

The Canadian Independent.

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

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THE General Association of the New York Congregational Churches met in Canandaigua on the 28th of October. Among the subjects discussed were "The Sabbath," "The First Resurrection," and "Evangelists."

WE have seen in some of our exchanges that the Rev. Dr. William Pulsford, of Glasgow, has accepted the pastorate of the Weigh House Church in London. England is now taking back from Scotland what she once gave to Scotland.

ONE of the latest books announced in England is "The Manliness of Christ," by Thomas Hughes, Q.C., once member of Parliament. Those who have read "Tom Brown's Schooldays," and "Tom Brown at Oxford," by the same writer, will be attracted by the new volume.

THE outcome of the Macrae affair in Scotland is the formation of an Independent Church in Dundee, largely out of George Gilfillan's old church (United Presbyterian), and the induction of Mr. Macrae into the pastorate. Mr. Baldwin Brown officiated at the inauguration of the new enterprise the other day.

The December number of the "National Sunday School Teacher," issued by Adams, Blackmer & Lyon Publishing Co., Chicago, is out in good time, containing valuable expositions of the International Lessons for that month, with other useful and interesting matter. This publication is undenominational; and so far as we have observed, its doctrinal views are scriptural. See advertisement in another column.

THE Home Missionary Society of the Congregational Churches in the State of New York held its seventh anniversary in Canandaigua on the 29th ult. The receipts during the year were \$20,569.23, an increase over last year of nearly \$3,500. Of this sum only \$8,089.46 was expended in the State, the remainder having been paid over to the National Society. One church was organized during the year.

RAPID CITY is situated on the banks of the Little Saskatchewan, about 150 miles west of Winnipeg. It has now over thirty buildings, including four stores

and sundry shops. A party of English emigrants pitched their tents there a few days ago, and new buildings are fast going up. They have a Methodist and an Episcopal church. The Congregationalists may have a church here if they accept the five lots that have been deeded to them by Mr. McLean.

DR. LEONARD BACON suggests that the week of prayer be changed to the last week in Lent. It is a good suggestion. If it is adopted, we may hope that those Churches which observe Lent may be drawn nearer to those which have not as yet specially observed it. The Episcopal Church has usually stood far enough aloof from other communions. Anything that will help to develop the spirit of charity within its boundaries we would hail as a godsend. We support Dr. Bacon's motion.

EVERYBODY is discussing the subject of "Preaching" in these days. We see that Lord Carnarvon read a paper on it at the Winchester Diocesan Conference recently. His contention was that more attention should be given to elocution and good reading. Every criticism and comment possible is needed; and we hope that preachers will keep their eyes and ears open, and learn something. If the pulpit is to remain a power in the world, it must place its ideal high and strive to realize it.

THE Editor of the "Year Book" writes us, that after vexatious delays, owing to several of the documents not having come to hand in time, the new volume is just about completed, and will be forwarded by mail, or express, as most convenient, in a few days. The missionary deputations can obtain advance copies of the Missionary Report, for use during their tour, by applying to Mr. Alex. Christie, No. 9 Wilton Avenue, Toronto. The extra copies of the College Report have been ready for some days, but through mistake have only just been mailed.

A GENTLEMAN from Montreal, during a residence of several weeks in the neighbourhood of Boston, heard a number of Congregational ministers—mostly young—preach, and complains that in no instance did they preach man's sinfulness and need of a Saviour. He speaks of the sermons as clever and witty "essays." The "Boston Congregationalist" replies that this gentleman's experience is exceptional, and adds: "We doubt if there has ever been a time when evangelical truth has been preached more plainly and earnestly from the great majority of orthodox Congregational pulpits in this vicinity than at present."

AS "The Independent" of New York will withdraw all its premium offers Dec. 31st, 1879, only a short time remains in which any one can get a "Worcester's Unabridged Pictorial Quarto Dictionary" (retail price \$10) and three years' subscription to "The Independent" for \$9, the price of the subscription alone. "The Independent" claims to be the largest, ablest, and best religious newspaper in the world. It has bought the copyright of Rev. Joseph Cook's famous Boston Monday Lectures and is publishing one each week. To tell all of its good things would occupy too much space. See advertisement in this paper.

THE American Evangelical Alliance held its Biennial Conference in St. Louis at the close of last month. One of the notable things in the proceedings was a paper by Dr. T. D. Woolsey on the Sunday question. Dr. Woolsey is well-known as a publicist, and he claims the right to legislate for the protection of the Sabbath. Dr. Craig of Keokuk, in an address on "Christian Truth and the Periodical Press," spoke of

the Press as the "grandest single power ever known among men." He is right. Dr. Burroughs of Louisville, in an address on "Essential Doctrines," insisted only on three facts: sin, a Saviour, a sanctifying Spirit. Dr. Truman M. Post also spoke on "The Churches and Social Reform," maintaining that Christianity was the only perfect and permanent reform force in the world. Dr. Stuart Robinson had for his theme "The Union of Church and State," and opposed every approach to an Established Church.

THE Rev. W. M. Statham, of Hare Court Chapel, Canonbury, London, has been preaching on the stage. He considered the relation of the drama to morals, to realism, to religion. He claims that in England the old Stuartism and Puritanism are in conflict in these days, and he is for Puritanism. He makes a good point when he asks: "Is life as it is a fit subject to be represented on the stage? Ought men and women to be portrayed by actors and actresses?" He decides in the negative, and he is right. Few people are found few people of any moral character and spiritual life—who will defend the drama as it generally is. They speak of some possible reformed, purified drama when they claim that the stage can be made useful. But we have to take things as they are, and not as they may be made or as visionaries imagine they can be made. And, taking the stage as it is—with some rare exceptions, of course—every Christian must heartily condemn it.

THE London Congregational Union held its semi-annual meeting in the Memorial Hall on the 4th of November. The Rev. J. Guinness Rogers presided. The subject discussed at the afternoon session was "The Evangelization of London," introduced by the Rev. Edward White in an able paper. There was a little breeze caused by the utterance of some ultra sentiments by the Rev. F. Haydn Williams. The feeling was that the churches need a deeper spiritual life in order to any successful aggressive work. The meeting in the evening was addressed by Mr. Rogers, the Rev. John Nunn on "The Spiritual Intercommunion of Churches," and the Rev. C. E. B. Reed on "New Movements—How to Begin and Foster Them." This Union seems to have a great deal of vitality in these days. We hope that it will be useful in helping on the missionary work which needs to be done in the great metropolitan district of London. There is no district where a better field offers to Christian workers. It is already white to the harvest.

THE third annual assembly of the Society for Establishing and Sustaining English Congregational Churches in North Wales was held in Bangor, Carnarvonshire, on the 28th and 29th of October. The Rev. Dr. John Thomas, of Liverpool, presided, and the Rev. E. Paxton Hood, of Manchester, preached the sermon. From the report of the Rev. D. Burford Hooke, it appears that in 1846 there were only seventeen English Congregational churches or preaching stations in North Wales. Now there are forty-seven; and in addition to these there are eight places where services are held during the summer months. In three years the Society has organized twelve churches. The Rev. A. Hannay was present on behalf of the Church Aid and Home Mission Society. Resolutions were passed in favour of a bill closing public houses on Sunday and condemning the foreign policy of the Beaconsfield Administration. The work which this Society does must be greatly increased in the future. The demand for English churches throughout the Principality is becoming louder every day. We will. But you that no ground will be lost by the apathy don't need, and brethren in Britain,