

# THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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## EDITORIAL JOTTINGS.

WE draw special attention to Mr. Hall's letter this month from the Lower Provinces. There is a growing need of our drawing closer together, and to know of each other is one great step in that direction. Distance should not weaken sympathy; and the columns of our paper ought to be a medium of communication and expression of brotherliness. The letter of our superintendent will no doubt aid us materially in realizing our oneness.

A COPY, purporting to be a very ancient one, of parts of the Book of Deuteronomy, written upon sheepskin, has come to light from the east, and several papers have printed its edition of the ten commandments. The demand for antiquities has made a ready supply, and this promises to be an example of the same. It comes through a source more than suspicious, and bears some relation to the story in the same paper where we saw it, of the new system of writing upon and signalling by the moon. It is not wise to take whole all the wondrous stories told.

A WRETCHED couple in Montreal, a few weeks since, were brought to court to answer the charge of neglecting their three children. The officers of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to the Young testified to visiting the vile domicile of the prisoners, and finding them spread out on the floor so drunk they could not speak, with two children crying for food and a three months' babe hanging to the unnatural mother's breast. The rooms of the shanty were so filthy that the police could not remain any length of time in such a fetid atmosphere. The recorder sentenced the brutal husband and the woman to three months' imprisonment with hard labour. It came out in the evidence of the police that about ten years ago the woman, who was then

attractive, was in a situation in a large merchant tailoring establishment there, earning \$10 a week as a tailoress, when she was seduced by a partner in the house, who subsequently got her child away from her, and then cast her out upon the world. She took to drink after that, and has been for years living a degraded life with her present companion, who is described as a drunken, idle loafer, constantly in the hands of the police. Where is the seducer? Has society any justice for him? In a land of Christian profession are such crimes still to go unpunished? A contemporary will allow the copying of an editorial paragraph on this matter, and our making of it our own:—A few weeks since a young man employed in the civil service, and belonging to a respectable family, had been guilty of the unspeakable meanness of going through a mock marriage with his deluded victim. Meeting the unhappy girl a short time ago he proposed that she should again live with him. The proposal being rejected, the half-intoxicated ruffian made a brutal attack on his defenceless victim, who was struck to the ground, kicked in a savage manner, and then left lying by the roadside in a helpless condition. And yet it would not do to make seduction a criminal offence; it might hurt the delicate feelings of a chivalrous youth like the above.

OUR laws regarding a kindred subject, "the social evil," are not too stringent, but one-sided, reflecting, alas! the *practical* sentiment of the community. Why should "the weaker vessel" bear, guilty as she may be, all the odium and the penalty, whilst the man by money can purchase virtual immunity? We are glad to note from our esteemed exchange, the English *Nonconformist*, that the grand sense of British fair play is waking up, and that, in view of some stringent legislation regarding "night walkers," there is a growing