

Current Events.

Canadian.

Rev. T. De Witt Talmadge, D. D., the popular Brooklyn divine gave two lectures in Toronto on Tuesday and Wednesday, both times to crowded houses.

Mr. Hamilton Lewis, son of Bishop Lewis, of Ottawa, was drowned in the Ottawa river a few days ago. The body was recovered last week and buried.

A party of fifteen Caughnawaga Indians, from near Montreal have been employed by a New York Circus Company for the season, to perform in their native costume. They left home for that purpose a few days ago.

There have been about 500 men employed at the Kingston Locomotive works for some time past, but recently a large proportion of them have been discharged for want of work. It is reported that there are now twenty-five locomotives on hand at the works, unsold.

Laval University, located at Quebec, it is said, has been kept open for some time past at a serious annual loss. The Quebec Legislature will be asked to vote a sufficient sum to make good this amount, so as to keep the institution open. It is one of the oldest universities in Canada.

At Kingston the price of liquor licenses has been much increased, in hope of thus diminishing the number without decreasing the revenue. Those issued under the Dominion License Act will cost \$390. Ontario Licenses will be issued as follows:—taverns, \$235; shops, \$206.

Chief Justice Spragge died at his residence, Toronto, on Sunday last, after but a week's illness. He was one of Canada's ablest and most popular judges. The papers give his age, at the time of death, at 78 years. He was able to do his accustomed work within a few days before his death.

The session of Parliament was closed on Saturday last, having continued just three months. There were 107 Bills passed during the session and assented to in the Queen's name by the Governor-General at the closing. There was the usual firing of guns and other state formalities in connection with the closing ceremonies.

The cadets and officers in connection with the Royal Military College at Kingston, put in a busy all night job at throwing up earth work, as in case of actual war, on Tuesday night last. They worked from eight in the evening until four next morning, in the dark, and as quickly and quietly as possible. During the night some shots and rockets from the fort were fired, so as to give things the appearance of real war.

United States

Philadelphia's population by the census of 1880 is 847,170, Pennsylvania, 4,282,891.

The cattle industry in this country represents over 43,000,000 head of cattle, worth \$1,500,000,000.

A woman of 77 years, in Belfast, Me., is suing a gay deceiver of 79 for \$3000 damages for alleged breach of promise of marriage.

Moose are said to be increasing in Maine under the new game law, and it is not unusual to see them in droves about the large lakes.

A European steamer landed 915 steerage passengers at Castle Garden on Sunday. Nearly half of them were servant girls from Ireland.

From the five States of New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Massachusetts and Ohio, the Government derives one-half of its postal revenue.

Engineers of the New York Central Railroad are now forbidden to drink intoxicating beverages off as well as on duty. Most of the railroads are moving in this direction, the fact being recog-

nized that drinking at any time unfits a man to run a locomotive.

An exploring party that has recently returned from a point 150 miles north of Missoula, M. T., reports having found twenty-two cascades, each of which is over 500 feet high.

A Gatling gun now model at the United States armoury at Springfield can be fired at the rate of 100 shots in two and one-half seconds, at an elevation or depression of ninety degrees.

The value of the exports of cattle, hogs and beef, pork and dairy products for the three months ending March 31st, was \$21,657,582, as against \$31,205,190 for the same period in 1883.

A letter received recently by the Silk Culture Society asked for some silk seed to plant. Silk culture has so far outgrown the amateur stage that Mr. Edward Fesnach, of Raleigh, N. C. raised \$2,000 worth of cocoons and eggs last year.

Great Britain

Fire broke out in the Bellovue Prison, Manchester, on March 28th, after most of the prisoners numbering 1,000, had retired to bed. The fire burned till March 30th but the prisoners were all removed to a place of safety.

The latest return of the number of volumes in the British Museum is just over 1,200,000. There are 160 miles of shelves, and about twenty more miles to be filled. It is calculated that about one tone of literature a day is sent into the institution.

The River and Harbor bill is about ready to report. It appropriates \$10,000,000, and members of the Committee say that care has been taken to leave out all objectionable appropriations. The Committee expect that the bill will go through without trouble.

The Natchez (Miss.) Democrat says: "A considerable number of deer have passed through the city, having been driven out of the Louisiana swamps by the high water. These beautiful animals invaded many private yards, seeking rest from their exhausting swim, and in most instances they were undisturbed. Three of them were in the Court-House yard at one time."

As a superb hair dressing and restorer Ayer's Hair Vigor is universally commended. It eradicates scurf and dandruff, cures all eruptions and itchings of the scalp, promotes the renewed growth of the hair, and surely prevents its fading or turning gray.

The Viceroy of India, the Marquis of Ripon, is in such a shattered condition of health that his life is despaired of.

Figures Won't Lie. The figures showing the enormous yearly sales of Kidney-Wort, demonstrate its value as a medicine beyond dispute. It is a purely vegetable compound of certain roots, leaves and berries known to have special value in kidney troubles. Combined with these are remedies acting directly on the Liver and Bowels. It is because of this combined action that Kidney-Wort has proved such an unequalled remedy in all diseases of these organs.

A prairie farmer reports that a late wind at once lifted about everything from his lands except the mortgage.

A New Sort. Faded articles of all kinds restored to their original beauty by Diamond Dyer. Perfect and simple. 10c at all druggists. Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.

A colored moderator has been elected by the Presbytery of Lehigh, Pa., the first instance of the kind in the State's history.

