

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

Mr. Moody, the evangelist, intends to visit San Francisco about the 1st of October, to commence a series of meetings in that city, which will be continued during the winter.

—Mr Gladstone's scruples led him to positively refuse to go to sea in the admiralty yacht "Enchantress," as he does not approve of public goods being used for private service.

—It is announced that Mr. Herbert Spencer will next year make the tour of the world by the United States and Japan route; devoting two years to it, and taking sociological observations.

—Tell's chapel on the Platte by the Lake of the Four Cantons has been rebuilt, as its dilapidated condition demanded, and the restoration of the old mural paintings is now in progress.

—The American Bible Society have procured a new stop-cylinder press, upon which alone a whole Bible can be printed every minute. This is the briefest and most significant commentary possible on the achievements of modern invention in the dissemination of the ever-living Divine Word.

—It is reported that at Manhattan Beach, each clergyman who has this summer preached has received a fifty dollar bill from the hotel company. This is a fresh verification of the superior wisdom of the children of this world. A large number of the children of light pay next to nothing.

—A Calcutta despatch to the London "Times" says: "The Bombay Government is ready to undertake relief measures if necessary. Unless copious rains occur in the next few days, there will be apprehensions of a scarcity, if not of famine, over an area almost co-extensive with that of 1876. There was, however, some rain on Saturday."

—Henry Varley, the well-known English evangelist, writes to the London "Christian," that at the last election for members of Parliament, the whole town of Northampton was cowed by the friends of the notorious Bradlaugh, and that the Rev. Mr. Arnold, a Congregational minister, was threatened with the burning of his house and chapel if the infidel candidate was not elected.

—Mr. Fawcett, the British Postmaster-General, has a new plan for facilitating the small earnings of the poor. A saving child may now get an official strip of paper intended to hold twelve stamps, add a stamp at a time to it as he can save a penny, and, when it is full, take it to the post-office and get a savings bank receipt for a shilling, the minimum deposit which it will pay the post-office savings bank to take.

—A Constantinople despatch to the "Manchester Guardian" says: "A policy of reaction must be expected here. Fanaticism is rapidly increasing. Last week the Imaum of the Mosque, in the presence of the Sultan, denounced him as an unworthy successor of the Caliphs, upbraided him for listening to those who wish to make Christians and Mussulmans equal, and told him that the Christians must be protected and cherished as children are by their parents, but must be kept in subjection and not treated as equals."

—The Waldensian Church has now one hundred agents in evangelizing Italy—not foreigners, but Italians by birth, by civil rights and privileges. They constitute a native agency. The Gospel is preached by them in forty-seven towns and villages. The number who attend public worship under them is about 4,000, and of these 2,414 are communicants, the majority of whom have come out of the Church of Rome.

—Kinipple & Morris, London (Eng.) engineers, have been appointed to build a railroad in Newfoundland for the purpose of developing the mineral and agricultural resources of the island. The road is to be 300 miles in length. It will commence at St. John's and terminate at Green's Bay, to the north of the island, and in the vicinity of the principal mining districts, and will pass also, on its route, through good agricultural land for settlements.

—Dr. Ryle, the new Episcopal Bishop of Liverpool, in the course of his reply to an address of welcome presented, on his installation, by the Nonconformists of the town, said: "There is work for all in the great city of Liverpool, and I think our only contention should be who can do most for Christ. No one feels more than I do that England owes a great debt to the Protestant Nonconformists, and I hope their good service will never be forgotten."

—Dr. De Pressensee writes to the "Nonconformist" his judgment that late events have been most auspicious for the French Republic, and thinks it hardly possible to overestimate the importance of the results of the recent elections to the General Councils. The extreme Radicals have been as badly defeated as the Monarchists. The Republicans have a majority in sixty-seven of the departments of France. He thinks the Jesuits have richly merited their expulsion on moral grounds, not only by their political intrigues, but also by the hateful yoke which they have laid upon the necks of the most respectable section of their own church.

—The New York papers state that it is proposed by a theatrical manager in that city to bring out a Passion Play there in December. The Ober Ammergau play is not to be reproduced, but one very similar, although omitting the crucifixion scene, is being prepared. We trust that this undertaking may be abandoned. We believe it to be utterly impossible to render such a play in New York with the dramatic skill and the reverent propriety of manner which are necessary. A remarkable combination of circumstances, past and present, has enabled the Bavarian peasants to develop gradually, as the fruit of centuries of consecrated interest and effort, a success which, although very real, in general, barely has escaped this year, in some instances at least, being a partial failure. If an attempt be made to represent such a theme on the New York or any other stage it cannot be but shocking. The public, we believe, will refuse to patronize it. The irreligious will not care for it, and the devout will shrink from it. The only issue which seems to be probable is a heavy and well-deserved pecuniary loss on the part of the managers. The play has been rendered in San Francisco for a few weeks, but the public indignation was such that the performance had to be abandoned.

