

The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 29.]

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1881.

[New Series. No. 35]

Current Topics.

—Three temples are being built at Utah by the Mormons—one at Salt Lake, one at Logan and one at Manti. Their cost will aggregate many millions.

—The New York *Observer* tells this characteristic story of an Irishman who was asked last November for whom he was going to vote. His reply was: "I don't know. I go agin the government. I always did at home."

—One of the most lamentable features of the liquor traffic in England is the fact that one hundred thousand women are there employed as barmaids, an attractive form and face being a requisite qualification.

Some Brooklyn preachers are endeavoring to make the morning preaching service more attractive to the children of their congregations, by giving them, every Sabbath, a short address, directly before the usual sermon.

—The recently discovered conspiracy in Kolajore against the British government seems to have been very extensive. Some three thousand persons are said to have been privy to it, and twenty-seven of its leaders are now being tried.

—The English papers have just published an account of attempts made by some Russian Nihilists to induce a Birmingham mechanic to construct some infernal machines for them, to be used in attempts upon the life of the Czar.

—Not less than five thousand two hundred and twenty Sunday School Conventions and Institutes and Assemblies were held in America during the past year, an average of about a hundred a week, or of fourteen each day.

—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 everliving Divine Word.

At last accounts the people of Hilo, Sandwich Islands, had been witnessing for weeks one grand eruption of the great volcano, Mauna Loe. Fiery streams of lava have been pouring out from the mountain a distance of thirty miles or more in some directions, and at times there has been considerable fear for the safety of Hilo.

—The address sent from Holland to the British Government in reference to the war in the Transvaal bears among its names those of eighty-one professors, three hundred and sixty-five doctors of law, medicine, and divinity, and three hundred and fifty-five lieutenants of the army or navy. That is to say, the address is an expression of the feeling of the educated classes in Holland.

—A SUNDAY-SCHOOL has been opened at Wittenberg, in the church to whose door Luther affixed his ninety-five theses. At first it had seventy scholars; but it grew so rapidly, that it was soon found necessary to use another church for a part of the school. The scholars now number four hundred, of whom three-fourths are girls. Five of the teachers are men, and eight are women.

—The barbers of Dansville, N. Y., signed an agreement not to shave customers on Sunday, but one of their number breaking his promise, the others had him arrested and fined one dollar and

costs. He had four others brought to trial at once for violating the previous Sunday. It is good when law-breakers act as a check upon each other.

—The cost of the Afghan war is estimated at \$87,500,000, but it is feared that this sum is not the full amount. The English will have to pay about \$30,000,000 of it, and the rest must be met by the Indian Government, which already is in debt to the amount of \$1,200,000,000. To crown the evil, the war has been of no use to England, but rather has weakened her prestige in the East.

—The *Friend*, of Honolulu, gives an account of the dedication, on January 2, of the new Chinese Church, of that city. The building is said to be commodious and attractive, costing, with the land, \$10,700. Of this sum, the Chinese themselves have already raised \$4,470, and the foreigners not quite as much. The King and Attorney general were present at the dedication. Drs. Damon and Hyde assisted in the exercises, while the principal parts of the service were taken by Sit Moon, Goo Kim, and Shing Chack, and a native Hawaiian pronounced the benediction.

—THE TURK MORE TOLERANT THAN THE PAPIST. —When Bosnia was under Mohammedan rule the free circulation of the Bible was allowed; now that she has come under Austrian rule the sale of the Scriptures is forbidden. Is it strange that our missionaries have not always sympathized with the wish that the Turk might be driven out, "bag and baggage," by his Christian (?) neighbors? Doubtless the Sultan should be a better man and should govern his people better, but in the matter of religious toleration what have his neighboring sovereigns of the Greek and Roman faiths to say to him?

The streets of Honolulu are narrow, crooked and irregular. They remind one of the cow paths travelled in boyhood days. The city was built up first, and laid out afterward. It is about as hard to straighten the streets of an old city, as it is the trunk of an old tree, or the character of a grown man. The business portion of the city is well built. The population of Honolulu is nearly 15,000; about one-fourth of which are foreigners. Perhaps in no other country in the world can such a variety of race and color be found, as in these islands. And certainly nowhere such a mixture of races. Blood is thin in this climate and colors run together readily.

—THE material advancement which is sure to follow the introduction of the gospel among a people, is illustrated in the fact that within sixteen years nearly five hundred sets of irons for fanning mills have been ordered from a single firm in New York through our missionaries at Harpoot, Eastern Turkey. The native carpenters have been taught how to make the wood-work of these mills, and the introduction of the machine has proved a great blessing in that region, so that the demand is increasing. Other agricultural implements are desired, especially the threshing-machine, and the fields of Turkey will surely be better tilled when the gospel has reached the hearts of its people.

