

# The Canadian Independent.

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

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## Current Topics.

—More than five per cent. of the revenue of Greece is expended for educational purposes.

—The Salvation Army, which began work in this country a little over a year ago, claims that it now has in one or two of our larger cities twelve corps, which hold 172 meetings weekly, and that over 1,500 conversions have already attended their work.

—Some 80,000 acres of land between Joppa and Jerusalem, having been secured from the Turkish Government, a colony is being formed for the persecuted Jews of the Continent. Already a goodly number of families have established themselves upon the land.

—The last expedition sent out by the London Missionary Society to East Central Africa, under Mr. Pooley, arrived at Urambo, the capital of King Mirambo in Uyamwezi, in September; and a telegram has been received announcing that they reached Lake Tanganyika in October.

—Dr. Ledge, the professor of Chinese in Oxford University, says, "If the present rate of the conversion of Chinese to Christianity continues, by the year 1913 there will be twenty-six millions of church members, and one hundred millions of professing Christians in the Chinese empire, or one-fourth the population."

—At an anti-slavery meeting in Madrid, on the 25th inst., resolutions were adopted declaring the law of February, 1880, in regard to slavery in Cuba to be contrary to the principles of right and justice, and condemning the regulations in regard to holding slaves. The Anti-slavery Society has declared its intention of continuing its propaganda until slavery in all the Spanish colonies is completely abolished.

—The Earl of Shaftesbury recently said that there are 500,000 persons in London who never hear the gospel from year's end to year's end, and that the only way to reach them with it is by special services in the theatres and mission halls. He expresses his depressing conviction that the masses are spiritually ten times worse than they were twenty years ago.

—Up to 1870 there was no provision for common-school education in England; but now both in England and Scotland, parents are required by law to provide elementary education for their children between the years of five and thirteen. In 1879 there were 10,111 prosecutions in London for not sending children to school according to law, 5,648 in Liverpool, and 2,556 in Birmingham, and the law is felt to be a valuable assistance.

—Ancient Nazareth is now the site of an orphanage under the supervision of the Education Society of England. It has been opened four years, and there are in it now thirty-six girls of ages varying from four to fifteen. Here, whether of Greek or Latin, Moslem or Jewish parentage, they are all taught to love the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. They have a beautiful home, built by the generosity of English travellers. *Women's Work for Women.*

—Rev. Dr. Williamson, of the English Presbyterian Church, seventeen years

resident in China, has produced a translation of the New Testament into Chinese, said to be far in advance of any previous editions, and such as to mark a new era in Bible circulation in that land. Dr. Williamson was several years connected with the British and Foreign Bible Society in China, author of several scientific works in Chinese, some of which have been translated into Japanese.

—There are as brave men and women in the world as any of the heroes of the golden ages. The other day two workmen on the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad—John Sullivan and his brother Michael, had lifted a rail, to straighten it. A heavy passenger-train came along, turning the curve suddenly, and was sure to be thrown down a bank, with an appalling loss of life, if they could not get the bar out and the rail in place. The men seized the bar and worked frantically. At last they succeeded in loosening the bar and replacing the rail just in season to save the train; but the engine struck and killed them both. We don't believe they were detained in Purgatory. Of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.

—A road was needed in Bonny, Africa, from the rear of a church to another highway. The members came voluntarily, cut the road, laid large trees in the marshy parts, after felling them, and filled in two feet of earth for four hundred yards, the women putting sand on the top. These people, over two hundred of them, worked daily for three weeks without pay, with no quarreling, where formerly, says *Evangelical Christendom*, a touch of the elbow was sufficient cause for civil war. The religion of the Lord Jesus Christ wrought this generosity and peaceful spirit. Can we not learn lessons even from Africa?

The new temperance law just passed by the Kansas Legislature strives to meet all the usual evasions. Giving liquor to customers is construed as selling; clubs for procuring a common stock of liquors are treated as places of common sale. Sheriffs and constables and county attorneys are charged with the duty of enforcing the law, and become liable to penalty if they neglect their duty in this respect. Places where liquors are sold are counted as common nuisances, and the proper officers are required to close them. Only druggists, under ample bonds, are permitted to sell for "medical, mechanical and scientific purposes." With the held of the strong public sentiment against it in Kansas, the use of liquor for drinking purposes ought now to be reduced to a minimum in that State.

Mr. Wm. E. Gould, in a paper read recently before Portland Congregational Club, furnished some facts that are full of interest. In that city he finds that the 8,126 hands employed in the various industries are paid a trifle over \$200 apiece yearly. Of these, 2,500 mechanics do not receive over \$600 a year, and having families to support they say that an elegant church is not the place for them, and they cannot pay pew rent. They find that they must take a back seat, behind a big pillar, or go into the gallery. In too many cases the parents send the children to the Sunday school because it costs nothing, and they themselves stay at home, and that costs nothing. These are serious truths that wealthy churches are called upon to meet. It is a many-sided problem, how best to reach the masses with the gospel.

