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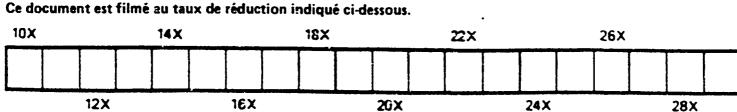
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The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. ss.

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, Jan. 8, 1879.

New Series. No. 1.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

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JOSEPH GRIFFITH, Ļ

REV. J. B. SILCOX, Business Manager.

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

sumications for the Editorial, News of Churches, and Corres-dence Columns should be addressed to the Managing Editor, **Ruy. W. MANCHER, ROX 704, Guelph, Ont.** Any article in-ind for the next issuemust be in hishands not later than Monday Ra BUSINESS DEPARTMENT.

Dotes of the Week.

Dr. Howard Crosby's crusade in New York, against the rum-power, has resulted in the closing of 1739 groggeries in one year. The Doctor also says one of the results of his work has been "the vertrebrating of officers and judges," who were weak-backed before. This good work is not yet finished.

MORMONISM is just now being more thought about and discussed than for many years. Right thinking people in the United States begin to look upon the are the chief quarters of business. Among the upper state of things in Utah as somewhat disgraceful. It is a good sign that the leaders of the Mormon Church begin to feel uneasy. Probably they see the doom of . the iniquity approaching.

A correspondent tells us that the Congregational Curches in the West, which fell to his lot to visit, are all making an advance in their gifts to our missionary treasury! That is good. There is need of planting in all our populous centres, just such simple, spiritual, lib. Mr. Booth does not sanction his wife's attendance at eral churches as we believe in ; and their planting costs, any play until he has satisfied himself as to the money. Let there be an advance all along the line character of the play and players. The theatre, m from Sarnia to Margaree.

By another of those artful e-visions of ecclesiastical law, for which Dean Stanley, in his broad charity, is so noted, Principal Tulloch, a Presbyteman, has a scarce, are worth considering. Did not Macready | vigor and enterprise. He says in effect "If you are been preaching in Westminster Abbey. His theme was A personal Christ the central fact of the Gosed, and the source of Christian enthusiasm." A good well treated; but the preacher could not occupy the pulpit, and delivered his sermon from the licters.

The London Spectator has been discussing in its columns the subject "Will progress diminish joy?" The positive and negative aspects are both given. aggregate of many millions is reached. One writer maintains that the sorrows of the world are brought to us by the telegraph and press, and that wishes the lesson of the "power of hitles" implied in science is directly setting towards despair-that joy is this fact would be borne in mind. "We are individseriously threatened. The other maintains that the ually far too careless about fractions of money, of sufferings of people far away will not affect our gladness disastrously; and that even now, science is evincing signs of returning to the faith in the supernatural and Divine. It is a big question.

PROF. ROBERTSON SMITH, of Aberdeen, suspended from office on account of his theological views, has gone to Arabia. A correspondent of the New York "Observer" writes of him from Scotland: "He is going to study Arabic for the benefit of the Aberdeen Europe political economists are tracing hard times to students, whom he still hopes to be permitted to teach. the immense standing armies, which are sustained That he will find an outlet for his learning, I do not mainly through the military influence of Germany. It doubt. The Established Church has been put in is estimated that the European nations have now great fear by the Liberationists. Its leaders seem 7,500,000 men under arms. These men are non-pro-

now to believe that the battle is at the gates; and one or two of them have lost their heads in consequence."

THE tendency in the markets on which the great manufacturing industries of Britian depend is still downward. A reduction of wages has taken place in almost every branch of trade. Some large establishments have stopped work entirely; others are working short time; and on the whole the out-look of the British workman is more discouraging than it has been for many years. Tidings of distress also reach us from Switzerland and other manufacturing countries.

the City of Glasgow Bank represents but its six months' expenditure for strong drink. He then indicates to his countrymen who are devising means to relieve the calamity that they could wipe it off by; reducing their liquor bills one-half for a year. What if they should make a clean sweep, and with heroic, are determined-the Oshawa churchmen, not to have self sacrifice give up the other half !

> "ECONOMY is the order of the day in England," writes a London correspondent of the New York Times." "If you go to the great co-operative stores of London you find that the provision departments middle classes extravagant dinner parties are oropping out of fashion. Men who a few years ago would not have been seen on the railway in anydoing but a firstclass carriage, now ride in a second, men who used to ride second now ride third. We are all economizing."

> The Christian Union lately had a letter from Edwin Booth, the great tragedian, containing rather disparaging statements of the theatre, as generally conducted. his estimation, cannot be healthy and helpful to sound morals, so long as it is controlled by speculators. "immoral gimcracks.' Words like these, from such leave the stage because of its general immoral tendency?

> A STRIKING illustration of the value of littles is in the following facts. The United States Government issued a fractional currency-"stamps," from five The little bits of paper have been so cents to fifty. carelessly handled that about \$16,000,000 worth have been destroyed! A five lost here, a ten there-and the The loss is so much gain to the treasury. The Halifax "Witness' time, of property. Our Church finance requires to be re-organized on the basis of caring for and gathering carefully the minutest gift of the poor as well as the large offerings of the rich."

THE commercial crisis abroad is much more serious than it is in this country. Here over-production is charged as one of the causes of hard times, which have been aggravated by unemployed labor. In

ducers and are taken from their legitimate spheres of daily toil. These men cost on an average \$200 per annum, or about four million dollars each day, or a total of fifteen hundred millions of dollars per annum, expended for the services of men who do not add one penny to the productions of the country. The United States maintains no such army and the people do not have taxes to pay to support it, for which they should be truly thankful.

What a sight this is ! Johnson, vs. Glen, in the Court of Chancery. The English church at Oshawa was vacant. The appointment of the incumbent lay in the hands of the Bishop, after consultation with the churchwardens and lay representatives of the parish. The Oshawa vestry submitted the name of a Rev. Mr. Fortin, of Sorel. The Bishop appointed the Kev. U. C. Johnson. The Oshawa officials locked the doors against the Bishop's nominee, and now he sues for the keys of the closed doors. Some interesting de-velopments will be made by the trial. Both parties Mr. Johnson; the Bishop, that they shall have no other than Johnson. The Bishop, speaking with some dignity, maintains that the people have no right to suggest a name to him, but he has the right to suggest a name to them. The fuss must end some way, but how, whether on the side of popular rights. or episcopal domination, no one can tell. Meanwhile, we are spectators.

SAYS Mr. Moody. "If I see a Sabbath school teacher five minutes late, he falls fifty per cent. in my estimation at once. If he doesn't shake hands with his scholars, I take off the other fifty. He isn't worth There's a good deal of gospel in anything at all shaking hands. Get acquainted with the children. Ask little Mary how they are at home. Getting to Sabbath school or church late is simply a habit. Appoint the hour at ten o'clock, and some will go five minutes late. Appoint it at half-past ten o'clock, and at twenty-five minutes before eleven these same persons will reach their places. Their besetting sin is to fall that much behind, and nothing but grace will ex-These gentlemen will place on the stage pel and cure it." The most important part of Mr. Moody's remark is the fact that it suggests so much not earnest, cordial, prompt, you are not doing your duty. Be filled with the Spirit." And it is good counsel for Sabbath school teachers and other Christians.

