

The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 27.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, February 26, 1880.

New Series. No. 9.

Topics of the Week.

THE Haworth Church, famous in connection with the Brontë family, has been razed with the exception of the square tower, and is to be rebuilt in the "perpendicular style."

SIR HARCOURT JOHNSTONE, M.D., addressing a temperance meeting at Scarborough, expressed his belief that a Sunday closing measure for England will be passed this session.

THE Duchess of Marlborough says the danger of the famine in Ireland appears to be over, and that if the sympathy of the public continues to be exercised no one in the country need be allowed to die for lack of food.

A PUBLIC meeting has been held in Chelsea (London) to protest against the cruelties and inhumanities practised by the British commanders in prosecuting the war in Afghanistan. Among the speakers was Professor Beesly, who said that the wholesale executions which had taken place at Cabul were something unheard of in modern warfare.

THE "Traveller" says: "We talk about the early triumphs of Christianity, but the early records of the Church pall in the light of what is taking place before our eyes. The number of converts in Madagascar alone within thirty-five years probably exceeds the number of converts in the Roman Empire for the first three centuries of the Christian Era."

THE Pope has commissioned Father Ballerini to examine into the questions in dispute between the religious orders of the Roman Catholic Church domiciled in England and the Romish bishops of the same country. Considerable dissatisfaction with the appointment is manifested, because Ballerini is himself a Jesuit, and therefore belongs to the Order which is especially concerned in the quarrel with the bishops, and might be suspected of partizanship against the latter.

AT a recent meeting of the United Presbyterian Synod of Edinburgh it was unanimously agreed, on the motion of Principal Cairns, "That a memorial be transmitted to her Majesty, earnestly entreating her to exercise her authority to put a stop to the atrocities which are being perpetrated in Afghanistan, the burning villages and in leaving helpless women and children to die of cold and hunger—proceedings at variance not only with the dictates of Christianity but even with the laws of civilized warfare."

M. PASHKOFF has become the instrument of an important Protestant evangelization movement in St. Petersburg, Russia. At first he attempted to gather together the droshky drivers and hackney coachmen of the capital, many of whom were converted. Thence his work has gradually extended until now he has at his house, every morning and evening, public reunions, at which people of all ranks of society are to be met, and the Prefect of Police has authorized him to distribute the Scriptures and tracts in the streets of the capital.

THE following is put down as, statistically, the work of one of the English bishops for a year, viz: 89 sermons preached, 50 clergy ordained, 4 churches consecrated, 2 churchyards consecrated, 23 churches opened, 63 confirmations held, 7,217 candidates confirmed, 40 speeches made at public meetings, 152 other addresses made, 46 committee meetings attended, 474 interviews had, 6,744 letters received,

4,529 letters answered. This in some respects—pretty well. But there are many Congregational bishops among us who have worked harder for less money.

A SCOTCH correspondent of an English paper says, in Glasgow, which is pre-eminently a church-going community, the worshippers are moving from the old places of worship into new ones in the suburbs. He says: "Most of the old churches of Glasgow are now deserted by the rich and fashionable, who prefer worshipping in the temples they have built for themselves in the suburbs. It is just the case of London, on a smaller scale, and great popular power is needed by the preacher who would fill one of the large churches in the heart of the city."

IN Japan there are already a number of Government schools, and they are increasing. The school system was organized by Englishmen and Americans, and in Tokio (formerly called Yeddo) the English language is taught in some of the schools. Industrial schools have been established, and, as the opposition of the old feudal party to the new order of things is fast diminishing, it is likely that Japan will soon be provided with a school system rivaling that of the Western nation in completeness. China will not so readily accept European and American ideas; it has a very ancient school system of its own; but there are indications of a breaking up of Chinese exclusiveness and an introduction of China into the community of nations.

REV. ALEXANDER KEITH, the distinguished author and traveller, whose death is announced by cable, was born at Keithhall, N.B., in 1791. From 1816 to 1843 he was a minister of the Established Church of Scotland, at St. Cyrus, Kincardineshire, afterward of the Free Church; but for many years he was unable to attend to his ministerial duties. Of his many religious works may be mentioned his "Evidences of the Truth of the Christian Religion, and Poetical Interpretation of the Prophecies," translated into many languages. In company with the Rev. Dr. Black, the Rev. A. Bonar, and the Rev. Robert McCheyne, constituting a deputation from the Church of Scotland to Palestine and other eastern countries, he visited some of the scenes of Scripture prophecy, to make researches respecting the actual condition of the Jews. A narrative of this mission was published under the title of "A Narrative of the Mission to the Jews."