It is said to be clear that the late Czar's murder was planned outside of Russia, and in that country much annoyance is expressed that Switzerland should allow her territory to be used so freely as a headquarters of conspirators. The Czar's funeral was held on Sunday, his remains being deposited in the imperial vault in the church of the Petropalovsky fortress at St. Petersburg. The new Emperor invited the German Crown Prince to a private interview before the funeral, evidently for state reasons. In case of the death of the new Emperor, he has appointed the Grand Duke Vladimir to be regent of his heir during the latter's minority. The Princess Dolgorouky, the late Czar's wife, has gone to Venice. The policy of the new administration, as far as announced, is conciliatory and is aimed at the more rapid development of the resources of the nation and the improvement of the people. If it be allowed a chance, it will create a better feeling without doubt.

*Apropos* of the determination of the Imperial Government to gradually discontinue the ecclesiastical grants in Ceylon, *The Lucknow Witness*, says: "Another forward step has been made in the great cause of religious equality, or the freedom of religion from State patronage and State control. The home authorities have announced the gradual cessation of all payments from the public treasury to the Episcopal and Presbyterian chaplains and bishop in Ceylon. No more bishops and chaplains are to be appointed, and after each vacancy from death or retirement a period of five years is allowed for the congregations concerned to put their affairs in order and arrange for meeting their own expenses. It will be seen that the arrangement is a most liberal one, and full provision is made for all vested interests. It is only a few years since the formal agitation of this question was taken up in Ceylon, and now its promoters have the satisfaction of knowing that in ten or fifteen years all vestiges of this unjust favoritism will have vanished. It is a signal triumph. When will it be India's turn?"

*The Gospel in all Lands*, thus speaks of mission-work throughout the world: "The year upon which we have entered begins with the whole world open to the Gospel, with an army of nearly three thousand foreign missionaries encircling the globe, with one hundred and fifty million copies of the Holy Bible, proclaiming their message in two hundred and fifty tongues, and with a great multitude of nearly two million converts from heathenism as the first fruits of the Gentiles. More than one thousand seraglios in India are open to the missionaries of our women's boards; imperial palaces in China are open to our medical missionaries and imperial patronage is fostering our missionary hospitals; pagan religions are becoming effete, and even Mohammedanism is at last beginning to yield to the Gospel."

The colored population of the United States is anything but dying out. According to the returns of the recent census, in the fifteen ex-slave States not including Texas, that population in 1880 was 5,643,891 against 4,242,003 in 1870. This is an increase of more than 33 per cent. The increase for the ten years between 1860 and 1870 was about 5 1/2 per cent., and in the previous decade when slavery was in full force the in-

crease was only 16 per cent., while between 1840 and 1850 the increase was 25 per cent. In short, the colored population of the States has never increased so rapidly as during the last ten years, the threats and the prophecies of the pro-slavery advocates to the contrary notwithstanding. This shows a wonderful and most gratifying improvement in their material and social condition, and proves to a demonstration that the old talk about the negroes needing some one to take care of them is pure nonsense, if not something a great deal worse. We were told that as soon as slavery ceased the colored people would die off like flies, that the most of the children could not survive infancy, etc. The answer to all this, as given by the census return, ought to be sufficient for a good while to come. In fact the increase is greater than that of the whites, though of course there has been in the case of the colored population no immigration to swell the numbers. The whites may just as well sooner or later settle that the negroes are in the States to stay and try to make the best of that fact.

A missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel writes from Basutoland that the Basuto war has broken up entirely missionary work at Thlotse Heights and scattered both European and native congregations to the winds. The following shows what serious effects this most wicked war, waged by the British rulers, had on British churches and missions:—"I am thankful to say that at this trying crisis not one of our native converts has joined the rebels. They have all proved loyal, and I have had to suffer accordingly, having been promptly and effectually 'eaten up' by their rebellious and, at the present moment, prosperous brethren. Six of our mission huts have been sacked and four of them burned down by the insurgents. Our church has been looted in every direction by the government, and is now used as a barrack. The enemy has taken care not to spare it either, and the whole building is riddled with shot. Our school has shared a like fate. Our new native training college, only partially completed, has been leveled almost to its foundation, and all our walls have been thrown down, by the authorities, in order that the rebels might find no cover behind them. The garden of the native training college, upon which so much care has been expended by my brother priest, the Rev. R. K. Champernowne, and upon which we mainly depend for our supply of vegetables, has been completely destroyed, a troop of the Kimberley Light Horse being at present quartered in it. The season being unusually wet, and fuel being consequently very scarce, the timber and galvanized iron which arrived a short time since for the roof of the native training college—most expensive articles in these regions—have been appropriated by the volunteers, and 30,000 of our unburnt bricks, which the iron used to cover are gently melting away. Even our little cemetery has not been spared, the walls having been thrown down and the gate carried off and chopped up for fuel. Fortunately, we were able before the outbreak took place to remove some of our furniture and books to the Free State, but a great many of the things that still remained have been stolen by the rebels, and three of our four horses have shared the same fate."