> THE week of prayer for 1879 will commence of Sabbath, January 5th, and will be observed by most Protestant denominations throughout the country. The following is the schedule of the subjects agreed upon by the Evangelical Alliance, which have the arrangements in charge: For Sabbath, January 5th, as a subject for the pulpit :- "Christian Union." Monday, January 6th-Thanksgiving for the blessings of the year past, and prayer for their continuance. Tuesday, January 7th-Prayer for the Church of Christ : its ministers, its growth in grace, and its enlargement. Wednesday, January 8th-Christian education : the family, the young, colleges, seminaries of learning, Sabbath and other schools: Christian Associations of Young Men and Young Women. Thursday, January 9th-For nations: rulers, and people; for peace and religious liberty in the earth. Friday, January 10th-The press : for a blessing on publishers, editors and authors; the cause of temperance and other social reforms. Saturday, January 11th-Home and Foreign Missions and the conversion of the world. On Sabbath evening, January 12th-Public union meetings will be held for prayer and praise.

PULPIT AND PRESS.

How the religious newspaper may aid the pulpit and benefit the home, is well stated in the following extract from Dr. Murphy's work on Pastoral Theology :--

" In a previous chapter we sought to show that it is for the interests of pastors to keep themselves well informed, through religious journals, of the progress of Christ's kingdom; we would now strongly urge upon them that they should also use their influence to introduce such journals into the families of their congregations. As almost all great enterprises of the day have their newspaper to support them, so every denomination of Christians, and every important Christian undertaking has its journal. There are papers adapted to every class of minds and to every drift of religious thought. This subject the minister should look into, and endeavor to have his people benefited by the rich stores of instruction which are flowing out from the religious press.

"He may draw much important aid in his work from this source. The periodical religious press, when habitually perused, will undoubtedly make the people more intelligent, and, consequently, more interested in the kingdom of Christ; it will supplement the teachings of the pastor, which must necessarily be limited in extent ; it will enforce by adding additional authority, the truths which are uttered from the pulpit. Its assistance will make the work of the pastor easier. It will give the people fuller information | See ' it passes a stagnant pool, and the pool hails at . than the pulpit possibly can, about the great enterprises of benevolence which the church is carrying on, and so will interest them in those enterprises, and make them more liberal in their support. If religious journals did no more than take the place of, and so crowd out the permitious literature that is issuing from so many other presses, it would be an unspeakable blessing to the Church and the world. That pastor is neglecting a splendid auxiliary to his work, who is not using every effort to induce his people to take and read papers which are devoted to the spread of the righteousness of Christ in the salvation of souls, and purifying the lives of believers.

"We need to give continued thought to the subject, in order to appreciate the value of a good religious newspaper, coming regularly into a family, and being read by its various members. Weekly it preaches its timely sermons to the household. Some of the most able and pious ministers, and other writers, that are to be found in the land, are those who may be heard through its pages. And they send forth, in this way, the very best of their thoughts. The religious newspaper keeps the people informed of what is going on in the Church and the whole kingdom of Christ. It says many things plainly to them which the pastor, from delicacy, or other causes, could not say. Many of the people will scarcely read anything else than newspapers ; how deeply important it is that those papers be of the right kind ! The family which habitually reads a good religious journal, will undoubtedly have a higher and more intelligent tone of piety than that which neglects this method for growth in knowledge. They will have wider views and more generous impulses towards the truth, whether it is to be supported at home or extended abroad."

WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE READ.

THE "Sunday School Times" pertinently remarks: " Of books and periodicals unsuitable for young persons' reading, there are two great classes, the bad and the *vulgar*. A bad book is one which is positively injurious in tendency; one which, for instance, inculcates false notions of morals, and which, by example or precept, leads the reader to adopt or excuse wrong thoughts or evil practices. A vulgar book is one whose whole character is commonplace and unrefined; whole character is commonplace and unrefined; which deals with low—not necessarily indecent—sub-jects in a manner lacking delicacy and gentleness. Sometimes a vulgar book, as thus defined, is not a bad one; just as a bad book may not be a vulgar one. The reading of either is to be deplored. The guide of youth should feel that his duty in aiding them to poured the grateful battism down; and so God saw to just as a well the hotbed of scepticism and one youth should feel that his duty in aiding them to poured the grateful battism down; and so God saw to justers. of youth should feel that his duty in aiding them to poured the grateful baptism down; and so God saw to atheism.

columns matter which violates propriety; and theat- He will." rical managers say that "moral plays" best suit their lower-class patrons. But an intelligent parent would hardly wish his child to read sensational papers, or to witness plays in low theatres, on this account. On the other hand, some of the most eminent writers, of unquestioned merit as far as literary ability is concerned, write books which, though printed in the most refined periodicals or issued by the most fastidious publishers, ought to be banished from the family. The evil work of the bad book is worse than that of the coarse-grained one; for the former slays, where the latter stupefies. Let the reader and the guide of reading see to it that his own books and those of his dependants be both righteous and well-written."

THE STREAMLET AND THE POOL.

A minister of Philadelphia in illustrating the blessedness of cultivating a liberal spirit, uses this beautiful figure .

"See," he says, "that little fountain yonderaway yonder in the distant mountain, shining like a thread of silver through the thick copse, and sparkling like a diamond in its healthful activity. It is hurrying on with tinkling feet to bear its tribute to the river. "'Whither away, master streamlet?

"' I am going to the river to bear this cup of water God has given me.'

""Ah, you are very foolish for that you'll need it before the summer is over. It has been a backward spring, and we shall have a hot summer to pay for it you will dry up then.'

"'Well,' said the streamlet, 'if I am to die soon, I had better work while the day lasts. If I am likely to lose this treasure from the heat I had better do good with ' while I have it.'

"So on it went, blessing and rejoicing in its course The pool smiled complacently at its own superior foresight, and husbanded all its resources, letting not a drop steal away. Soon the mid-summer heat came down, and it fell upon the little stream. But the trees crowded to its brink, and threw out their sheltering branches over it in the day of adversity, for it brought refreshment and life to them; and the sun peeped through the branches and smiled pleasantly upon its dimpled face, and seemed to say, 'It's not in my heart to harm you,' the birds sipped its silver tide, and sung its praises in the overhanging branches; flowers gemmed its border, and breathed their perfume upon its bosom ; the beasts of the field loved to linger near its banks, and chewed the cud of content under its cool shadows, and the husbandman's eye always sparkled with joy as he looked upon the line of verdant beauty that marked its coarse through his fields and meadows ; and so on it went, blessing and blessed of all !

"And where was the prudent pool? Alas! in its inglorious inactivity it grew sickly and pestilential. The beasts of the field put their lips to it, but turned away without drinking ; the breeze stopped and kissed it by mistake, but shrunk chilled away. It inhaled the malaria in the contact, and carried the ague through the region, and the inhabitants caught it and had to move away; and at last the very frogs cast their venom upon the pool and deserted it, and Heaven in mercy to man, sinote it with a hotter breath and dried it up !

