

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

CHINA has a temperance reform. A temperance procession marched through the streets of Shanghai in September last.

ILLINOIS has a local option law. Recently 832 towns voted on the liquor question and 645 of them were carried for "no license." That is good work.

DR. TALMAGE, whose church in Brooklyn carries a mortgage of nearly \$60,000, asks for dollar contributions from his friends. We hope he may get all he needs. The church and himself fill a place not easily filled.

WE wonder if this story is true. It deserves to be. Some Episcopal minister, writing to James Freeman Clarke, of Boston, dated his letter "Candlemas Day." Dr. Clarke, replying, dated his letter "Washing Day." The one has as good a right to be in the calendar as the other.

AN English Congregational minister has received the diploma of "D.D." from the "Anthropological University of America." Has anyone heard of this University before? Some of the degrees which English brethren receive from this side of the water are perfect humbugs.

A DETACHMENT of the "Salvation Army" from England has made its appearance in New York. And, of course, its members have got into trouble. They have been forbidden to hold their services in the streets of the city. The leaders pronounce woes on New York City.

FINSBURY CHAPEL, London, has long enjoyed the ministry of the Rev. Dr. McAuslane. Now we see that he has severed his connection with the church meeting there, and has gone to Victoria Park Church. Finsbury has long been famous in the denomination. We hope that its glory is not to pass away now.

IN Holland, owing to the strict exclusion of Christian teaching from State schools, a movement has been set on foot by the earnest Christians of the country to establish schools in which shall be given instruction in the Scriptures, and \$4,500,000 has been already raised for this object.

SIR. H. ELLIOT, the English minister in Austria, has asked for explanations from Baron Haymerle respecting the position of the Free Reformed Church in Bohemia. Baron Haymerle replied that the Austrian Constitution guarantees religious freedom, and the Government would enforce the law in the strictest manner.

THE "American Congregational Year Book" for 1880 is out at last. Better late than never. Its statistics are encouraging. They speak of progress. The whole number of churches is 3,674, a gain of 54 during the year. There are 3,585 ministers. The list of members reaches 389,920, a net increase over 1879 of 7,266.

SOMEONE has attempted to classify the English speaking population of the world and comes to the following result: There are some 18,000,000 Episcopalians, 16,000,000 Methodists, 13,500,000 Roman Catholics, 10,250,000 Presbyterians, 8,000,000 Baptists, 6,000,000 Congregationalists, 1,000,000 Unitarians, 1,500,000 of minor religious sects, and 8,500,000 of no particular religion.

THE Boston "Congregationalist" hits the nail on the head in a recent utterance. It affirms that to insist so much on the importance of religious machinery as to lose the religious spirit would be imitating the Irish land agent "who pulled down a fine old piece of historic masonry in order to use the stones in building a wall to protect it."

THE Roman Catholics in Cochin, South India, having lately obtained possession of a church which had formerly been the property of the Syrian Christians, searched the houses in the village for Bibles and other books which the people had bought from a Church Missionary Society colporteur, and made a great bonfire of them in front of the church.

FATHER CHINIQUEY has left Australia for New Zealand *en route* for America. A farewell meeting was held which was well attended. In the address presented, several conversions from Roman Catholicism were spoken of as the result of his visit. It was also stated that in the colonies £4,790 had been contributed to his mission in America, of which £2,200 had been given by New South Wales.

THE States of Iowa and Kansas are about to give their people the opportunity of deciding whether the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors, except for medicinal, mechanical and scientific purposes shall be forever prohibited within their boundaries. As these two States have been largely settled from New England, and the Puritan spirit is mighty within them, it is not unlikely that the measure proposed will find favour in the eyes of its inhabitants.

SOME persons have often expressed the opinion that the churches of the United States were not increasing in the ratio of the increase of population. A recent number of "The Christian Mirror," of Portland, Maine, overthrows this belief. The writer in that paper brings statistics to shew that while in 1790 there was in the country one church to some 1,800 people, in 1830 there was one church to every 1,150, and in 1870 one to every 532. That shews progress and not retrogression.

