Sessions were held, 337 days spent on the work. The adjustment of a few points remains, and then we shall see the work for which we have waited so long.

THIS is how our New York namesake reviews Talmage's last series of sermons:—"There comes to our table a pamphlet, entitled, 'The Night Side of City Life,' being certain sermons by T. De Witt Talmage, D.D. They are marked by that chasteness of rhetoric and calm dignity of manner so peculiar to this celebrated preacher."

A LONDON paper gives an interesting statement of the important work accomplished by Mr. Spurgeon's church in various directions. The Pastors' College has trained and sent forth upwards of 400 young men, many of whom occupy positions of prominence in the Baptist churches. In addition to the 100 students now in the college, nearly 300 young men receive free instruction in the evening classes, and about 2,000 children are taught in the Sunday and other schools. Eighty colporteurs are employed in circulating religious literature; the Alms-houses furnish a home to 17 aged women, and the Stockwell Orphanage cares for about 250 fatherless boys.

THE *Nonconformist*, alluding to the shameless barter in Church-livings in England, makes the following assertion, which will bring a smile to the countenance of any one who reads it:—"When a living is sold by auction at Tokenhouse-yard it is not unusually sand-

wiched between the sales of public-houses and the shops of tallow-chandlers or other like trades; and so in this index Mr. Beck's name is immediately preceded by Allen's hot-air baths, and followed by Brown and Polson's corn flour and Cockle's pills." Just fancy, public-houses, tallow-chandler shops, hot-air baths, Cockle's pills and the Cure of Souls, all jumbled together in an advertisement column! What next?

WE regret that the "Newfoundland Monthly Messenger" has been discontinued. It has done admirable service, and its genial pages will be much missed among the churches in that distant district. We are greatly indebted to our good brother, Rev. T. Hall, the ex-editor of the "Messenger," for the kindly words he has uttered for the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. We hope his commendation will bear much fruit, for we not only wish the enlargement of our list of subscribers, but also to come into closer relations with our brethren in Newfoundland. We shall be only too glad to hear news from our friends there soon.

THE London "Record," in announcing the death of the Princess Alice, says: "We are enabled to state, on the authority of those who had the opportunity of conversing with the Princess very recently, that whatever temptation might in former years have beguiled Her Royal Highness to admire the writings of Strauss, the author of the infidel 'Life of Christ,' a complete change had passed over her mind. At first that terrible calamity which deprived her of her little son seemed to have produced only 'the sorrow of the world that worketh death,' but gradually it became, by God's mercy, the means of leading her to think, so that she finally came to seek and find peace in a firm faith in Jesus Christ, revealed in the Scriptures of truth as the only Saviour for sinners."

PRESIDING over a meeting of the Church Pastoral Aid Society, held at Wimborne, the Earl of Shaftesbury referred to the number of persons who by Ritualistic teaching had become perverts to Rome. He did not care so much for them as for those who remained behind. He believed that neither the present nor any future House of Commons would pass any measure to enforce ecclesiastical authority. They might, however, rely upon it that there was a great movement in the country, even among the Conservatives, to get rid of the Establishment altogether, and allow the different parties in the Church to settle their feuds amongst themselves. The teaching disseminated from the Church of England pulpits was far from Protestant.

REV. DAVID MACRAE (U. P.), of Gourrock, Scotland, has been raising another storm around the Confession of Faith. This time it was in his Presbytery. He moved a resolution at a recent meeting, that the Church set the Westminster standards aside and adopt in their stead "a brief and simple formula containing only those points deemed essential to Christian faith." Of course, the resolution was voted down. But the end is not yet. The Scotch United Presbyterian Church has come into a measure of liberty by the Declaratory Act recently passed, which makes the poor Confession of very little use. Why not throw it overboard altogether? But we suppose that the world will have to wait a while for this result.

THE proprietor of a theatre in Philadelphia advertised a "full-dress rehearsal" for Sabbath, December 22nd, and accordingly, on that day gave a performance of some sort to a crowd composed of the lowest

classes of the inhabitants, plentifully supplying the visitors with liquor at the bar, and creating a scene of gross disorder. The next day, the Mayor, who does not seem to be one of the "invertebrate," had the proprietor of the theatre arrested and bound over to answer to the charges of "keeping a disorderly house, giving a public performance on Sunday, and selling liquor on Sunday." He was released on bail, which has since been forfeited by his non-appearance at court. It is understood that the Mayor's prompt action will be quite sufficient to relieve Philadelphia of this particular sort of Sabbath desecration.

IN view of the significant fact that some of the leading statesmen of France have lately expressed the opinion that the hope for France's future prosperity lies in a *Protestantism based on an open, undiluted Bible*; we hail with joy the success of any movement which spreads the knowledge of the Word in that land. It is comparatively recent since the Rev. R. W. McAll began his remarkable mission in Paris among the working classes of Belleville. This work has been signally prosperous. There are 22 missions in Paris alone, with accomodation for 5,000 persons. They have a weekly attendance of 8,000. And now branches of this mission are being established in Marseilles and Lyons. We expect much from this movement on the line of the statesmen's opinion.

MR. SPURGEON'S attention having been called to a paragraph in an American paper, which charged him with intemperate habits, makes answer by the following letter:

NIGHTINGALE LANE,  
BALHAM, Surrey, Dec. 24, 1878.

DEAR SIR,—If Mr. Neal Dow knew the truth he would not make such charges against me. My manner of life is before the world. Ask them that know me. Whatever faults I may have, I have been preserved at all times from excess, and I have given no ground for any one to accuse me of it. I use no alcoholic drink as a beverage, but I am an habitual abstainer, and, as a rule, a total abstainer, "Beer," of which Mr. Dow speaks, I never touch, and I never thought, much less said, that I could not keep up to my work without brandy and beer. I do not believe that these or any other stimulants are a help to any man.

Yours truly,  
C. H. SPURGEON.

We are glad to publish this clear testimony that Mr. Spurgeon gives to total abstinence principles.

BRITAIN has been nobly bestirring herself in the temperance cause. The most noticeable circumstance in connection with this movement is the attention bestowed upon it by some in high places. Canon Farrar in the Church has made the land ring with his fervid and manly utterances against the giant evil. And now many physicians of eminence are giving their influence on the side of right. Sir William Gull, the royal physician, is out in the "Contemporary Review," dealing some fine earnest blows at king alcohol. He holds that the value of alcohol is subordinate, being due to its sedative influence on the nervous system. It is prescribed for patients suffering from acute diseases not to cure, but to quiet the nerves. It is also good as a narcotic in cases of exhaustion. But the good Dr. goes strongly for certain kinds of food as able to do as much and even more in all these instances. He urges that in his own experience he has found eating raisins more useful in restoring the power of an over-wrought body than wine-drinking. Sir William's main point is, that for intellectual labor alcohol is valueless. It may quicken, but does not improve the movements of the brain, and imparts no strength. We hail such testimony with joy, and it augurs well for Britain's weal in the future that men like these are so zealously fighting the good fight.