"But did not the little stream exhaust itself? 0 no! God saw to that. It emptied its full cup into the river, and the river bore it on to the sea, and the sea welcomed it, and the sun smiled upon the sea, and the sea sent up its incense to greet the sun, and the

choose good reading includes the selection of books it that the little fountain, though it gave so fully and both of a high literary grade, and of those not per- so freely, never ran dry. And if God so blessed the nicious in moral teaching. Many of the trashy "story fountain will He not bless you, my friends, if 'as ye papers" are quite careful not to admit into their have freely received, ye also freely give?' Be assured

SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

For the many Sunday School workers who were not privileged to attend the Institute lately held in Toronto, we give a few points made and emphasized by the several speakers.

Rev. D. J. McDonnell, on "Some characteristics of Christ as a teacher," noted the following :- (1.) Authorative and dogmatic-"I am the truth," etc. (2) Illustrative—" Without a parable spake He not.' "The Kingdom is *like*," etc. Urged teachers to learn to make analogies : get illustrations from nature, home-life, history, everywhere. (3.) Paradoxical-full of apparently contradictory statements. "My peace," and "I came not to send peace," etc. (4.) Suggestive--Dropped seed thoughts, which the disciples afterwards thought over. So should the teacher in the Sabbath School. (5.) Reticent-Did not attempt to explain all mysteries. The silence of Christ is suggestive. (6.) Discriminating-Christ has no cutand-dried method of dealing with men; no uniform plan in His approach to men ; e.g., Nicodemusyoung Ruler - Zaccheus-Woman at well, etc. The wise teacher will study human nature. (7.) About Himself - He was his own theme, "I am the truth." Let Christ be the Alpha and Omega of the teacher.

Mr. H. J. Clark, superintendent of the Northern Congregational Church Sunday School, on "How to conduct a Sunday School Session," gave prominence to the fact that this was a *teaching* service, and that the larger part of the time should be devoted exclusively to teaching. Would give one quarter of an hour to opening, one quarter to close, and threequarters to teaching. He allowes no interruption to teachers while teaching. Punctuality and order were imperatively necessary. Opening prayer by superintendent to be brief, earnest, devout. Few words at

close, emphasizing the *golden thought* of the lesson. Rev. J. B. Silcox, on "What the pastor can do for the Sunday School," urged the following :--(1.) That as pastor of the School, he should be in the School as regular as in his pulpit. (2.) Give the Sunday School its true place in the Church. It is the teaching department of the Church, and as important as the preaching. (3.) Assist the superintendent in the selection of teachers. (4.) Conduct the teachers meeting (5.) Aid in the choice of the literature of the Sunda School. He argued that the Church is responsible to God for the religious education of the children. "Let the children first be fed."

Rev. Dr. Castle, on "What the home can do for the Sunday School," made these points :--(1.) Punctuality-send the child in time. (2.) Home study of the lesson. (3.) Review lesson taught at School. (4) Parents should know the teachers, take them into confidence, and so both together work for the child's spiritual good. (5.) Teach child to respect the teacher; let the teacher be held in high esteem in the home. (6.) Should visit the School often, and manifest their appreciation of its work. (7.) Supply the School with plenty of money. The teachers give their time: the parents should not allow them to be compelled to raise the money.

The Institute was conducted by Rev. Jesse Hurlbut, of New York. His last address was on "The Trained Workman." This is the great necessity of This is the great necessity of the Sunday School to-day; more attention should be given on how to teach. It is not the man who knows most, but the man who knows best how to make the most of what he knows, that succeeds as a teacher.

REV. R. W. MCALL, who has done so much in establish-

Sunday School Meacher.

INTERNATIONAL LESSONS. LESSON II. Ezra vi. Jan. 17,) 1879. 1 THE DEDICATION.

HOME STUDIES.

M. Ezra iv. 1-24	.The work hindered.
T. Hag. i. 1-15.	. The prophet's reproof.
W. Eera v. 1-17	, Tatnai's letter.
Th. Ezra vi. 1-13	.The new decree.
F. Hag. ii. 1-23.	. The people encouraged.
S. Zech. iv. t-IA	Success foretold.
S. Ezra vi. 14-22.	. The dedication.
HELPS TO	

1. THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE-Vers. 14, 15.

In our last lesson, we saw the zeal and eagerness with which the returned Jews began the great work of the restor-ation of God's house. But they were not allowed to proceed in peace. As soon as the Samaritans heard of it, they de-sired to take part in the work, and thus identify themselves sired to take part in the work, and thus identify themselves, religiously and nationally with the Jews. They asserted that they sought God, even as did His people. This was plausible, but completely untrue. For their religion was in reality idolatry, with a whitewash of Judaism, and Kings, xvii. 33. Besides, the chosen race, of whom was to come the Promised Seed, must be preserved from all admixture. The Jews, therefore, with just indignation repelled their proffers of assistance. This repulse made the Samaritans bitter enemies. In every way they endeavored to trouble the proffers of assistance. This repulse made the Samartans bitter enemies. In every way they endeavored to trouble the workers and to thwart the work. They wrote letters to the king of Persia to excite his suspicions and jealousy. But as long as Cyrus and his son, who were in sympathy with the Jews, reigned, their efforts were in vain. As soon, however, as the usurper, Artaxerxes sat upon the throne, the Samaritans obtained from him a decree prohibiting the work at Jerusalem. (Note 1). But Artaxerxes was over-thrown by Darius, who, like Cyrus and Cambyses, was a dissible of Zerostar and in compatibly with the uponthese disciple of Zoroaster, and in sympathy with the monotheism of the jews. These, therefore, took courage, and stirred up by the appeals of the prophets (Note 2), resumed the work. But opposition again arose, this time it was from the Persian But opposition again arose, this time it was from the Persian satraps, or governors, over Syria and Palestine (Ezra v. 3), but they were not so bitter, and more candid, than the Sam-aritans. When they demanded of the elders the authority for rebuilding, they were referred to the decree of Cyrus. Accordingly, the letter of complaint which the governors sent to Darius carried with it its own answer. The annals of the reign of Cyrus were examined, and the decree found. Darius, therefore, commanded the governors not only to de-

Darius, therefore, commanded the governors not only to de-sist from hindering the Jews, but to assist them in every way, both with money and supplies. Thus encouraged, the Jews builded and finished the house, which was completed on the third of Adar, just 70 years after the destruction of the first temple, in the sixth year of Darius, and therefore in the spring of B.C. 515. twenty years after it was commenced. God's temple in the heart and in and world is built slowly

God's temple in the heat and in ...: world is built slowly in the midst of great opposition and discouragements. Nothing can hinder the upbuilding of God's temple, and nothing, therefore, should discourage the builders. In the upbuilding of onr own Christian character, and in carrying on the work of God against others, let us never weary. Faithful continuance in well-doing will be at last commend with character. crowned with success.

