

Plucking the Ears of Corn.

The first attack on our Lord in Galilee... in passing through the corn fields on the Sabbath day... plucked the ears of corn...

Prayer for China.

The Conference of Protestant missionaries, held at Shanghai, in May last, and composed of "one hundred and twenty missionaries from almost every religious denomination in Europe and America..."

It is not our prerogative to indicate the form of the prayer-meetings; it belongs to the pastors and churches to arrange such matters. We only express our hope that on the morning of the first Sabbath in October every member of our Reformed Church...

Work.

Dr. Charles Hodge says. "When a man joins a particular church he is bound to identify himself with it; he must attend its services and co-operate in its measures..."

"Do you see any change here?" "No." "Why, don't you notice that my bar is gone?" "Well," said the wondering disciple, "after starting a moment, 'what is that for?'"

The Chatterbox gives a list of 396 words made from the letters that form the word Constantinople.

Mr. Spurgeon, writing to the editor of Messiah's Herald, says:—"The more I read the Scriptures as to the future, the less I am able to dogmatize. I see conversion of the world, and the personal pre-millennial reign, and the sudden coming and the judgment, and several other grand points, but I cannot put them into order, nor has any one else done so yet."

Missionary Notes.

DR. MORTAR, the veteran African missionary, expresses his opinion that the acquisition of the Transvaal territory in South Africa to the British possessions will be of incalculable benefit to the natives and the settlers.

One of the committee of the British and Foreign Bible Society writes:—"More than 80,000 Bibles and portions of the Scripture have been bought lately by the soldiers of the Russian armies since they crossed the Pruth. Large editions have been required, and the books were sent from Vienna, Odessa, St. Petersburg, and London, necessarily at very high rates for carriage and involving an expense of about £8,000."

Missionary work in Amoy, China, is yielding good fruit. In 1877 the Ref. (Dutch) Church had three churches and 859 communicants in that city, and the English Presbyterian Church three churches and 267 communicants. The Reformed Church no longer has seven churches and 591 communicants; and the English Presbyterian Church eight churches and 688 communicants; showing an aggregate increase in ten years of nine churches and 628 communicants.

THE REV. O. M. GREEN, of the American Presbyterian Mission at Tokio, Japan, writes of a visit, in company with a native associate, to Omori, a town twenty-five miles northeast of Tokio. They found a number of candidates for baptism, who were well acquainted with the fundamental doctrines of the Scriptures, having used the Japanese Gospels and tracts sent them intelligently. Twelve adults and two children were baptized and a church was organized, with an elder and two deacons. At Hoken two persons were baptized and two deacons ordained. These two churches, which have such a good outlook, are the fruits of the labour of two native associates.

In the report of the Baptist Missionary Union just published is the following paragraph referring to the German Churches:—"Antinomian views of the most radical kind have penetrated some of the Churches and caused disturbances, partly in consequence of the visit of Pearsall Smith to Germany. The Baptist Church in Berlin has lost more than sixty members through this heresy, which throws overboard prayer, the Lord's Day, church organization, temperance, together with the confession of sin as no longer necessary for the perfect Christian." That is the danger that the extreme of "entire sanctification" is liable to run into.

The Wn Chang Mission of the London Missionary Society, in North China, which was begun eleven years ago, had met with so little success a year ago that its abandonment was seriously considered. It had then forty-seven baptized members, of whom half had left for other parts of the country and some had relapsed into heathenism. The attendance on public worship was small and the missionaries were discouraged. The past year, however, has witnessed a decided change for the better, nineteen new members have been received. The older members were the means of bringing this revival about. In most cases the new converts are relatives or friends of the older members.

British and Foreign Notes.

PARIS bricklayers earn \$1.80 per day of twelve hours.

PROF. HALL, the discoverer of two of Mars' satellites, was once a carpenter.

A MINISTER may not enter Girard College, but the Christian lay-teacher can, and does.

The Chinese in California call those who treat them kindly and justly "Heart-men."

MR. BRONN is looking after the comfort of the cattle now shipped in great numbers to Europe.

DR. REYNOLDS, the Red-Ribbon Reformer, is so practical that reformed men name him "Old Business."

The revised translation of the Bible in the Kaffir language has been completed to the end of the second Book of Kings.

FATHER GAVAZZI, of the Free Church of Italy, is preaching in Ireland, and taking up collections for the evangelical college in Rome.

The death is announced of Mr. Henry Rogers, late Principal of the Manchester Independent College, Manchester, and author of "The Eclipse of Faith."

The Municipal Council of Paris for the second time has refused a credit of 68,000*fr.* for the augmentation of the salaries of the Protestant ministers in Paris.

ROMAN beggars have been gathered into an asylum provided for them by the city, so that travellers will not be annoyed by them as formerly.

DARWIN's father and grandfather were atheists. The grandfather had a seal engraved with the legend, "Omnia ex conditis"—everything comes from shellsfish.

It is stated that if the judgment of the Court of Appeal should be in favor of the Rev. Arthur Toth, vicar of St. James's, Hatcham, he will immediately resign the living.

VIRGINIA abounds in coal and iron, and some of her people who understand the art of ship-building, hope that before many years the James river may be lined with shippers.

The Roman Catholic bishops in this country are taking steps for revising and modernizing the Douay version of the Bible now in use, and its idiomatic Latin style is to be Anglicized by English scholars.