—REV. R. R. MEREDITH, once a Methodist, now a Congregationalist, preaching in South Boston, has, on Saturday afternoon, a wonderful Bible-class. For some time past it has been held in the First Baptist Church on Beacon Hill. But it

has outgrown that, and is now held in Tremont Temple, where, every Saturday afternoon, a crowd of superintendents, teachers, ministers, and all sorts of people gather, to hear expounded the International Lesson. Mr. Meredith has a peculiar faculty for his work, and his class is probably the largest, the most cultured that was ever gathered in the country. Boston can do some things; other cities cannot; and this is one of them. We doubt whether such a class could be gathered in any other city in the land. Men come from far and near, to hear the brilliant teacher discuss holy themes.

The newly modelled regulations of the French elementary schools forbid corporal punishment, provide that the father's wish shall be heeded as to participation in religious instruction, that children shall not be sent to church for catechism or service except out of class hours, that the teacher shall not be bound to take them or look after them there, that Sundays and Thursdays shall be holidays, and that punishment shall consist of bad marks, reprimand, partial privation of recreation, detention after school hours and temporary exclusion not exceeding two days.

—The English Government has received from one of its consuls in China a report upon trade, in which he has a section referring to the effect of evangelization on trade. He writes from Chefoo and speaks of the great change that has recently come over all classes in their estimate of the foreign religion. He attributes this change largely to the impression produced by the relief afforded during the famine. He is struck "with the vast strides Christianity has made, and that in spite of the fewness of the missionaries now in the land. Whether we are inclined to rejoice at or deplore the fact, I think the spread of Christianity is inevitable." It should be borne in mind that this consul is writing as a man of business. He adds, "The remarkable progress the spirit of Christianity has lately been making in this province will, I think, in future years have a most beneficial effect on trade."

—Dean Stanley preached, in Westminster Abbey, on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 28th, one of his most characteristic discourses, in connection with the death of Thomas Carlyle. In closing he said:

"From the silence of the Eternities of which he so often spoke, there still sounds, and will long sound, the tones of that marvellous voice. Let us take one tender expression, written but three or four years ago one plaintive yet manful thought that has not yet reached the public eye. 'Three nights ago, stepping out after midnight and looking up at the stars, which were clear and numerous, it struck me with a strange new kind of feeling. "In a little while I shall have seen you also for the last time. God Almighty's own Theatre of Immensity, the Infinite made palpable and visible to me. That also will be closed, flung to in my face, and I shall never behold it any more." The thought of this eternal deprivation was sad and painful to me. And then a second feeling rose in me: What if Omnipotence, that has developed in me those pieties, those reverences, and infinite affections, should certainly have said, 'Yes, poor mortals, such of you as have gone so far shall be permitted to go further. Hope; despair not, God's will, God's will, not ours, be done.' Yes; God's will, not

ours, be done. 'The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away.'

—The latest statistics on the question of the comparative numbers of the Non-conformists and the adherents of the Established Church in England are to be found in Mr. G. P. Bevan's Statistical Atlas of England, Scotland and Ireland, the first part of which has just been issued in London. It states in reference to that city and its suburbs that there are 502 metropolitan and 409 suburban places of worship belonging to the Church of England, 911 in all; and 647 metropolitan and 423 suburban belonging to Protestant Nonconformists, 1,070 in all. There are 47 metropolitan and 56 suburban belonging to the Roman Catholics, 103 in all. Thus Nonconformists outnumber those of the Establishment by 159, and outnumber those of the Establishment and the Roman Catholics together by 56.

The business man who is inclined to croak because so much money from this country is spent for missionary work in heathen lands ought to hide his face in shame after learning the facts in the case as brought out by Rev. George Hood of Minneapolis in the February *Foreign Missionary*. For example, the trade between Boston and the Sandwich Islands for the year ending in June, 1879, was \$125,355, the profits of which at twelve and a half per cent. would amount to \$15,669, while the amount furnished by the American Board to the Hawaiian missions that year was but \$6,023. Taking the whole country for that year the official figures at Washington show that for every dollar expended on that mission there was received back in the United States in the way of trade \$115. This is only a single illustration of the commercial value of missions. Wherever the missionary goes in heathen lands he is the best possible commercial traveler. Even in the dark places of Africa about the first thing the native wants on taking a step upward is a shirt, and the shirt in almost every case is the beginning of a long and perpetual train of wants and necessities created by mission work.

—The "Society of Friends" is earnestly bestirring itself in respect to the temperance question. At a large Quarterly Meeting in the North of England, the other day, Mr. David Tatum, a minister from Cleveland, Ohio, delivered a stirring address of more than an hour, in which he argued that the grace of God was insufficient to effect the great work of temperance reform by efforts which were based on common sense. In America, he reminded his hearers, that while churches and chapels aimed at the work three hours or so a week, the liquor-shops were working fifteen hours out of twenty-four. The moral endeavors of the churches were, in his opinion, inadequate: the principle of local option was indispensable. He illustrated his meaning by relating an incident he had lately met with while staying at the house of a friend. The house was suddenly flooded with water, and the screaming maids were discovered by the master attempting to mop it up and brush it back with brooms. He soon comprehended the cause, and went quickly upstairs and turned off the tap in the bathroom from whence the water, having overflowed the bath, had run down the back stairs into the kitchen. Then he went back and showed the servants what a hopeless task they had set themselves till the cause of the mischief was stopped.