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The Canadian Independent.

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

Vol. 29.]

TORONTO, THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1881.

[New Series. No. 45

Gurrent Popics.

-Arangements have been made for the erection of a statue of Dr. Norman Macleod, near the Barony Church, Glasgow.

-Fort feur Mormon missionaries are on their way to Wales, on a proselyting expedition. They will work in the mining and iron districts of Wales.

The possibilities of Methodist discipline as administered in a colored church are tremendous. A presiding elder of a V'estern African Methodist Conference was suspended from the ministry one day, expelled the next, restored to the ministry on the third day, and reappointed presiding elder on the fourth. If there had been a general conference handy, he might have been elected bishop on the next.

-'I he latest report of the minister of education shows a steady increase of public instruction throughout the dance is now 35,000,000, the males, however, unduly preponderating. There is a good deal to do yet in the proper payments of teachers in Japan. School wages in that country are rather infinitesimal, something less than \$25 a year sufficing for the average schoolmaster.

-The "Salvation Army" was recently attacked by a mob in the streets | of Enniskiller, Ireland, and stoned; | in consequence of which the authorities forbade the Army to hold open-air meetings. The "Salvation Army" has rivals, it seems, in the "Salvation Mission" and the "Hallelujah Army." Each publicly disavows connection with either of the others. A detachment of the "Army" in Paris was assaulted by roughs, who mistook them for Jesuits in disguise. meetings have been prohibited.

A special effort is about to be made to raise the sum of £12,000, needed by the growing prosperity and demands of the Methodist New Connection at home and abroad. A circular has been issued by the President of the Conference, the Rev. Dr. Cocker, of Sheffield, stating that influential deputations will shortly visit the circuits on behalf of this object. The Wesleyan Methodist Thanksgiving Fund has now reached a total of £193,000, of which amount £164,000 has actually been paid into the hands of the general treasurers. be raised-300,000 guineas-will be realized.

-The Free Church of Italy, according to the tenth annual report, made little advance in the past year. There are fourteen ordained ministers, a decrease of one; fifteen evangelists; forty-eight elders, a loss of one; seventy deacons, a gain of three; 1,780 communicats, a loss of twenty; 254 catechumens, a loss of eleven; thirtyfive churches, a decrease of one; thirty seven outstations, a gain of two. There was an increase of nearly 3,000 francs a the collections, the total being 15,000. The receipts from all sources were 180,852 francs, and the expenditures 174,408. Of the receipts 32,961 francs were from America. The Report, the first signature to which

is Allessandro Gavazzi, speaks of "an eloquent sermon" by Gavazzi, "the powerful preaching of Gavazzi, "the indefatigable Gavazzi," "the valuable prelections of Mr. Gavazzi." etc.

-The opposers of the new hymnal of the Free Church of Scotland have succeeded, under the load of Sir He Moncreiff, in carrying a motion in the Edinburgh Free Presbytery for an overture to the General Assembly asking a ear's delay in adopting the book. Henry said he dreaded extremely the hasty approval of a book which contained hymns of Ritvalistic and Broad Church tendencies, and one of his supporters believed this matter of the hymnbook was more important and difficult than the composition of the Confession of Faith. An elder said that if certain hymns were admitted to the Church they would drive many people out of the Church altogether. Mr. Macaulay ob-jected to a book which was framed so as to be an introduction to the use of a Japanese Empire. The school atten- liturgy and instrumental music in the public worship of their Church.

The Barbadoes Official Gazette contains a copy of a Bill by which it is proposed to raise the annual grant from State funds to the Wesleyan Mission in that island from £700 to £1,400, on condition that the mission continues "to provide chapel accommodation in the island, not less than that now provided by them, to keep the chapels referred to in the petition in good order and repair and to provide indication, not fewer than seven in number, to serve in the chapels and attend the several ministrations and rites of the Wesleyan Communion." The proposed change is no doubt influenced by a desire to reduce rather than extend the interference of the State in religious affairs, but the whole matter is a scandal, to the removal of which we earnestly hope our Wesleyan friends will apply themselves beforet e Lord Mayor analogous grants to other religious bodies in the island of Ceylon.-Nonconformist.