JOSEPH COOK is going to Europe for a few years. He insists, however, on the continuance of the Boston Monday Lecture, and affirms that there are several gentlemen available who are competent to fill the lectureship. We hope that his entreaties will be heeded. A work similar to that in which Mr. Cook has been engaged is needed in these days. It would not be a bad thing if every city of any magnitude had a weekly lectureship devoted to the consideration of religious matters, and especially of their connection with science, and political and social life.

DR. JOSEPH WILD, of Brooklyn, N.Y., well-known in Canada, is a believer in Second Adventism and Anglo-Israel. What a combination that is. He has published a book entitled "How and When the World will End." He affirms that "there will yet be one throne in the whole world, and it will be in Jerusalem, and on it will be one of the seed of David, which will be some descendant of Queen Victoria." The New York "Independent" comments on it: "The book is exegetically as bad as a book can be. Its misrepresentation of the Bible is frightful." That was to have been anticipated. But it is a marvel that such books can find readers at all. Still, every vagary will commend itself to some folk.

THE latest archaeological exploit has been the unearthing of a great Asiatic empire, whose name and

existence, until recent excavations in the Asiatic provinces of Turkey brought it to light, were previously unknown. The unearthed empire was called the Empire of the Hittites, and its rule extended from the Caspian to the Ægean Seas. The Hittites were a literary people, and one of their principal cities was called Book City. There are a few scattered notices about this people in the Bible, but archaeologists contend that they were then in their decadence. Some blocks covered with inscriptions in the language of the Hittites have been sent to the British Museum for Oriental experts to ponder over and decipher if they can.

ON a recent Sabbath the Pope received the homage of Catholic philosophers and scientists, of whom many were in Rome from different countries. In the Sala Ducale, where the reception was held, there was a congregation of upwards of 4,000 persons. An address in Latin was read to the Pope, who responded in the same language. He expressed great joy at seeing himself surrounded by such a multitude of doctors and students of true philosophy, and dwelt upon the importance and significance of the event, especially in these days, when science is so highly lauded. He dwelt upon the importance of the philosophy of St. Thomas Aquinas, and especially on its great utility as a means of combating the scepticism of the present century. He pointed out that it was not opposed to the progress of natural science. He strongly exhorted those present to cultivate natural science, but in a Christian manner.

ACCORDING to Herr von Puttkammer, the Prussian Minister of Education, there has been a steady increase of crime and immorality in the great towns of Germany during the last ten years; and the Minister declared in Parliament the other day that this unsatisfactory state of things had not been without effect on the teachers of elementary schools. He had no fault to find with the majority of the schoolmasters; still the tone of the class had degenerated in all the chief centres of industry with the exception of Berlin. This was to be attributed in a considerable measure to the increased facilities for drinking, which had been provided by recent legislation, and which had injuriously affected large sections of the community. Herr von Puttkammer also urged that elementary teachers had lately been spoiled by too much attention, politicians of all parties having vied with each other in the attempt to win their support.

THE twenty-sixth annual meeting of the English Congregational Chapel Building Society was held in the City Temple, London, last month. The secretary, Rev. J. C. Galloway, once a dweller in Canada, read the report. During its quarter century of existence the Society has aided 540 churches, containing about 244,000 sittings, by loans and grants to the amount of £145,000. The income of the Society last year exceeded £10,000. It is now proposed to raise the Loan Fund to £50,000, and of this sum £40,000 has been already secured. It is hoped that the Grant Fund will before long reach £5,000 a year. A Manse Fund has lately been added to the Society's operations. For this Fund £5,000 has been asked, and £1,500 already paid and promised. It is proposed to begin with aiding fifty manses. Mr. Galloway said that the aid of the Society is greatly valued in the colonies. Is Canada a colony of Great Britain? We imagine that it is. Has any contribution found its way hither from this Society? Probably our English friends think that we are old enough to take care of ourselves. A little sympathy, however, would still be very valuable, and it might do some good.