The kingdoms of this world and their rulers are used by God in the establishment of the kingdom not of this world. Every policy and decree of men is overruled by the King of kings, for the perfecting of this great purpose of love for men

men. II. THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE--Vers. 15-18. As soon as the temple was finished, they proceeded to sol-emply dedicate it to the service for which it had been built. All united in this festival. Among the people there were representatives of all the tribes. Many had in past times been attracted towards Judah from Israel. These were no doubt increased, when Israel was laid waste; and shared the exile and return of Judah. Seven hundred victims were of-fered-a small number compared with those offered at the dedication of the first temple, 2nd Chron. vii. 5. Twelve he.goats were offered for a sin-offering, one for each tribe. The returned children of the captivity evidently therefore considered themselves as representatives of all Israel. The priests and Levites were arranged in their several divisions and courses. Moses had assigned to 'hem their various duties and privileges, Num. iii. 6-to; viii. 9-14; although David had divided them into courses, and Chron. xxiii. 6-24, xxiv. 1-19. The temple is consecrated, that is, separated from all that is profane, for God's service and presence. So the heart, which by a true divine indwelling, is made a temple of God, is to be consecrated from all sin and dedicated to the service of God. Every power, every faculty is to be consecrated. Dedication is grounded in sacifice. The sin offering was typical of one great sacrifice which alone takes away sin. The heart and life must be sprinkled with the blood of that sacrifice before they can be accepted. Redeemed by Christ's blood, we are consecrated to His service. II. THE DEDICATION OF THE TEMPLE-Vers. 15-18.

The orderly arrangements of the workers and their services is essential to all progress. There are manifold gifts and powers in the Church. The One Spirit divideth to each man severally as He will. Each has his own place and work, and it is important that he ascertain what it is, and occupy it faithfully.

111. THE FEAST OF THE PASSOVER-Vers. 19-22.

The dedication of the second temple took place as soon as the building was flushed. The Jews did not wait, as did the builders of the first temple, for the great autumn festival of tahernacles. However, there was an app.opriateness in the time, for it was just upon the eve of the national festival of the Passover, which was now celebrated.

The passover was held at the beginning of the sacred year, It commemorated the Exodus and the birthday of Israel as a nation, while it also foreshadowed the one event for the sake of which Israel had been chosen and called and made a nation, namely, the death of Jesus. There was, therefore, a nation, namely, the death of Jesus. There was, therefore, a peculiar intress in the dedication of the second temple tak-ing place upon this festival. The restoration from Babylon was a second Exodus. All made ready keep the feast. All legal and ceremonial defilements were put away. The priests and Levites killed the Paschal lambs for the people. Originally each head of a household performed this office, but on account of the danger and frequency of legal defilement, it came in course of time to be delegated to the Levites, who acted, also, even for the priests.

With the returned Jews there united in this solemn service all such as had separated themselves from the filthi-ness of the heathen of the land. There were descend-ants of Jews who had remained in the land when the rest of the nation had been carried away captive. They had no doubt, intermarried with the heathen and violated the laws doubt, intermatried with the nearther and violated the flaws of Moses as to food and purifications, and worse than legal defilement would be the moral pollution which they could not fail to have contracted. But now, having separated themselves altogether from the heathen, they did eat the Passover with their brethren. For it was the feast of un-This very leavened bread. All leaven was forbiddden. leavened bread. All leaven was forbidden. This very prohibition symbolized the removing of the leaven of sin and impurity from the heart and life.—Exod. xii. 15; xiii. 6; 2 Chron. xxx. 21; xxxv. 17; 1 Cor. v. 7, 9. For seven days, the allotted number, they kept the feast with joy. God had made them joyful by the deliverance which He had wrought them. He turned towards them the heart of has king of Accurate the the time of the time of a set did the King of Assyria, so that, instead of hindering, as did his predecessors, he had helped them in their work. Thus the hearts of kings and all rulers are in the hands of the Great King, -Prov. xxi. 1. Their hearts overflowed with joy, which gave utterance to itself in those glad psalms, the cxlvi.-cl.

It is remarkable that during this festive season a deputa It is remarkable that during this testive season a deputa-tion from Bethel came to inquire whether the few days of fasting and mourning established during the captivity were still to be observed—Zech. vii. 2-5. The prophet indig-nantly repudates the observance of fast-days in a time of joy. Even during the exile, after the first burst of sorrow was over, except to a faithful few, they had possessed little reality. But now they would have been altogether meaning-been the prophet therefore had a them hady reality. But now they would have been an opened the holy less. The prophet, therefore, bade them make them holy feasts of joy and gladness.

teasts or joy and granness. There is a very weighty lesson here for us. A religious observance, a ceremony, a day of fasting, whose meaning and spirit are gone, is worse than useless. Let us beware of unreality in religion. The outward act should correspond to the inward spirit. Our Lord taught the same truth to those who asked why his disciples did not fast.—Matt. ix.

14, 15. Christ our Passover is slain for us. We have been redeemed from the bondage of sin and death, and are pilgrims from the Egypt of worldliness and sin to the Canaan of love and peace, the Divine presence and glory. We must put away all leaven, separating ourselves from all sin and selfish-ness. We should serve the Lord with gladness. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit and should characterize the Christian life. Rejoice in the Lord.

EXPLANATORY NOTES.

I. For the better understanding of the place in Persian history of the present and several following lessons, the true list of Persian kings is here given from William Smith:-

Beginning of Length each reign, B.C.

- reign. CYAXARES king of Media (Ahaskerus: 634 40 years.
- Dan. ix. 1). ASTYAGES, his son, last king of Media ... 594 44 years.
- 3
- bysez, a Persian noble, founder of the Persian Empire. (Rawlinson says 558). 550 21 years,
- Cryus begins to reign at Babylon, Jan. 5, 538 CAMBYSES, his son, (Ahasuerus: Ezta iv.
- 6) Jan. 3, GOMATES, a Magian usurper, who per-sonated Smerdis, the younger son of Cyrus (Artaxerxes: Ezra iv. 7, etc.), . Jan. 3, 529 71/2 years.
- about Jan. I... DARIUS, the son of Hystaspes. A Per-sian noble, raised to the throne on the overthrow of Gomates. Darius: Erra 522 7 months 6.
- Dec. 23, 485 11 years ARTAXERXES LONGIMANUS, his son (Ar-
- taterses: Ezra vii., Nehemiah). End of his reign, Dec. 17, 423). Dec. 7, ... 465 42 years.

2. Haggai.—With regard to his tribe and parentage, both history and tradition are alike silent. According to tradit-ion he was born in Babylon, was a young man when he hist came to Jerusalem, probably of priestly rank. He was an old man at this time, living long enough to see both the first and second temples.—Smith's Bible Dictionary. Zechariah. Son of Berachiah, and grat.dson of Iddo. He is called son because he was descendant of Iddo, as Jesus was Son of David: and because urobably his father was dead. and he David; and because probably his father was dead, and he was the next representative of the family after his grand-father Iddo. He seems to have entered upon his office when quite young (Zech. ii. 4), and must have been born in Babylon, and returned with the first caravan of exiles under Zerubbabel.

PROPER USE OF TIME.