-The fierceness and bitterness of religious animosities have received another illustration, on a small scale, by events which have recently occurred at Marsala, in Sicily. An agent of the Wesleyan Mission at Naples, under the superintendence of the Rev. T. W. S. Jones, has lately been placed in charge of the little Methodist com-It is intended to close the lists in munity at Marsala, and appears to August, before which time it is expected that the amount proposed to work. At any rate, since his appointment in Augu st last, the opposition to the Protestant movement, led by the priests, seems to have increased in violence and malignity. The priests lately secured the services of a Lenten preacher, of some notoriety as a bigot and a firebrand. His preaching appears to have been the means of stirring up the rough element in the population, and of inciting them to a furious attack upon the mission premises at Marsala. The mission agent narrowly escaped with his life, finding refuge on the roof of a neighboring house, while the premises of which he was in charge were sacked, and their furniture and contents burnt in the public street. The authorities on the spot seem for some time to have been powerless to quell the violence of the mob, and, in-

deed, it is surgested that the municipal the garrison to reoccupy the position. officials lent a quasi-sanction to the General Wood has accepted their proproceedings. The communication from Mr. Jones, who writes from Naples, states that " the mob, after completing their work of vengeance, entered the eathedral in triumph, and were b'essed; by the eler, wand the arch-priest, the a Constitutional King, not the Pope, is in the ascendant now in Italy, and immediately upon these events being officially reported in Rome, steps were taken by the Government to secure freedom of worship and of conscience to the Protestants of Marsala.

-An article in Herzog's Encyclopedia gives the following statements: The total number of Jews throughout the earth is commonly reckoned at from six to eight millions. This estimate, however, is far too low. On the ground of information derived from many quarters, we reckon it at the lowest figure at twelve millions. We must remember that the science of statistics is ; yet in its infancy, and all who have experience of the work of collecting statistics are aware how difficult it is to ascertain the truth . and, in particular, statistics of religious persuasion are beset with difficulty. It is not difficult man to administer its rites who is especially to see that there may be not able to give evidence that he has especially to see that there may be not able to give evidence that he has many more Israelites than official returns make apparent. The Jewish population of Europe has been given by a lation of Eu millions—one Jew to every fifty-five of lowed to preach to blacks or low whites cidedly below the mark. In Amsterdam alone there are 36,000 Jews; in Poland there are a million of Jews; in Africa, Algeria, Tunis, Fez, Morocco, are 100,000 Jews; and the lands of the Nile have them in multitules. Statistical returns of Asia are extremely imperfect, but in Arabia, Persia, Afghanistan, India, there are large Jewish poprenews his motion in the House of ulations; and even China has a sprink-Commons for the discontinuance of ling of Israelites. A return of nalf a million is far too small for the United States of America; and there are Jews in Mexico, the West Indies, and the Brazils as well. In Palestine there is still a lewish population of 16,000, in Ierusalem about 6,000, in Safed 3,000, in

Tiberias 1,500, in Jaffa 300.
"The following statement shows one Israelite in-Norway and Sweden . to 4,300 inhabitants,

Belgium . . . to 2,500 inhabitants. Greece . . . to 560 inhabitants, Greece . . . North America North America . to 75 inhabitants, Italy and G. Britain to 700 inhabitant, France to Soo inhabitants.

-By books and correspondence from the Transvaal, a good deal of light is being thrown upon the manners and customs of the little-understood Boers who, owing mainly to British ignorance and blundering, have of late been so much trouble to us. A point in surrendered while the armistice was in force:

"The Boer leaders, we are told, having discovered that Commandant Craije had forced the surrender after armistice had been concluded, and while the garrison was in ignorance of the suspension of hostilities, offered to cancel the capitulation, restore the material of war, and permit | region.

posals, and Potchesstroom has been duly restored to its former occupants. It is a small thing, no doubt, but it is just such an act as might have been expected from a race which has sprung from the chivalrous Huguenots of solemn benediction of ing given by the sold the sturdy Puritans of latter." It is gratifying to know that Holland. The conscientiousness that prompted both the recognition of the wrong and the immediate restitution of the position unfairly sieze, is too often absent from the dealings of States, either great or small; but in the Transvaal both sides appear to be courageous enough to admit their mistake when they find themselves in the wrong.'