High Priced Butter. Dairyman often wonder how their more favored competitors get such high prices for their butter the year round. It is by always having a uniform gilt edged article. To put the "gilt edge" on, when the pastures do not do it, they use Wells, Richardson & Co's Improved Butter Color. Every butter maker can do the same. Sold every where and warranted as harmless as salt, and perfect in operation.

Saul vs Abimelech.

As some controversy has been caused by our decision in our Bible Competition No. 4, regarding the first King over the Israelites after their settlement in Canaan, we submit the following letter to our readers, trusting that the reasons there assigned, and the authorities there quoted, may be found sufficient to justify your choice of Saul, and to set the matter at rest. We may add that the same views are held by many other equally well known Biblical students whose opinion has been asked in the matter.

159 MUTUAL STREET,
TORONTO, 14th APRIL, 1884.

S. FRANK WILSON, Esq.,

My Dear Sir:—You ask me to give you my views on what may be the correct answer to the question in No. 4 of TRUTH Competition. "Who was the first King over the Israelites after their settlement in Canaan?" And though I don't regard my opinion on it of much value, I willingly comply with your request.

I can easily believe that some might say that Abimelech was the first King according to the requirements of the question, and might refer for proofs to the 9th chapter of Judges and especially to the 22nd verse. But no man except a mere trifling verbalist would risk his reputation for comprehensive knowledge of the scriptures or for any thing which might pass for Biblical learning on such a ground. We are not to be under the tyranny of words, but must take a broad, comprehensive and intelligent view of all such matters. Were I inclined to close off all controversy on the subject by another Scriptural statement, I should refer to Paul's words as recorded in the 13th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, the 19th, 20th and 21st verses. Excuse me if I write out those words. "And when he had destroyed seven nations in the land of Chanaan he divided that land to them by lots and after that he gave unto them judges about the space of four hundred and fifty years until Samuel the prophet. And afterwards they desired a King and he gave them Saul," &c. Surely if there had been any King during those 450 years who really deserved to be so recognized, Paul, as an inspired man, ought to have known it. According to him there were none and unless his reliability is to be called in question we must believe that such was the fact.

Then, apart from this, which however ought to settle the whole matter, any reader of ordinary intelligence must see that the episode of Abimelech was simply a local outbreak and a partial temporary usurpation which never spread over the whole country and was never recognized by the whole people. Your question asks for one who was King over the Israelites, evidently as a whole, but in spite of the remark in the 22nd verse it is evident that the Abimelech movement was confined to Shechem or at the very furthest to the tribe of Ephraim. Jotham fled for safety from his brother to Beer and so far as the topographers have settled the matter, this town is to the north of Jerusalem on the very northern borders of the tribe of Benjamin. There Jotham was safe from his brother, and it would be absurd to think of his being safe within a few miles of Abimelech's capital if the usurper had authority over the whole of the Israelites.

What Josephus thinks of the matter may be seen Antiq. of Jews, Book V. chapter VII. and especially section 3, where he says. "A little while after this festival the Shechemites, who had now repented themselves of having slain the sons of Gideon, drove Abimelech away from their city and tribe."

The same view of the local and temporary character of Abimelech's usurpation is taken as far as I am aware by every man with any pretensions to scholarship who has written on the subject. Some indeed say that the premature germs of a craving

for a king were to be seen in this episode, but that is the furthest anyone goes. Kell, the great German commentator speaks of the movement as one reminding him of the doings of the free towns of Germany in the middle ages. Lange says the same thing or something near it. So does Herzog. Even Matthew Henry, popular and so far uncritical as he is, says only that "he reigned after a sort" and that not only the Shechemites but many other places paid him respect, while in another passage he says that "Abimelech was little better than a titular king."

Dr. Wm. Smith a great and recognized authority in all Biblical and Classical matters, says in his Dictionary of the Bible: "Abimelech persuaded the Shechemites through the influence of his mother's brethren to elect him king. * * It is evident from the narration that Shechem now became an independent state and throw off the yoke of the conquering Israelites," Ewald, Ges. vi 444, adding Abimelech's was an unauthorized anticipation of the kingly government of later times. Dr. Kitto both in his Cyclopaedia and in his History of Palestine says the same thing.

Dr. Eadie in his Biblical Cyclopaedia says: "Abimelech persuaded the men of Shechem to make him King." Elsewhere he speaks of "the idolatrous Shechemites who chose Abimelech for their king." Jahn in his Hebrew Commonwealth says: "The Shechemites indeed after Gideon's death, elevated one of his sons to the throne." Dr. Schaff in his Dictionary of the Bible says: "On hearing of Abimelech's exaltation to the Kingship of the Shechemites, who had formed themselves into an independent state" &c.

All this shows that the idea of Abimelech being the first King over the Israelites in any correct sense after their settlement in Palestine is an absurd unscholarly view, not warranted by the case and not supported by one man making any pretensions to scholarship.

Now, as to Saul being the first King according to the requirements of the question, we find all the authorities I have mentioned and others speaking of him as such.

Dr. Kitto says in his Biblical Cyclopaedia "Saul was the first King of the Israelites." Jahn says in his Hebrew Commonwealth "in 1096 B. C., the first election took place" and Saul was chosen.

Matthew Henry speaks of the story of Saul their first King.

Dr. Eadie says "Saul the first King of Israel," Biblical Cyc. p. 576.

Dr. Schaff, "Saul the first King of Israel."

Dr. Lange to the same effect.

I need not add more. Pray excuse the length of my communication which I place at your disposal for what it may be worth.

Yours truly,
WM. INGLIS.

Important.

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