

The Canadian Independent.

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

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Topics of the Week.

MR. GLADSTONE'S sister returned to the Established Church of England, and her death was not in a convent.

THE Friends have in England 827 meeting houses, 265 recorded and 400 unrecorded ministers, and 14,500 members.

FOUR Chinese converts were admitted as members of the Second Presbyterian Church of Indianapolis a few weeks ago.

ST. JOHN'S Episcopal congregation, Dundee, Scotland, has unanimously voted to secede to the Reformed Episcopal Church.

FATHER McNAMARA, whose meetings in Boston we have noticed, has been engaged in meetings in and about that city preparing for an organization of his societies in New England.

FATHER CHINIQUY, who has been lecturing in Australia, has been selected by the Synod of Eastern Australia to represent it in the Pan-Presbyterian Council in Philadelphia.

MR. McALL'S work as an evangelist missionary in Paris is still gaining steadily. One hundred and eighteen meetings are now being held every week among the working classes.

THE English and American Bible Revision Committee are reported to have decided to print the revised Bible in paragraphs, according to the sense, rather than in chapters and verses, and the poetic parts in poetic measure.

HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX says: "Let me prophesy: In less than five years from to-day no man of intelligence in the United States will advocate the present license system, nor will the traffic of whiskey be tolerated by the American people."

MAJOR WHITTLE closed his evangelistic work at Rochester, Minn., after a fortnight of very earnest and apparently successful labour, with the co-operation of four churches. The evangelist went immediately to Mankato, Minn., for similar service.

THE theological students of the United Presbyterian Church of Scotland have remitted to the Biddle University at Charlotte, N.C., \$6,120 for a fund, the interest of which is to be appropriated to aid students preparing for mission work in Africa.

REV. JAMES CHRYSAL, of Maryland, sees in the Protestant Episcopal Church too much "unchecked and unpunished idolatry," and, at his own request, has been displaced by the bishop. He proposes to continue ministerial work independently.

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.

LAST year twelve persons in the United States and Europe are reported to have given an aggregate of \$3,000,000 to the cause of foreign missions; and yet on the other hand the average per member of benevolent contributions in the Reformed (German) church was not thirty cents per member.

IT is an interesting historical fact that the Congregational House at Boston stands on the spot where the first stone house in Boston was built 217 years ago, and that in this Congregational House are now 20,000 volumes and 100,000 manuscripts pertaining to the history and theology of Congregationalism.

THE "Home Missionary" for January tells of a prosperous salesman, in a large Boston house, a college graduate, with a salary of \$2,000, who hearing one of the secretaries of the Society speak of the needs of the great west, gave up his business, and has gone into one of the smallest Home Missionary churches at a salary of \$600.

CHICAGO is the scene of a new and admirable development in Christianity. In two or three parts of the city a great work is done by what are called Gospel meetings. They are located in common stores on crowded streets, and are presided over by business men, who not only defray the expenses, but carry on extensive systems of benevolence in connection with them, out of their own earnings.

THERE are 55 churches in Richmond, Va., with 30,333 communicants. The Baptists have 19 churches, with 4,091 white and 12,756 coloured members; the Roman Catholics, 3 churches, and 5,161 population; the Methodists, 10 churches, with 2,705 white and 409 coloured members; the Presbyterians, 4 churches, with 1,467 members; the Episcopalians, 10 churches, with 2,229 members; the Disciples of Christ, 782 members; the Lutherans, 409 members, and the Hebrews, 235 members. There has been a loss in the total membership of 431 during the past year.

THE doings of the General Synod of the Prussian Established Church at their recent session are of special interest from the relative position of this body and from the fact that it meets but once in six years. The session indicated a brighter day for the land which has suffered from rationalism. The tone of the Synod was earnest and spiritual. Of the 149 delegates present from the prominent Synods and universities, only nine were opposed to Evangelical Truth. A general collection throughout Prussia was ordered in behalf of the Berlin City Mission, earnest appeals were made in behalf of temperance and the observance of the Sabbath, and vigorous resolutions passed in the interest of these objects.