From another source, a Boston (U. S.) paper, we get some little insight into the religion of the Boers, whose tenets mainly coincide with those of the Dutch Reformed Church. The following is the testimony of the Rev. Mr. Aldin Grout, a missionary in the

Transvaal region:"Their children are baptized in infancy, and in due time confirmed; hence all the population become members of the Church. So much do they think of their Church, its forms and customs, that they do not allow any and he is called a 'sendling' or missionary. When they proposed to make our missionary broth. Lindley their minister, they would make no move to effect this till he had sent to the place and people where he was ordained and obtained certificates from theinhis own assertion, or that of his fellow missionaries, not being sufficient. The Church has its Communion season once a quarter, and it is expected that every able-bodied person on the Church list will then appear in his place, even if he live many day's travel from the Church. They then 'span in' the large family waggon with water-proof cover, take in the whole family, old and young, and travel to the church, where they 'span out' their oxen and live in the waggon over the Sabbath. They get the young children baptized and the older ones confirmed, receive together the Holy Communion, and receive the benediction of the minister and return home. They place great value on all the services and rites of the Church. They carry the Christian idea so far at times as to apply it to the cattle, calling their own cattle Christian, in opposi-tion to the heathen cattle belonging to black people." But there is a darker side to the picture,

their favor is thus referred to in the for Mr. Grout adds:—"The Boers Pall Mall Gazette, apropos of what have great contempt for black people, Pall Mall Gazette, apropos of what have great contempt for black people, has recently happened at Potchef, thinking them only fit to be the slaves stroom, where the British garrison or servants to the whites, and not capable of becoming Christians—opposing all efforts for the blacks designed to civilise or Christianise them. They do not allow the blacks to attend worship with them in their church, or favor their attending worship at all." This view is, alas! too fully confirmed by Dr. Mossat, his son, and other missionaries in that far-ost

THE PATIENCE OF HOPE.

The world's as full of hope as heav'n of

And so take heart to sean life's cloudy bars, Out of the East spring dawn and day's

The

flight

There's hope in the dull earth, though now it lies

Heavy upon the snowdrop's closed eves; Warm sambane breathing through the kindly mould

Shall all her bidden loveliness unfold:

And each shy bird upon her leafy nest, Feedeth with hope the love within her

Watching in patience through the growing

While for the joy to come her mate gives praise.

Trees in their wintry arms entold the spring, Though long we wait to hear the black-

birds sin Grey skies will brighten, and the bold buds show

Green smiling faces to the tardy snow.

Unto the patient heart God sendeth too Songs sweeter than a lark's; the morning dew:

Beams brighter than on waking flowers fall;

Sr ing after winter;-Heaven after all. -M. Henderson, in "The Day of Rest."

EOR LIFE

A STORY OF LONDON EXPERIENCE

FART III.—THE DOOMED LIFE.

About two years after the incident last recorded, I was returning in the middle of a cold but not dark winter night, from the house of a patient who resided in the outskirts of our town. My way lay across some fields, and through a low suburb by the banks of the river. When I came to the last field I thought I saw some one crouched down by the stone wall that formed the boundary. Unheard, I drew near, and saw it was a woman, watching apparently the lights of a neighbouring public-house, noted as the rendez-vous of the worst characters. I seemed instinctively to know that it was some wife, watching for her husband; and as I passed I said, "Go home, my good woman. This bitter night it is enough to kill you to be watching about in this bleak place." in this bleak place.'

A voice with despair in its tone quietly replied, "Nothing will kill me; or I should have been dead long ago." There was a sort of laugh-a hollow ghost of a laugh-that chilled me to the bone, as the words ceased. Suddenly a throng of people, some women, came out of the public-house, and the crouched form rose and glided along at the side of the I passed the rabble who were shouting out ribald songs, wild. odious, joyless laughter of women's voices adding a sort of chorus to the strain. I saw a tall man among them, a large tawdry woman was clinging to his arm. The light of the lamp was on his faceit was Warner. I glanced at his companion, and my mental comment was -" If that poorgirl you once called wife is dead, the virago on your arm is better suited to you." I hastened on, anxious to put as wide a distance between me and a creature I could not look on without loathing; but for some streets I heard the shouts of the revellers, rending with their foul cries the quiet of the night.

Next day there were rumours of a murder, one of the worst of murders, a murder called of old, and still in our law books named "TREASON!" A wife had murdered her husband in their own This wretched, guilty creature home. had shed her husband's blood on the very hearth that ought to have been sacred to love and fidelity. Men looked calmly stern, women bitterly enrag-

I was no reader of newspaper horrors, but when such a crime came nearly to one's own door, I turned more eagerly than usual to the local journal laid on my breakf st-table the following day, and the first thing that startled me was delight, lark's sweet treble and the shadow's the name—Warner. For a moment I thought of the woman I had seen hange thought of the woman I had seen hanging on Warner's arm, and a kind of stern contempt filled my mind. "A drunken brawl: no wonder he ended so," was my mental comment. But as I read, what was my surprise to find it was Ann, the "Annie" I remembered the gentle, loving wife and mother, sweetness of temper had been the drunken boast of her husband. How could it be possible?