—That New York employer, who recently took his two hundred employees for a day's excursion at his own expense, also paying them their wages for that day in full, evidently is possessed of greater means than many of his fellow employers. Few of them may be able to imitate him. But they can adopt his principle of conduct, which is to conciliate his men by considerate treatment. He states that during the frequent business difficulties between capitalists and laborers of late years, he has had no strike to deal with, and it is clear that he has taught his employees to regard him as their friend. We are glad to believe that not a few capitalists in positions similar to his are actuated by the same principles and accomplish the same results. Much of the friction between capital and labor can be prevented by the mutual good feeling which is the fruit of such occasional generosity as that above mentioned.

—Wednesday, 22nd inst., was a high day at York Mills. There was a tea-meeting and entertainment held, at which a large number were present. Both the tea and entertainment gave great satisfaction. In the absence of Dr. Buchan the chair was occupied by Mr. J. Heighington. Readings were given by Messrs. Shepherd and Phenex and the chairman. The musical portion of the programme was supplied by Miss Charlton of Toronto. Pianists, Mr. Arthur L. Willson, of Eglinton, and Mr. and Mrs. Blight, of St. Peter's Choir, Toronto. The singing of Mr. Blight created quite a *furor*, he being frequently and enthusiastically recalled. The proceedings were brought to a close by the hearty singing of the National Anthem by the audience, led by Mr. Blight. Thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. Barter, of Willowdale, for the use of their piano. The proceeds, which are to go to the library fund, were pleasing.

An appalling act of cruelty is reported from Pontremoli, in Italy. A female lay servant, employed in the Carmelite convent, had been detected in the act of stealing some bread, the property of the sisterhood, and for this offence she was tried, about ten days ago, before an impromptu tribunal, consisting of the abbess and two of the senior nuns. Pronounced guilty, the sentence passed upon her by these pious ladies condemned her "to undergo the torments of purgatory." At once self-constituted judges and executioners, the abbess and her reverend coadjutors proceeded forthwith to enforce their barbarous sentence in the following manner:—Having conveyed their victim to a cell in which an iron stove stood out from the wall, they caused the stove to be heated in her presence, and then, tying her hands tightly together behind her back, held her face down for several minutes close to the surface of the glowing metal. Her struggles and heart-rending entreaties for mercy were of no avail. The pitiless nuns, deaf to her outcries, protracted her martyrdom until her scorched eyes had lost their sight for ever, and her whole face was converted into one huge blister. So profound was the horror generated throughout the sisterhood by the unheard-of torture, that its perpetrators, despite conventional discipline, were denounced by several members of the community to the local authorities, who, after instituting a searching inquiry into the circumstances of the case, have consigned the abbess and her confederate tormentors to prison, where they are now awaiting their trial.

There are from ten millions to twelve millions of Jews scattered throughout the world, —nearly 3,000,000 in the Russian dominions, nearly 1,000,000 in the Austrian empire, large numbers all over the German empire, about 700,000 on the northern coast of Africa, about three quarters of a million in the United States of America, about 120,000 in all France, about a quarter of a million in Abyssinia, called Falashas; large numbers scattered over the three Presidencies of India; a few in China; great numbers in Turkey; only about 30,000 or 40,000 in Palestine, though there are no less than 80,000 in Constantinople, and only about 20,000 in Italy. In Great Britain we have about 80,000, half of whom are in London. The 40,000 Jews in London are as representative, and perhaps more so, than any other equal number anywhere. Here there are Jews constantly moving from and to almost every part of the world. Amongst the London Jews, there are the extremes of wealth and poverty. *Rev. J. Wilkinson.*

—St. Peter's sisters are the subject of a popular story found in the Italian Tyrol. The tale (Schneller, *Marchen und Sagen aus Walschthol*: Innsbruck, 1867, p. 6) is as follows: St. Peter had two sisters—one large, the other small. The little one entered a convent and became a nun. St. Peter was delighted at this, and tried to persuade his big sister to become a nun also. She would not listen to him, however, and said, "I would rather marry." After St. Peter had suffered martyrdom, he became, as is well known, porter of heaven. One day the Lord said to him, "Peter, open the gates of heaven to-day as wide as you can, and get out all the heavenly ornaments and decorations, for a very deserving form is going to arrive here." St. Peter did as he was told with great joy, and thought, "Certainly my little sister is dead, and is coming to heaven to-day." When everything was ready, there came the soul of —, his big sister, who had died and left many children to bitterly lament her loss. The Lord gave her an exalted place in heaven, much to the astonishment of St. Peter, who thought, "I never should have imagined this. What shall I have to do when the soul of my little sister comes? Not long after the Lord said to him, "Peter, open the gates of heaven to-day a little way. But a very little. Do you hear? St. Peter obeyed, and wondered, "Who is coming to-day?" Then came the soul of his little sister, and had so much trouble to squeeze through the gate that she hurt herself, and she received a much lower place in heaven than the big sister. At first St. Peter was amazed, afterwards he said, "It has happened differently from what I imagined, but I see now that every profession has its merits, and every one, if he only wishes, can enter heaven." I have not been able to find any parallel to this story from the rest of Italy, but it shows other members of St. Peter's family, besides his mother, have been the subjects of popular legends. — *T. F. Cane, in the Academy.*

The Presbyterian church of Beirut, Syria, has decided to call a native pastor and to provide for his support.

The Presbyterian Foreign Board reports in its Record, 78 received to church membership in its various missions in July and 127 in August.