

Norway, England and Austria. They publish twenty-three religious periodicals in English, German, French, Danish, Swedish, Italian and Roumanian. More than 200 ministers are in their employ.

In the New York *Independent* a reform in the manner of giving out notices from the pulpit is advocated by Dr. Charles F. Deems, pastor of the Church of the Strangers. Dr. Deems prepares the reading of his hymns and his Scripture lessons as carefully as he does his sermons, and is trying to see whether he really cannot make the reading of the notices to some a "means of grace," as he knows it is to others a "hope of glory." He strives to make each Scripture lesson a sermon, so that if any one should fall asleep or be called out after it, he would have got his portion in due season. He strives to make every hymn the same. Now and then he has a prelude to the sermon which seizes some current event, and squeezes all the milk out of it. Why, he asks, can I not take up a whole batch of notices, of all kinds and colours, and pack these words down into a cheese? He objects, however, to his pulpit being transformed into a gratuitous advertising medium, and he suggests—probably sarcastically—whether churches with large congregations should not establish a tariff of rates. It might in some cases be a source of income, and obviate the necessity of bazaars.

THE *Southern Cross* says: The *Daily Telegraph* is doing a good work by undertaking a census of church attendance in Melbourne, based upon an actual count of the numbers present in every church at each service. The process will take some time, but the results, when complete, will furnish matter for very instructive comment. Some of the figures already published are very suggestive. The largest gathering as yet reported is the Salvation Army service at the Temperance Hall (2,000); Dr. Bevan has the largest ordinary congregation (1,075 morning, 1,236 evening). The Australian Church had congregations of 807 and 515 respectively on the same day. At the Hall of Science there were 214 present in the morning, and 513 in the evening. The New Church (Swedenborgian) is of microscopical proportions, judging by its congregations—thirty-six morning, sixty-six evening. The Unitarian Church, which, according to Mr. Sutherland, will in fifty years absorb all the other denominations, yields no immediate and visible signs of its future greatness. Mr. Walters preached last Sunday morning to ninety-six persons; in the evening the numbers rose to the still very modest figure of 113! The "theology of the future" is certainly not the "theology of the present."

It is not only in China, says the *Christian Leader*, that the Jesuit emissaries are being found out and submitted to drastic treatment as an invading po-

litical army, dangerous to the independence and welfare of the State. The Turkish Government has discovered the difference between the motives of the ultramontane French priests and of the Protestant missionaries; and one of the consequences is a signal victory for the Evangelical cause in Syria. The schools of the Jesuits are being closed right and left; the Turkish authorities refuse to recognize the medical degrees given by the Jesuit College in Beyrout; whereas the American College at Harpoot has at last been recognized by the Government, which promises to shut up no more American schools, and to facilitate the re-opening of those that were recently closed. The latest reports of the American missionaries are extremely interesting and hopeful; 153 additions were made to the membership of the Church last year, the total now reaching 1,440, and the contributions of the native Churches have risen to nearly \$5,000. The scholars are in a flourishing condition, and the work of the press in Beyrout has been largely increased, and no less than 33,000,000 pages having been printed in 1886. Another printing establishment, under Protestant auspices, produced last year at Beyrout nearly a score of million of pages; and when we consider that this is the literature for the great Arabic-speaking world, we see the importance of the work. To show that they have no concealed designs underlying their operations in Syria, the American missionaries lately sent a copy of every separate publication they have printed to the Turkish authorities at Damascus; and earnest prayer has been made that God may incline the rulers of the land to set the seal of their approval upon these Christian books.—*Canada Presbyterian*.

#### NINE YEARS EXPERIENCE.

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A PUBLIC-HOUSE near the London docks was watched for three hours on a Saturday night; 998 men and women entered it. With an average expenditure of six cents each, the total would be \$160.50; and this in a locality where disease, starvation and misery hold perpetual carnival.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, Rev. J. Burton, B.D., Editor, will be published D. V. on the first and fifteenth of each month, and will be sent free to any part of Canada or the United States for one dollar per annum. Published solely in the interests of the Congregational churches of the Dominion. Pastors of churches, and friends in general, are earnestly requested to send promptly local items of church news, or communications of general interest. To ensure insertion send early, the news column will be kept open till the tenth and twenty-fifth of each month.

All communications, editorial, business, or otherwise, will be addressed simply "CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, Box 2648, Toronto."