"Gather up the fragments" of time, "that nothing be iost." This can be addressed only to those who are employ-ing the greater portion of their time in some carnest work. Ing the greater portion of their time in some earnest work. He who floats aimlessly and loosely in society, has no frag-ments of time as related to a whole. It is all fragments. He himself is a fragment lying useless, and his whole life re-quires to be recast. But whatever the great business of a man may be, however engrossing, there will always be some fragments of time that will remain; and with most men these are so considerable that the disposition made of them will executive modify the secult a fible. The securit of damp much greatly modify the results of he. The secret of doing much is to do a little at a time, and to persevere in doing it. Half an hour a day in the service of an earnest purpose has been sufficient for the acquisition of languages and the writing of books, and for laying the foundation of a lasting fame Even the minute fragments required for drawing his waxen ends was employed by Roger Sherman in looking on his book before him; and it was thus he became a sage and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Let a professional man, or any man, when he starts in life have a side study, be it history, or a language, or poetry, or any branch of natural history, or geology, and let him give to it the fragments of his time, and he will be surprised at his own acquisitions. The whole tone of his thoughts and hife will be elevated; the change of subject will be his best re-creation. And what is thus true in literature and science is creation. And what is true true in interfative and science is more so in religion, and in all that relates to duty. There is no time to brief for ejaculatory prayer. When the coun-tenance of Nehemiah was sad for the desolations of Jerusalem, and the king asked him, "What is thy request?" there was time between the question and tae answer for him to pray to the "God of heaven." If the objects of this world had been to four diag and any day of the object of this world had been to furnish opportunities for doing good, it could hardly have been arranged better than it is; and whoever has a heart set upon that, will have no need that any fragments of tune he may gather up will be lost. - Mark Hopkins.

WHAT STANLEY DID FOR GEOGRAPHY.

Stanley gave nine months to the exploration of the Lualaba, or rather to the Livingstone, as he called it, and as it must be called for all time. Before he went out on this mis-sion we knew there were two rivers—the Congo and the Lua-laba. We knew that the Congo ran into the Atlantic Ocean, but its source was lost in cataracts. The Portuguese were content to scatter a few settlements about its mouth, and trade for guns and ivory along its banks. But it was an unknown river beyond the cataracts. We knew there was a river in the middle of Africa called the Lualaba; we knew it had a swift current, that it was a river of large volume. But beyond that we knew nothing. Some had one theory, others had another. Livingstone was convinced that it ran into the Nile, was really the source of the Nile; and who would question even the theory of so great a master? What Stanley did was to show that the Congo and Lualaba were one and the same; that the Congo, instead of losing itself among the rapids, was to force itself into the very heart of among the rapids, was to force itself into the very heart of the continent; that the Lualaba, instead of going north and submitting to the usurping waters of the Nile, was to turn to the west and force its way to the sea; that these two rivers were to disappear from the map, and be known as one river—the Livingstone; that this river was to be 2500 miles in length; that for nearly ten degrees of longitude itwas to be continuously navigable; that its volume was 1,800,000 feet a second; that the entire area it drains is 800,000 square miles—ino the words, that here wasan immense waterway 3000 miles into the centre of Africa, navigable with the exception miles into the centre of Africa, navigable with the exception miles into the centre of Africa, navigable with the exception of two breaks, which engineering science can easily surnount, -a waterway into a tropical empire, rich in woods and metals and gracious soil, in fruits and grains, the sure home of a civilized empire in the years to come. As Petermann, the eminent German geographer, puts it, Stanley's work was to unite the fragments of African exploration--the achieve-ments of Livingstone, Burton, Speke, Du Chaillu, Baker, Cameron, of all the heroic men who had gone before hum-into one consecutive whole, just as Bismarck united the frag-ments of the German people. Juing about under various ments of the German people, lying about under various princes and dukes, into one grand and harmonious empire. Even as Bismarck had created imperial Germany, so Stan-ley created geographical Africa.—John Russell Young, in Harper's Magazine for October.

AT a recent Missionary Conference at Yankton, Dakota, connected with the missions of the American and Presbyterian Boards, 227 Indians were present from, abroad, the majority coming 200 miles, and as many of the Vankton Indians. Some of the questions discussed by Indian ministers and laymen were, "How to promote revivals," and "How to honor the marriage relation."

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

THE CANADIAN INDEPENDENT

TORONTO, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5th, 1878.

"RING OUT THE OLD; RING IN THE NEW."

HE long contemplated change in the form of the INDEPENDENT, comes into force with this issue. It has passed from the monthly to an eight-page weekly. The last issue contained valedictory words; with this we bring salutation to all our many friends. "A happy New-year" to all; not only new in brighter hopes and broader success, but also new as regards our literary messenger to the churches. We hope our new-dressed friend may have as warm a greeting from its many patrons, as it sends to them in this time of pleasant wishes.

It is impossible to pass away from the old servant of our Canadian Churches without a grateful retrospect. For a quarter of a century, it has served us as well as its limited capacities would allow. It has defended our principles nobly, and has been on the side of what we deem right. Its columns havebeen repositories of the brightest thoughts they are needed in the Church, and the man that appears in this world. God makes of our people-the thought both of our pulpits and our pews. It has brought its monthly burden of news ecclesiastic; the doings and gatherings of our people at home and abroad. Nor can we forget the labours of the true-hearted brethren who have had its supervision and guidance. Their task was often difficult, and sometimes unremunerated; but they fulfilled it for the sake of the churches they love, and they deserve and have the grateful remembrance of those they in the Christian ministry. We may law it this. The Elijah, the Paul, came in a natuhave served so long. Just as we do not part with the old year and greet the new without mingled feelings; so we do not see the old journal giving place to the new without conflicting sensations.

The new paper will make a bold venture for success. We shall endeavour to make it both spirited and spiritual. It will be racy and at the same time thorough. Wherever it sees the manifestation of the Christian spirit, it will not be slow to welcome it, and wherever it sees anything militating against the liberty and us-fulness of the Christian church, it will not be slow to dissent. While speaking right out in meeting, it will ever respect the rights of others, preferring to err on the side of charity, than severity.

No paper can expect to live in these days ministry in our generation. of wide-spread literature, unless it is live and sparkling. Everything that will make the membership. Of course there is room within church must do something definite for the INDEPENDENT efficient, readable, and wel- its pale for weak men too. One of its designs grounding of its members in the knowledge come, will be attempted by the publishers. is that it shall be a hospital, where the mor- and faith of their religion. If it does not, it But success does not alone depend upon the ally sick shall find healing. There must be can never look for strength in its membership. publisher-the recipient has some share in it. provision for educating and ennobling men. If the people are slow to help our new ven- There must be means employed for their ad- ward to heaven. ture, and Wait until it shall become a success, vancement in all the Christian virtues and this world is: Do your best yourself, but instead of helping it to become a success, graces. The church welcomes broken, help-after all, lean upon God; use your own

ent takes a live interest in it-takes it upseeks to increase its circle of patrons-it will have whole men to care for, to nurse, those be removed from even the shadow of appre- that are sick. You must have men of vitality hension. We are confident we have a place and vigor, to deal with those that are worn among the journals of our land. We have out, exhausted; and these must be found principles to enunciate which are worth enun- apart from what is called "the ministry." ciating; we have plans to propose which are worth considering There are errors which complish but little for Christ and men. It we should have a hand in removing. There is a millennial brightness which we should help to bring about. And if we all believe this, both at head-quarters, and out in the field, the best energies will not be grudged to make our venture a success. To all our churches, as well as to all other Christian churches, we send our kindly greeting.