The murder took place so near the time of the assizes, that the trial followed the inquest and the committal in quick succession. There was no one to urge delay for the procu ing of evidence or the arranging of the defence. The evidence was clear, the accused was poor. I attended the trial. court was very full-many ladies there, most of them vehemently against the prisoner. Oh, ladies! if you obtained what some of you deem your rightpermission equally with man to practise law-few of you would prefer being tried by a female judge or a female jury. It is a wrong, say some, that woman is not tried by her peers-that trial by jury in its strict sense does not exist for her. If this be a wrong, methinks woman would cherish this wrong more than most of her rights.

The prisoner was poorly dressed. She had evidently, though still young in years, lost all care for her appearance despair had done its work. She looked once timidly and wonderingly round the court, then collapsed into herself, a

still, white effigy of a woman.

How much of the proceedings were understood by her can never be known. Occasionally her fingers twitched at her old shawl, once she pressed her little bony hands hard on her eyes. I felt certain those tearless eyes were dry and hot, that she pressed down the lids to ease them; but those around me said, "What a hardened creature!" All the whispers I heard, and they were in female voices, "soft in the vowels," were-"What stolid indifference !" "There's no tears; she puts up her hands to her eyes to pretend to wipe away the tears she does not shed." "Faugh! I cannot bear to look at her hands." "What a bad countenance!" " Wasted to the bone with evil passion!"&c.

There was no hesitancy and no delay in the trial: all was clear. The husband had returned home late, intoxicated certainly; but this wretched woman, this base wife, had waylaid him -managed to enter the cottage they occupied a few minutes before him: he followed and fell down across the fire-place, and she had thrown a heavy smoothing-iron on his temple as he lay, and killed him instantly.

There was a feeble attempt by the counsel for the prisoner to make out that the fall might have caused death. The surgeon's testimony entirely disproved that. There was a wound inflicted with the strange weapon employed; "not so deep as a well, nor so!

broad as a church door; but enough."

Except the man's fall no sound had been heard by the other lodgers in the society, try whether a life of stern toil house, and the tragedy was discovered by a woman noticing a small stream of blood that had run under the door into the passage. She had entered and found the man dead and cold, and the murderess crouched up in a corner of the room, looking "calmly," they said, at her fearful work.

And so there was no doubt: the word "GUILTY" was spoken with less sorrow than common; and in the court there ed as the tidings of this murder spread. was a murmur—could it be of approval? asked me to visit the infirmary of the patient in endurance, so sublime in

Yes! human justice was satisfied - the county gaol. I found there, in a sepatraitress was condemned.

After the thrill of the moment, I was not either angry or surprised at that approving murmur. It was outraged fidelity that spoke. Marriage —honorable, tender, holy—had been violated by the red hand of murder: the ties dear as life, strong as death, had been rent in twain, and society rose indignant to avenge the crime. Sentence was pronounced. There was the same stillness in the prisoner. The goaler touched her. She started like one awakened from a dream, and her frame being light and small, she stepped down quickly. With deep d.sgust a voice near me said—'She actually seems to "trip" away!

I went home fevered with the scene I had looked below the surface; I had known the daily death that miserable woman had endured-the many murders her intemperate husband had perpetrated; how he had slain her hopes, her health, her peace, her mother joy, her wifely comfort. Yet that her hand should have dealt the awful retributive blow seemed very frightful.

I pondered, too, on human law, and mourned that it should be most insecure where for the safety of society it should be least so. All whom I conversed with believed the extreme penalty of the law would be inflicted. All thought it just it should be. urged the conduct of the husband, and was, I confess, startled at the reply; "Oh! allow a man's had conduct to be pleaded in extenuation, and you'll have plenty of murders." Pondering this case, my mind went through a ghastly chronicle. "The glorious uncertainty of the law" does not cease with the verdict, it extends to the punishment. I remembered that a man, a few years back, destroyed a woman on Battersea Bridge-a most hideous murder: no doubt, and no extenuation in the case, and yet that man was reprieved. A Frenchwoman deliberately bought a pistol and shot a mere youth, her paramour; and her life was spared. An adulteress, discovered in her amours, put her four young children to death, and the plea of insanity was allowed. A mother deliberately brings her child of ten years old to her home and cruelly murders it, making the name of "Celestine" infernal for ever, and she was spared. A poor ill-used woman, in one of our southern counties, waits up for a brutal husband, who returns, reeking from the arms of a paramour, to insult his wife; in a paroxysm of frenzy she strikes him with a hatchet that lay at the fireside, no premeditation and the greatest provocation. In her terror she makes a bungling effort to conceal her guiltand she perished on the scaffold!