The Bishop of Lincoln has written to a clergyman in his diocese who had refused to church a woman after childbirth because she was a Dissenter, his lordship disapproving of the course he had adopted.

The late Peter Drummond of Scotland, founder of the Stirling Tract Enterprise, conveyed the whole property to trustees for the purpose of maintaining and extending it as a permanent evangelistic agency.

The Queen of the United Kingdom and Empress of India receives £885,000 a year from her people, £40,090 more from the Duchy of Lancaster, and not less than £200,000 from her investments, or \$8,125,000 a year.

The Papal Nunzio at Madrid has received instructions to protest against the nomination of the Italian church and hospital at Madrid to the Italian Government, but to do so without breaking off relations with the Spanish Government.

The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will pay a prize of \$600 to the person or persons who shall do most to lessen the sufferings of animals in transportation by rail during the year which will end July 1, 1878.

A WEALTHY lady has paid Mr. Frank B. Carpenter \$25,000 for his picture "Signing the Proclamation of Emancipation." It is said that the purchaser proposes to present it to the Government for permanent exhibition in the national Capitol.

MR. AKBEMAN, a member of the Legislative Council in Natal, in South Africa, states that a large portion of magisterial duties consists in settling disputes about mortgages or liens on Kaffir women arising out of the payment of cattle for them.

CONSIDERABLE quantities of assafras root are sent by the German steamers from Baltimore to Europe. It is largely used for medicinal purposes abroad, entering to a considerable extent into the prescriptions of German physicians for feeble patients.

THE Toledo Blade says: "Those moons of Mars are not big enough for a cornfield for some Illinois farmers, and one's year is only eight hours long. Think of having to plough, get in one's crops, cultivate, gather and thrash them inside of eight hours."

A VERY large new convent, which, with the grounds, will cover upwards of an acre, is about to be erected in Camberwell, London. The site for the new structure is Myatt road, opposite the Camberwell railway station.

DURING the late illness of the telegraph operator at Martinville, Miss., on the Jackson Railroad, Mollie Short, ten years of age, managed the office entirely, sent messages and trains, and received orders for conductors from the train despatcher's office.

A CHAPLAIN to minister to the canal population near Litchfield has just been appointed, and his usual boat is to contain a day room, opening into a bed room beyond, a cabin for public worship, and tiny quarters for the man and boy navigating the boat, and stable for the pony in the bows.

M. HOELIN, a Protestant clergyman in Denmark, who protested from his pulpit against a Royal decree putting into force the Provisional Law Budget, has just been tried for high treason, and sentenced by the Ecclesiastical Tribunal to dismissal from his office, eight months' hard labor, and the costs of the prosecution.

The Establishment has 848 churches in London, an increase of 228 in the past decade. Of these, 39 celebrate daily communion, against 11 in 1867; 840 have surpliced choirs, against 114 in 1867; 85 have eucharistic vestments, against 14 in 1867; and 16 use incense, whereas only eight used it ten years ago. Thirty nine have candles on the altar.

GREAT excitement has been caused among the Parsee community of Bombay by rumors to the effect that, in accordance with an old Zoroastrian superstition, that any man escaping from a Tower of Silence must be murdered, otherwise he will create a pestilence. A Parsee who had received consanguinity in Tower No. 1, on Malabar Hill, Bombay, was killed by the corpse-bearers.

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THE CANADA Christian Monthly.

A Review and Record of Christian Thought, Christian Life, and Christian Work. EDITED BY REV. JAMES CAMERON, CHATSWORTH. NUMBER FOR SEPT., NOW OUT. CONTENTS: EDITORIAL: Popery, Communism or Christianity—LIVING PREACHING: Sincerity not enough.—POETRY: The Dying Child—The Life that Now is—"I Would not Live Alone"—CHRISTIAN THOUGHT: The Peculiar Reformatory Forces of Christianity—CHRISTIAN LIFE: Richard Cobden—CHRISTIAN WORK: Mission Work in Lower Canada—Mission Work at Livingstonia, Rosenow of Hunted Slaves—PHRASEOLOGICAL: Are you Agreed with God?—CHRISTIAN MISCELLANY: Moody on Marriage—What Parents can do—The Mother of the Spurgeons—The Daughter's Prayer—Sufficient unto the day—The Disruption Ministers' Wives—The New Year—The Lesson of the Mill—A Curious Letter—"Lord! what wilt Thou have me to do?"—The Lord's Corn—Tact in Visitation—Our Influence—CHILDREN'S TREASURY: "What's the Use?"—"The Play"—Frog at School—The Finches (Illustrated)—Talking with God.

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CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION.

Head Office, Toronto. PRESIDENT HON. W. P. BOWLAND, C.B. VICE-PRESIDENTS HON. WM. McWATER, WM. ELLIOT, Esq. The following Statement shows the relative progress of Canadian Life Insurance Companies during their FIRST FIVE YEARS:—

Table with 4 columns: Company Name, No. of Policies in Force, Amount in Force, Confederation Life. Data: Canada Life (768, \$1,306,306), Sun (1,961, \$4,414,058), Mutual (not stated, \$551,328), Confederation Life (2,781, 4,604,089).

The following Statement shows the relative progress of the CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION will be seen by a comparison with the other Canadian Life Companies during the FIRST FIVE YEARS, namely: from 1-1-74 to 1-1-79.

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