STRENGTH.

CTRONG men are wanted everywhere to-3 day. But when were they not wanted? When were weaklings desired in Church or State, or anywhere else? Men of steadfast severance, have always been in demand; but | part in our prayer-meetings, in all departit seems as if they were in greater demand to-ments of authority. But where shall they be day than they ordinarily are.

Strong men are called for by the Church-Church is looking to every point of the compass for them. Will it find them ? Where things that are called men. Society fashions will it find them? How will it find them? some objects that pass occasionally for men. It must find them ! It must find them, or its But we insist on this, that God produces work will not be done-the end of its existence will not be attained.

pigmy has any business to occupy any position of responsibility and leadership; and, certainly, no pigmy has any business to be down as a rule, that God never intended a small, puny man-mentally, morally, spiritually-to be the overseer, the guide, the the beaten track. So it follows that we have director, the teacher, of his brethren. How can ignorance make men intelligent? How can dulness make men keen? How can what can we do? lethargy make men active ?

emergency; and they are God's men for yet. It is doing a fair amount of pre-converevery hour-emergency or no emergency. sion work; but what about its past-conver-Luther, Wesley, Chalmers-men of that sion work? What is it trying to do in the stamp, men of strong minds, of strong hearts, way of educating, systematically and thoof strong characters and lives-such men are roughly educating, those whom it receives always His elect ones; such are the men into its communion. We can accomplish a whom He appoints to do every work of mo- great deal, if we only set our heasts on making ment in the world. And such certainly are our people intelligent and thoughtful. It is the men whom He owns in the Christian not for us to say what machinery will best

its work will be up-hill; but if every recipi-less, infirm men; but it will never do if all power, but trust in Divine power-and that

within its circle are of that class. You must "The ministry," standing by itself, can acmust be supported by some portion at least of the membership. Ordinary Christians preach as effectively as do ministers. Office does not necessarily increase a man's power of rendering service to God. It is possible for the least known-the least conspicuous of Christ's brethren, to do better work for Him than the best known-the most conspicuous. Character, after all, decides a man's capacity of usefulness, and not position.

Strong men-men who have a great soul in them, will do good work, must do good work, wherever you put them, and no others can do good work. We need such men, then, will, of patient endurance, of unflinching per- as deacons, Sunday school teachers, to take found? And how? The answer is ready. God must furnish them. God makes every every "man," we say; friends make some every true man—every man of might; every man who has been a real power in his day, It must find them for its ministry. No has come from God. Not that He furnishes them apart from ordinary agen lies and instrumentalities. He furnishes them, indeed, by means of these. There is no miracle in all ral way; but it is a natural way that is supernatural, that is above the usual level, out of something to do besides indolently waiting for them. We may help to secure them-

The church should be a better school, a Strong men are God's men in every hour of better training-institution than it has been as answer the purpose; but the means will be The church must find strong men for its discovered when the end is right. But the

> Then there must be a constant looking up-The rule for everything in

If we would have strong men in our ministry There is a Golden Rule somewhere in the and membership, we must labor that they be Bible. There is a commandment of love produced; but our labor must be the labor of prayer, of desire for God, of confidence in Him. Our equipment of men will be of little avail, without the Divine endowment. "Be strong in the Lord." That expresses the whole philosophy of the thing. We are responsible for the possession of strength, and God is the source of strength.

Brethren, shall we not listen to the Divine injunction that is addressed to. us! At the beginning of this year, 1879, shall we not seek more of spiritual strength for the service of the Master. We can do much for Him and for the good of sinners, if we be endued with power.

WE hope that the rumours which have been going around about a contemplated removal of Lieutenant-Governor Letellier are not well-founded. We do not wish to discuss the conduct of the Lieutenant-Governor, in dismissing his Conservative advisers, when they were backed by large majorities in both branches of the Legislature. He may have acted constitutionally, or he may have acted unconstitutionally. He may have been wise, or he may have been unwise. We only insist on this-that he should not be removed, except for the most weighty and serious reasons. If he is removed at present, his removal will surely furnish a precedent for all time to come. And it will be a vicious and mischievous one. Party spirit is bad enough in Canada now; political life is corrupt enough here now. But what will party College in general. spirit be in its bitterness, and what will po '. tical life in its filthiness, if with every change mons on practical godliness to the people. The of administration, every office in the gift of the Government is counted practically vacant. Sir John Macdonald will have to face a storm, if he deals with M. Letellier as M. Angers and his following would have him do.

THE Indian and the Negro cannot be eliminated from American politics. The black man is all the while on the boards, the red man appears pretty frequently. He is very well discussed now. General Sheridan has lately been criticising unfavourably the management of Indian affairs, and his remarks have brought out Mr. Schurz, the Secretary of the Interior, under whose control the Indian Bureau is at present. There is a desire on the part of some to transfer that Bureau to the War Department; but the Christian sentiment of the land resists that proposal. It is thought that the Indian can be governed without the sword, and musket, and bayonet. It is thought that there is a better way of dealing with them than slaughtering them. One thing is certain, no policy has ever been so successful with those wild men as General Grant's "Quaker Policy," as it was termed. Do our neighbours across city. He has, indeed, the Sanner School-We know agreed as follows concerning funeral occasions :

is the rule that applies in the present instance. the lines believe either in law or in Gospel ? of no better in the country .- The Bazaar of Bond St. somewhere there. We wonder if the Indian cannot be managed in the way of equity and the Yorkville Congregational Church, to reduce their charity.

Religious Dews.

MR. W. EWING, student, is to supply the Garafraxa Churches for a Sabbath or two in January.

Alton. 1

The Rev. R. W. Wallace is to deliver Lectures for the Home Missionary Society, at Southwold, Tilbury, the advanced class, was presented with two fine and Stratford.

THE Douglas church held their annual tea-meeting on New Year's Day, on which occasion Mr. Griffith bade farewell to his former parishioners.

PERSONAL-Rev. J. I. Hindley, M. A., of Owen Sound, has received a unanimous call to the pastorate of the churches of Oro, Rugby, and Vespra.

The installation of the Rev. Joseph Griffiths as pastor of the Church in Hamilton, will be held on the 3rd inst. Mr. Griffiths begins his ministry there on the 5th inst.

The friends of the Congregational Church at Scotland, met at the residence of their pastor, the Rev. William Hay, on December 4th, and presented him with a donation of \$71. They also presented a purse of \$25 to Miss Hay, for her services as organist.

Mr. E. H. Arms, the much respected superintendent of the Norfolk Street Congregational Sunday School; was presented with a very handsome silver tea and coffee service, on the occasion of his removal to Toronto. The service was accompanied by a purse of money, and a beautifully engrossed address.