And, more terrible still, timid or merciful jurors have allowed murderers-yes! many to escape, v hom, had the penalty been less than death, they would surely have convicted. As I thought of these strange anomalies in our social system, I wished two things —that some lawyer with a sound brain and heart would make a list of crimes and punishments for one year, tabulate and compare the sentences, and send such a paper to the Social Science meeting. My other wish was, that human justice would, for the security of would not be a more deterring punishment than a death of excitement to those who by their crimes show they have no love of man nor fear of God. But I found few to comprehend or sympathize with me, and I looked with a sickening horror to the close of Annie Warner's "doomed life." *

PART IV .- THE INNER LIFE.

While I was thus revolving this sad case in my mind, my medical colleague

rate ward under the care of two nurses, the unhappy woman whose trial (I may say tritls) I had witnessed. I had hoped to find her insane. I wished to think the deed she had perpetrated was the result of insanity; but she was perfectly calm and collected. The nervous system was entirely prostrated as if a long series of exhausting troubles, ending in a paroxysm of rage, had completely shattered the system. All that skill could do was done by myself and others to save her: for it was not to be endured that leath should anticipate his prey and deprive the gaping multitude of a drama and a holiday. And so strange in some cases is the tenacity of life, that I have known some feeble wretch with diseaseenough to kill the strong at once, live on and on, as if merely to meet man's doom nature delaying that law might strike, I did fear this might be Annie Warner's case. She was patched up with stimulants, fed up with dainties; and for a few days she evidently rallied. Food and quiet that she had been long a stranger to wrought some favorable effects; but she never slept. Day by day, night by night, she lay still and calm, but sleepless. I visited her at She seldom spoke except in all hours. monosyllables, and occasionally faltered the one name-Jesus. I recalled myself to her recollection. From that time she appeared to take some interest in my coming: the chaplain she seemed to shrink from. One night, wishing to watch the effect of a narcotic, I remained with her. The medicine we tried failed as a sedative, and I was not, therefore, surprised that its operation as a stimulant was very marked. For the first time since her sentence she began to converse. There was no question of confession; she had never (except in the usual legal form at the trial) denied her guilt. I wished to know if there was contrition.
"My Archy," she said, "my little

Annie, do you see your poor mother! Oh! shall I reach you, my murdered babies? "Sir," she added," do not cold, and hunger, and blows, and bitter words that scald the heart—do not they kill? No, no! they did not kill me they hurt you, my darlings, they killed you! My heart was so hard it would not break; I wish it had-oh! I wish it had!" I tried to lead her to a consideration of her circumstances. She said. with a heavy sigh, as if speaking to her husband, "Oh, dear Fred! my poor fellow! it was the drink—yes, yes—that made a lake of fire, a river of blood between us. Who shed that blood?" she exclaimed, sitting upright, with sudden energy, and looking wildly round. Then dropping her head on her clasped hands she added, "Good people, pray for me; the old man with the grave, stern face said," The Lord have mercy on your soul!" that was a prayer, wasn't it? Mercy—mercy for me! Oh! there has been no mercy! Husband, have mercy! Pity your children
—our Archy, our Annie—have mercy
on them! No! there is no mercy here; the Lord have mercy, have mercy!" Her voice rose into a thin scream; she seemed to lose control over it; the one word "Mercy! mercy!" came in sharp gasps. I saw she was convulsed; we laid her down, but the struggle had commenced with the last enemy. Sorely the wasted frame was torn and shaken for hours ere the drops of suffering were fully wrung out, and the prisoner was released. The struggling soul went with its plea for mercy to a higher tribunal; all stained and soiled with its wretched strife of existence, it carries its sins and sorrows to Him who alone knows the hidden anguish-"the inner life."

Oh woman! so tender in tove, so

self-sacrifice, so vehement in anger, so impetuous in vengeance-fond, rash woman! pitied and beloved of Him who said, "Oh, woman! great is thy faith" -how often the part of victim is the only part assigned to thee on God's misused earth!