THE "Christian at Work," from its favourable position of intelligent observation, says: "The Independent Irish Catholic movement is daily strengthening and broadening. The number of Roman Catholic priests who have renounced their allegiance to the Pope, and have accepted Father McNamara as their bishop, increases. Many in the Romish Church are restive under the yoke imposed upon them, and feel that it cannot be endured by men who respect their own reason and conscience. Bishop McNamara tells the Irish in America, if they ever want to be free, they must cut loose from the Italian priesthood, take the Holy Scriptures for their spiritual guide, and obey politically only the Constitution of the United States."

IN August, at Moscow, the new Temple of Our Saviour will probably be dedicated. It was begun in 1833 as a commemoration of the expulsion of the French from Moscow. Nearly 4,000 labourers were employed in digging the ground for the foundations, but after a while the work ceased. Then it was resumed again, and at intervals it has since gone on with greater or less rapidity. The architecture of the building is Russo-Byzantine. It is surmounted by

five cupolas, one at each corner, and a larger one, or dome, in the centre. The roof and the framework of the cupolas weigh 1,800 tons, and the gilding on the latter has already consumed, it is said, more than half a ton of gold leaf. Above the centre cupola is a massive bronze cross, which can be seen from every part of Moscow. The bronze frames of the windows, each nine yards high, weigh nearly three tons, and the hinges of the bronze doors have to support five and a quarter tons of metal. Inside, the walls are gorgeously decorated in the usual style of Russian churches, and contain a number of jasper pillars, each of which cost upwards of \$10,000. The total cost of the structure is estimated to exceed \$13,000,000.

REV. DR. DANA, of St. Paul, Minn., writing in the "Advance" on the next National Council, says: "Here in the newer States of the west, safeguards are needed that eastern churches may not require. In the presence of teachers of every form of infidelity; with unworthy men seeking entrance into our pulpits, and preaching doctrines that pervert the faith and undermine the piety of our churches, as yet few in numbers amidst large and consolidated denominations, suspected by religiously conservative people as careless in practice and lax in our beliefs, the National Council, as representing the union of the Congregational churches of America, drawing them into closer fellowship, discussing questions of common interest, and dealing with the obvious embarrassments and defect of our church life, can be of immense service to the churches of our order, at least in the west. It will not damage us to exhibit a little more fealty to our polity and faith, so that emigrating Congregationalists will not drop into Presbyterian churches, saying they did not know there was any difference, and graduates of our own seminaries will not enter Congregational pulpits and preach doctrines subversive of the faith of our churches."

THE pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in St. Joseph, Mo., Rev. R. S. Campbell, and Mr. W. P. Sanders, an elder in the church, have been fined \$5,000 for their action in suspending and afterwards excommunicating Mr. Israel Landis, a member of the church. Mr. Landis was at variance with one of his sons, and the scandal caused thereby was so great that the authorities of the church attempted to effect a reconciliation. They not only failed in this, but in their dealing with Mr. Landis were forced to take such action that he sued them in the civil court for damage done to his "good name and credit"—the damage being his suspension from the communion of the church. The civil court has inflicted a heavy penalty for the exercise of church discipline. The case is to be appealed, we believe, to the higher courts of the State, as certainly it ought to be. If every one who is arraigned by a spiritual court may flee to a civil court all discipline in the Church must come to an end. Every man condemned by the authority of a Church is damaged to some extent in reputation—has the Church, therefore, no right to cast out an offender against its law, and the law of God? Can a thief or an adulterer get his reputation sheltered by the State, so that the Church shall not be allowed to pass judgment on his offences? A judgment like this surely cannot stand. The weak point of the church's case, however, is apparent. The session does not seem to have been scrupulously observant of the rules made and provided for the conduct of judicial cases. But if they were in error the ecclesiastical court to which they were responsible was the court to which an appeal should have gone, and all ecclesiastical remedies should have been exhausted before resort was had to the civil court.