The students of C. C. B. N. A., have organized an Association for literary culture, for gaining knowledge of Canadian Congregationalism, and for the adoption of whatever means may seem practicable for enlarging the College library, and furthering the interests of the

A CORRESPONDENT informs us that the pastor of Sarnia church has been preaching some straight serpeople witnessed their appreciation of their pastor's great plainness of speech by coming out in larger and larger numbers.

DON MOUNT .-- Mount Zion Congregational Temperance Society, assisted by some friends from Toronto, gave a live Christmas entertainment in their school-room on the evening of December 18th. The attendance was large, and the articles on the Christmas tree found ready purchasers. The room was tastefully decorated with evergreens, Chinese lanterns, flags, etc. This mission is doing good work in the east.

On December 3rd, the residence of Henry Cox, Esq., of Burford, was the scene of a very pleasing surprise. After a sumptuous repast had been served, the friends were regaled with choice selections of vocal and instrumental music. These were interspersed with congratulatory addresses by the Revs. Howell, of Guelph, Walker, of Scotland, Barker, of Brantford, and the pastor. During the evening, Mr. Charles presented Mr. Hay with a donation amounting to over \$50.

TORONTO .- Anniversary services of the Northern Church Sunday School, were held on Sunday, December 22nd. Sermons were preached in the morning by Rev. J. B. Silcox, and in the evening by Rev. Dr. teachers and friends met in their beautiful schoolroom, when addresses were delivered by the pastor, Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, Dr. Hodgins, and the Rev. J. B. Silcox. The superintendent, Mr. H. J. Clark, is one of the most efficient Sunday School workers in the

Church was a success. Over \$2,000 was received during the three days' sale. The "Bazaar Journal," was published daily, and had a wide circulation.—The penny-a-week subscription started two years ago by debt, now amounts to nearly \$...00. This fact is suggestive.

LANABK .--- The Congregational Sabbath School in Lanark Village, on Christmas eve, enjoyed an excellent Christmas-tree entertainment. All the scholars (84) received gifts, the total value of which was about \$15. Collections at the door amounted to \$14.60, PERSONAL-Rev. H. J. Colwell is about leaving which will be devoted to the purchase of papers for his Alton and North Etin charge. His address is the School, during the forthcoming year. Besides the gifts of the School, many very valuable or .s were bestowed by friends. Mr. W. A. Hanna ceacher of volumes, Tennyson's and Longfellow's Poems, by those of his class. Mrs. Brown, the wife of the pastor, received a sine parlour lamp from a young friend; while the pastor was made the happy recipient of a beautiful fur cap, with \$12. The programme of the evening consisted of singing, readings and dialogues, which were all executed in first class style. The Middleville pastor and his wife were present, and took part in some of the exercises. В.

Christian Tntelligence.

JOSEPH COOK is now lecturing with marked success in New York city.

IT is rumored that Rev. W. H. H. Murray, late of Boston, Mass., is likely to be called by a church in Meriden, Conn.

WE see that our old friend, Rev. John Fraser, once of Montreal, is engaged to supply in Bronnington, Vermont, for six months.

THE First Church, Chicago, Dr. E. P. Goodwin, pastor, reports a membership of 1,197. There have been connected with it 2,375 persons.

Dr. Talmage has concluded his series of sermons on the Dark Side of City Life, but announces a new series, which he calls the "National Series."

A statue of Admiral Coligny is to be erected by subscription in the Louvre Quadrangle, in Paris, near the spot where he was assasinated in the St. Bartholomew massacre.

THE Chicago papers say that Rev. Edward Sullivan, of that city, is about to accept a call from St. George's Church, Montreal, to become the successor of Bishop Bond in the pastorate.

THE Central Congregational Church, Brooklyn, N.Y., Dr. Henry Martyn Scudder, general pastor, has a membership of 1,049, and an average congregation of 1,600 During the past year it has paid off a debt of \$64,000.

At Zion Chapel, Attercliffe, recently, the minister prayed that the English armies might not be successful in the unjust and cruel war which they were now waging against a weak and almost defenceless heahen country.

The pope has sent ten Jesuits to Central Africa, to evangelize the countries traversed by Stanley and Livingstone. The mission will cost \$40,000 and the missionaries will take with them 500 porters, servants, etc., who will be unarmed.

Mr. Spurgeon this year completes the twenty-fifth of his pastorate, and his congregation and friends have determined to celebrate the occasion by presenting him with a worthy testimonial. The intention is to raise a very large sum of money by the familiar agency of a bazaar.

Dr. Budington has been compelled by reason of ill health, to resign the pastorate of Clinton Avenue Con-Potts. In the afternoon, the children with their gregational Church, Brouklyn. He has been for several years afflicted with a cancer on his chin. The Doctor is over sixty years of age, and has been pastor of Clinton Avenue Church for more than 23 years.

The ministers of a town in New York State, have

First-That burial services be limited, so far as practicable, to Scripture reading, singing and prayer. Second-That we deprecate the appointment of funeral services for Sunday. Third-That we also depre cate the public exposure of remains. Fourth-That before the arrangements are made as to time and place of burial service, the convenience of the officiating clergyman should be consulted.

The late secession of the Rev. Orby Shipley, from the English National Church to Romanism, has occasioned no little controversy. Evangelicals are blaming Ritualism for Shipley's change of base, while the Ritualists assert that "it has nothing whatever to do with Ritualism, but is the fault of the archbishops and bishops who have failed to vindicate the catholic character of the Church of England." The seceder himself lays it to the fact that he has discovered that " private judgment is a wrong principle." The controversalists continue their word-battle, and Rome smiles at the whole scene, having secured the person of the seceder.

Dr. Parker, of the City Temple, is very indignant at the Nonconformist for saying he "preaches the holy gospel of puffery." He calls it "an offence against truth, decency and honour." Let us see : Dr. Parker issued a circular, offering to business men an advertisement in the Fountain for ten guineas, and promised that "attention to your business" will be drawn "in a very telling way." As a further inducement, "The Fountain goes into thousands upon thousands of families every week, and is given away in thousands at the door of the City Temple, every Sunday." In view of these facts, the Nonconformist may easily be excused for alluding to "the gospel of puffery."

YORKVILLE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

On Thursday, November 21st, a large gathering of the membership of this Church and congregation, was held, for social intercourse. The ladies (as is usual on such occasions,) took the initiative by providing a sumptuous refreshment table, that would have been "a pretty sight to set before a king." A programme of music and recitation, with an interval for talk, followed.

In view of the pastor's approaching marriage, Deacon Parker, on behalf of the Church and congregation, presented him with a purse containing \$100 in gold ; and in making the presentation, spoke feelingly and eloquently of the love that had subsisted between pastor and people, since Mr. Warrimer had ministered to them, and of the continued presence of the " Head of the Church," with them.

The pastor, in thanking his people for this additional token of their affection for him, expressed his hope and belief that as the months and years went by, their union would become stronger, and that by a more complete devotion to the work of soul-winning for Christ, they would rejoice together in the prosperity of the Church and its interests.

Mr. and Mrs. Cornell, with cornet and organ, then led the company in singing the good old hymn :

" Blest be the tie that binds

Our hearts in Christian love."