Surely if human laws are made to punish, they should also be made to protect. If justice condemns the strong, it should shield the weak. Surely our Christian nation should have a conscience at least an sensitive as that of the disciples of Mohammed or Confucius, who proclaim this truth, " No government should enrich itself by tempting and corrupting its subjects.
[THE END.]

WIFELY LOVE

Mrs. Harriett Beecher Stowe says that many women suppose that they love their husbands, when, unfortunately, they have not the beginning of an idea what love is. Let me explain it to you, my dear lady. Loving to be admired by a man, loving to be petted by him, loving to be caressed by him, and loving to be praised by him, is not loving a man. All these may be when a woman has no power of loving at all-they may all be simply because she loves herself, and loves to be flattered, praised, caressed, coaxed-a cat likes to be coaxed, and stroked, and fed with cream, and have a warm corner. But all this is not love. It may exist, to be sure, where there is love; it generally does. But it may also exist where there is no love. Love, my dear ladies, is self-sacrifice; it is a life out of self and in another. Its very essence is the preferring of the comfort, the ease, the wishes of another to one's own for the love we bear them. Love is giving and not receiving. Love is not a sheet of blotting paper or a sponge, sucking in everything to itself; it is an out-springing fountain, giving from itself. 's motto has been dropped in this world as a chance gem of great price by the loveliest, the fairest, the purest, the strongest of lovers that evertrodthis mortal earth, of whom it is recorded that Hesaid:
"It is more blessed to give than to receive." Now, in love, there are ten re-ceivers to one giver. There are ten persons in this world who like to be loved and love, where there is one who knows how to love. -- Exchange.

"HERE I AM."

A lawyer had a cage hanging on the walt in his office in which was a starling. He had taught the little fellow to answer when he called it. A boy named Charlie came in one The lawyer left the boy morning. there while he went out for a few minutes. When he returned, the bird was gone. He asked, "Where is my bird?" Charlie replied that he did not know anything about it.
"But," said the gentleman, "Charlie, that bird was in the cage when I went out. Now tell me all about it; where is it?" Charlie declared that he knew nothing about it; that the cage-door was open, and he guessed the bird had flown out. The lawyer called out, "Starling, where are you?" The bird spoke right out of the boy's pocket, "Here I am!" unsympathizing, the other a Father yearning with overflowing tenderness over His afflicted children. Now—and here is the afflicted children. Now—and here is the special point of the parable—if such as this judge could be brought to compliance by the persistent urgency of the petitioner, how much more will God the holy, the just, the pitiful, the tender, be moved to grant the petition of His cle. I (chosen, redeemed ones) which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them,—that is, wait long, before sending the answer. For reasons we cannot comprehend, God often not know anything about it. awyer called out, "Starling, where are you?" The bird spoke right out of the boy's pocket, "Here I am!" Ah, what a fix that boy was in! He had stolen the bird, had hid it, as he supposed, in a safe place, and had told two lies to conceal his guilt. It was testimony that all the world would believe. The boy had nothing to say. The bird was a living witness that he was a thief and a liar.

We have not all of us a starling, but we have a conscience—not in our pocket, but in a more secure place—in our soul; and that tells the story of our guilt or our innocence. As the bird answered when the law-yer called it, so when God speaks our conscience will reply, and give such testimony as we cannot deny.

INTERNATIONAL S. S. LESSON.

Sunday, May 22.

Parables on Prayer.—Luke xviii. 1-14.

Golden Text, Luke xi. 9. - Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and yo shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. Commit 11-14.

INTRODUCTION AND CONNECTION.

Between our last lesson and this, oc-Between our last lesson and this, occurred, probably, our Lord's journey to Bethany and the raising of Lazarus from the dea't (John xi. 144); after which, owing to the hostility of the Jews, He journeyed to Ephraim, a place some sixteen miles to the N.W. of Jerusalem (John xi. 45-54.) Thence, after a time, He set torth on His last tour through Judea and Califor with Lorgalors at this phinate. present lesson.

LESSON NOTES.

(1.) And He spake a parable to them to this end that—in order to show that—men ought always to pray—not necessarily be always in the attitude of prayer, but be always in the spirit of prayer;—and not to faint,—that is, be discouraged as though God either failed to hear, or, hearing, was indifferent; but, having brought their re-

quests to Him, they should both wait for, and expect an answer.

(2-4.) A judge which feared not God nor regarded men, a godless, wicked man, alike regardless of his duty to God, the Supreme Judge, and to men over the disposal of whose affairs he had been set.