WHEN Miss Havergal was about to die she pleaded with those who were at her bedside that they would preach and exhibit a "bright" love for and devotion to the Saviour. She meant by this, of course, not the frivolous, giddy worship and practice of those who do not know the difference between Christian cheerfulness and religious nonsense, but that exhibition of joy in the Lord to which she has given so much beautiful expression in her books. And as giving point to her meaning she said, "be sure none of you put on crape for me, not one scrap." It was counsel in keeping with her life and teaching, and embodies a lesson which all Christians should try to learn and put in practice. There is no propriety in the Christian's observance of a form in favour of which so little can be said, and to which there are so many objections, and the spirit of Miss Havergal's opposition to it is a good starting point, at least, for those who will seek its dismissal.

AUSTRIA still enjoys the bad pre-eminence of being the most intolerant country in Europe. Mr. W. McArthur and Mr. E. R. Bleigh, referring to the recent visit of the deputation of the Evangelical Alliance to

the Emperor of Austria, and the action which has succeeded the Emperor's assurances upon the subject, writes: "Two months have nearly now elapsed, and matters remain much as before. Bureaucratic hindrances and theological jealousies have probably hindered that speedy remedy which the Emperor's words and manners seemed to indicate. The facts of an intolerable persecution being undeniable, we feel the time has now come when enlightened public opinion may call upon the Government of Austria, in the name of right and liberty, to give effect in its own dominions to that great principle of religious freedom, which with its own hand it has so lately inscribed upon the international law of Europe."

THE "Southern Cross," of Melbourne, commenting on recent Church meetings, says: "Ecclesiastical gatherings, in long and quick succession, have marked the last few weeks, and still the streets of Melbourne shew theological faces and costumes in unusual abundance. The Congregational, Baptist, Wesleyan and Presbyterian Churches, in turn, have met in council, reviewing the work and results of the past, and laying earnest plans for the future. The reports shew with what energy the work of Christ's Church is carried on in this colony. They bear witness to the robust vitality of the Protestant Churches of Victoria; to the vigour and flexibility of their organization; to the fidelity and thoroughness of oversight with which all their interests are watched; and to the practical business skill with which their affairs are managed. Never did a healthier life beat in the veins of the Churches; never had they a purer atmosphere, or a higher general level of loyalty to Evangelical doctrine. And while each denomination is wisely and tenaciously faithful to its own ideal of organization and discipline, never were the *differentie* of the churches, the mechanical details in which they are unlike each other, felt to be of less importance.

SOME time ago the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury, England, called for evidence, from clergy, recorders, governors, and chaplains of prisons, of lunatic asylum, governors of workhouses, and superintendents of police, as to the results of the use of liquor. The evidence returned is of one complexion. "I can trace," said one clergyman, "nearly every case of family desolation to intemperance." Another says, "There would be no real poverty here, except from some illness, if there was no drunkenness." The governors of workhouses replied as follows, following the exact order in which they are printed. "Twelve years' experience shews that two thirds of the inmates of this house are victims of intemperance." "80 per cent. may be given as the proportion of paupers who are victims of intemperance." "I should say that three-fourths of the inmates of this house have been victims of intemperance." "Without hesitation I should say that 70 or 80 per cent. of the paupers come to that state through drink." And so it goes on, "80 per cent.," "80 out of 100," "three-fourths," "80 per cent.," in terms that very soon range themselves into a grimatology. One master of a workhouse says, "I have been relieving-officer eleven years, and during that time I never knew a tectotaller applying for parish relief." What is true of Britain is equally so of Canada and the States. In fact everywhere it is the same old sad story. But for this crying evil poverty would be brought within very manageable compass. Indeed, we are almost inclined to say, that if drunkenness could be banished from this continent there would be few children unclothed, unfed, or uneducated, and little need for those poorhouses which so many are beginning to regard as an indispensable part of Christian civilization.