On Sabbath, November 17th, the annual sermons on behalf of the Sunday School were preached to large congregations, by the Revs. W. J. Hunter, D.D., T. W. Handford, and the pastor.

-COMMUNICATED.

Economy is Wealth-Read the advertisement of the Parker Dye Works, in another column.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE FOR 1879 .- The extra offer to new subscribers for 1879, and the reduced clubbing rates, are worthy of note in the prospectus of this standard periodical published in another column. The remarkable success of The Living Age, is well attested by the fact that on the 1st of January next, it begins its one hundred and fortieth volume. It affords the only satisfactorily complete compendium

topics of interest. It merits careful attention in making a selection of reading matter for the new year. The more numerous the periodicals, indeed, the more valuable becomes a work like this, which, in convenient form, and at small expense, gives the best of all. No other single periodical enables one, as does this, to keep well informed in the best thought and l' crature of the time, and fairly abreast with the work of the most eminent living writers.

Official Dotices.

WESTERN DISTRICT .- Missionary meetings will be held at :--- Sarnia, Monday, Jan. 13th; Forest, Tuesday, Jan. 14th; Ebenezer, Wednesday, Jan. 15th; Zion, Thursday, Jan. 16th; Watford, Friday, Jan. 17th.

CENTRAL DISTRICT MISSIONARY MEETINGS.-Meetings were held at Pinegrove, Bolton village, Alton, and North Erin. The attendance at these was good, especially so at North Erin. The deputation, consisting of Revs. Joseph Unsworth, J. I. Hindley, and James Davis, were on hand, and addressed all the meetings. At Bolton village they were assisted by the Rev. C Duff. Notwithstanding the difficulty of locomotion, on account of the bad state of the roads, the brethren greatly enjoyed the meetings, and hope satisfactory pecuniary results will soon follow their labors.

Children's Sorner.

WATCH YOUR WORDS.

- Keep a watch on your words, my darlings, For words are wonderful things; They are sweet, like the bees' fresh honey, Like the bees they have terrible stings. They can bless, like the warm, glad sunshine, And brichten a longly life: And brighten a lonely life; They can cut, in the strife of anger, Like an open two-edged knife.
- Let them pass through your lips unchallenged If their errand is true and kind;
 - If they come to support the weary, To comfort and help the blind;
- Il a bitter, revengeful spirit Prompts the words, let them be unsaid; They may flash through a brain like lightning, Or fall on a heart like lead.

Keep them back, if they're cold and cruel, Under bar, and lock, and seal;

- The wounds they make, my darlings, Are always slow to heal.
- May peace guard your lives, and ever, From this time of your early youth, May the words that you daily utter
- Be the beautiful words of truth.

NEVER DO IT.

TEVER reply to father or mother saucily.

Never speak to mother unkindly. Never act ugly to brother or sister.

Never correct father or mother when they

are telling anything in public.

Never steal anything, or tell an untruth, or speak ugly words, or circulate scandal.

Never seek play when you can be more usefully employed.

Never say, "I can't," or "Let jim," or "I don't wantto," when you are told to do anything.

Never go to sleep without prayer, as it may be the last chance you will have.

POWER OF A SWEET VOICE.

HERE is no power of love so hard to get and keep as a kind voice. A kind hand is deaf and dumb. It may be rough in flesh and blood, yet do the work of a soft hear, and do it with a soft touch. But there is no one thing that love so much needs as a sweet of a current literature which is now richer than ever voice to tell what it means and feels; and it At Lanark, of croup, on Dec. 19th, 1878, Charles, young-before in the work of the ablest writers, upon all is hard to get and keep it in the right tone. Months.

One must start in youth, and be on the watch night and day, at work and play, to get and keep a voice that shall speak at all times the thoughts of a kind heart. But this is the time when a sharp voice is most apt to be got. You often hear boys and girls say words at play with a quick, sharp tone, as if it were the snap of a whip. When one of them gets vexed you will hear a voice that sounds as if it were made up of a snarl, a whine, and a bark. Such a voice often speaks worse than the heart feels. It shows more ill-will in the tone than in the words. It is often in mirth that one gets a voice or a tone that is sharp, and sticks to him through life, and stirs up ill-will and grief, and falls like a drop of gall on the sweet joys of home. Such as these get a sharp home-voice for use, and keep their best voice for those they meet elsewhere, just as they would save their best cakes and pies for guests, and all their sour food for their own board. I would say to all boys and girls, "Use your guest-voice at home." Watch it day by day as a pearl of great price, for it will be worth more to you in days to come than the best pearl hid in the sea. A kind voice is a lark's song to a hearth and home. It is to the heart what light is to the eye. It is a light that sings as well as shines. Train it to sweet tones now and it will keep in tune through life.

CHILDREN'S WINTER CLOTHING.

It is a favorite maxim with city mothers that children are It is a layorite maxim with city mothers that children are warmer-blooded, and need less clothing than adults. Es-pecially is this held true of babies and girls. Boys are warmly protected by cloth leggings, kilt suits and stout shoes, while their little sisters defy the winter wind in bare knees and embroidered skirts. There is a poetic fancy, too, that girls should be kept in white up to a certain age. A dozen little girls, of from three to five, were assembled the other day, and the upword des was an under yest and the other day, and the universal dress was an under vest and drawers of merino, a single embroidered flannel petticoat, and an incumbent airy mass of muslin, ribbons, and lace. Meanwhile, their mothers, women of culture and ordinary intelligence, were wapped in heavy woollens, silks and furs. In consequence of this underdressing, the children are kept housed, except on warm days, or when they are driven out in close carriages, and therefore a chance cold wind brings to these tender hot-house flowers, instead of health, brings to these tender hot-house flowers, instead of health, disease and death. It is absolute folly to try to make a child hardy by cruel exposure, or to protect it from croup or pneumonia by a string of amber beads, or by shutting it up in furnace-heated houses. Lay away its muslin frills un-til June; put woollen stockings on its legs, flannel (not half-cotton wovan vests) on its body, and velvet, silk, merino-whatever you choose, or can afford--on top of that; tie on a snug little hood, and turn the baby out every winter's day (unless the wind be from the northeast and the air foggy), and before spring its bright eyes and rosy cheeks will give it a different beauty from any pure robes of white. --Scribner's Monthly.

HON. BAYARD TAYLOR, United States Minister to Germany, the popular traveller, poet, lecturer, journalist, and author, dued at Berlin, December 19.

THE Old Testament Company of the British Bible Revi-tion Committee, concluded a ten days' session-the fifty-fourth session-on the 29th of November. They completed the first revision of the Book of Esther and that of Daniel to chapter xi : 38.

Births, Marringes aud Deaths.

MARRIED.

At the residence of the bride's father, Linden street, Toronto, Dec. 26th, by the Rev. J. A. R. Dickson, assisted by the Rev. J. B. Silcox, Rev. W. H. Warriner, B.A., astor of Yorkville Congregational Church, to Miss Jennie L., daughter of Octavius Thompson, Esq. DIED.

PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

The Directors of the Congregational Publishing Company have resolved to issue the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT as a Weekly. The regular weekly issue will begin January 8th, 1879.

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