Such a character is chosen by the Lord on account of his utter unlikeness to God; and in order to make the teaching of the parable the more forcible and impressive

A widow- one who had neither wealth nor influence to commend her, to the judge's consideration, and for whom he had not the slightest regard. Arenge me of mine adversary,—in other words,—consider my case, and grant me justice. I am helpless of myself to secure justice, therefore I appeal to you. He would not for awhile. This man feared not God, so he had no terror of retribution for his misuse of power; he regarded not man, so in his stony bosom there was no pity or sympathy. What help, then, could she expect to meet from him! Note unless through wearying him out with her importanty.

(5.) But afterwards he saith within him-self-because this rendere troubleth me, I reall arenge her, lest by her continual com-ing she weary me. He had absolutely no motive for helping the petitioner but one that grew out of his selfishness—the desire not to be troubled. What a contrast to our God, who can have no motive for helping us but that which results from unscition-

ness—the simple aim to benefit and biess! (6-8.) Hear what the unjust Judge south, that is, consider it carefully; and contrast this ferren, and the motive of his action, with God and His motives. The one is a godless sinner, the other the holy and righteous God; the one utterly selfish, the collection of the other absolutely unselfish; the one regardless of men, the other full of the tenderest compassion;—the one a judge, cold.selfish, unsympathizing, the other a Father yearndelays to send the answer to prayer, but Christ Himself says—and we should believe Him:

(8.) I tell you he will arenge them (do justice for them), speedily (Heb. x.37.), sooner, perhaps, than they expected, or even hoped. Shall He find faith, &c,—that is, will there, after all, be any such strong prevailing faith in God, as His faithfulness and constancy to His promises give Him the right to expect from His ises give Him the right to expect from His

own people?
(9.) And He spake this parable unto certain who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others—a numerous class in our Lord's day, and a no less numerous one in our own, were the thoughts of their hearts as fully exposed as those of this Pharisec-

a publican—a tax-gatherer.

self. This man's thoughts were of, and towards himself;—they contain the essence of self wership; hence, must have been abhorrent to God. I thank thee that I am not as other mon, &c, &c, &c; or even as this publican. So much by way of acts 11,12.) Stood and prayed thus with himthis publican. So much by way of solf-gratulation before God;—so much by way of contrast with other men, in which the upposed advantage is always on his own

worthy. Smale upon his breast,—an act that are treated with the most honor, indicative of sorrow and self reproach. God be merciful to me a sinner'—words involved the most gently, handled the most carefully? implying a profound sense of ill-desert and of God's unquestionable right to cast him off forever.

(14.) I tell you—the same language as v. 8.—a bold and emphatic assertion. Justified rather than the other,—that is, accounted just by God. He who justified himself was in God's sight condemned;—he who condemned himself was in God's sight justified: for every one that exalleth or vials which imprison and keep for you humself shall be abased; (brought low;) and; the most delicious perfumes. Of all the he that humbleth himself shall be exalted, (lifted up).

SUGGESTED THOUGHTS.

He who prays in faith not only expects but waits for the answer. He trusts in God's faithfulness to His promises, and, in so doing honors God.

The Pharisee's prayer is a proof that we may, while professedly worshipping God, be really worshipping ourselves;—an impious and flagrant violation of the first commandment.

The Publican's prayer shows that the lower we sink in our own sight, the higher we stand in God's, that the more we abhor ourselves, the more He esteems us

QUESTION SUMMARY.

(For the Children.)

(1.) Why to what end) did Jesus speak this parable? What is meant by to pray always?—by not to faint? See note. (3-5.) Give this parable in your own words. What did the widow mean by arenge? Secution. Did the judge obtain justice for her at once? Did he at last? Why did he? What was his motive for helping her? See note. (6-8.) What is meant by hear. &c. Pay attention, think about it. Now, which do you think would be more likely to hear a person's prayer, a wicked unjust judge, or our kind, loving Heavenly Father? Why did the judge answer her prayer? Why does God auswer our prayer? See note. Should we not go to Him very confidently then? Repeat the golden text. (9) To whom was this par text. (9.) To whom was this par able spoken? Are there very many such people? (10-13.) Who went up to the temple to pray? What is a Pharisec?—A publican? What did the Pharisec say in his prayer? Was he worshipping and praising tool. ones which cry day and night unte Him, though He bear long with them,—that is, wait long, before sending the answer. For reasons we cannot comprehend, God often delays to send the answer to prayer, but insulting God. What did the publican do and say?

With which of the two was God better pleased? What is meant by justified? Accounted just, or acceptable. What does God do for those who exalt themselves? What, for those who humble themselves. Which are you doing from day to day?

THE HONOR DUE TO WEAK. NESS.

Peter's exhortation to husbands, so to to them, "as the weaker we sell of Pet, iii. 7), seems to me the most no lly chival alrous utterance which I ever heard or others much.—Lagaten. dwell with their wives as to render honor

(10.) Two men went up into the comple read. All that historic chivalry has worthin pray—tho one a Pharisee, and the other by aimed at would find its consummation in such recognition of the honor that is

What kind of weakness is that to which it is possible for right manly strength to give honor? Surely it is not any sort of weakness that is akin to worthlessness. The weakness of frivolity or of silliness cannot be honored. It may be our duty to bear with it, but I do not see how we can honor it. Perhaps it will help us if side.

Side.

(12.) I fast, &c. &c.—so much by way of remoding God of his meritorious deeds; as though had they been really meritorious, God could or would have been unmindful of them.

(13.) Standing. In v. 11, the idea is of one assuming an attitude; here, it is of one assuming an attitude; here, it is of one outpying a place. Afar off—in some obscure or meanspienous part of the incidents recorded in ch. xvii 11-37, probably transpired, and also the teaching which constitutes our present lesson. touched the most gently, handled the most carefully?

> These questions make you think of your glass and your porcelain. They make you think of vessels on your table through which the daylight shines freely, making them glitter like jewels. They make you think of costly vases which you commission to hold the choicest Summer flowers, vessels in your house, these upon which you bestow the most abundant honor are the same which could be most easily broken --which can least bear hard pres-The answer to the prayer of faith, though long delayed, zall come. Importunity, when seeking any thing not opposed to God's will, is not offensive to ness makes them worth all the care which posed to God's will, is not offensive to ness makes them worth all the care which Him; but, on the contrary, is well-pleasing, as a proof of the value we attach to can be honored. Such weakness is honthly thing we ask for. his wife. So is it that every true man honors every true woman. And this is Christian chivalry, the consummate flower of Christian civilization.

> > But I do not think that we have yet reached the utmost meaning of Peter's beautiful exhortation. There has been a disposition in men to use that figure of speech as if it represented their wives to be their vessels choice and goodly vessels indeed, "vessels unto honor," to adorn and beautify their homes, as well as to furnish forth the highest and noblest utilities, but theirs, they being the owners. A careful study of Peter's figurative expression shows that he rather conceives of both the husband and wife as vessels, the wife the finer and therefore the weak er or more frangible of the two. His phrase would be more exactly rendered, "giving honor unto the feminine vessel as the weaker." The Christian man and woman dwelling together in happy and holy union, "as heirs together of the grace of life," are to conceive of themselves as a pair of vessels "sanctified for the Master's use, prepare l unto every good work." (2 Tim ii. 21). And Peter hide is some and ids us reverently recognize the natural difference between these two vessels. The coarser, harder, stronger, should accept the rougher and harder uses, and the finer and frailer should be honored with Was he worshipping and the gentler and finer and sweeter uses.

Can human thought carry the refinement of genuine courtesy higher than these inspired writers have carried it? Can womanhood make a greater mistake than to exchange this honor accorded to its weakness for all that can be won in a strenuous and bold assertion of equality in powers and prerogatives?—Rev. Henry A. Nelson, in N. Y. Evangelist.

> Seldom can the heart be lonely, If it seek a loneher still, Self-forgetting, seeking only Emptier cups of love to till.

-F, R, Havergal

If thou wouldst find much favor and

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TORONTO, MAY 12, 1881.

NOTICE!

Mr. Wm. Revell has kindly undertaken the business management of the Independent of the subroription, or complaints, should be addressed to him, Box 2648, P. O., Toronto, and all articles for insertion, news of churches, &c., to Managing Editor, same address.

Mr. A. Christie, 9 Wilton Avenue, will continue to attend to the business of the Congregational Publishing Company, including arrears for the INDEPENDENT and the Year Book.

We want as many items of news of the churches as possible, but will our correspondents be RKIEF; our space is limited, and we dislike to cut down.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

We are compelled to call the attention of subscribers to the label on their papers. A large number of subscriptions due on January 1st have not yet been paid, and not a few due 1st July last. Beyond paper and print no expenses are incurred. The editor, manager and contributors alike, work without a cent of cost to the paper, so that we think we can, with very good cause, ask all our subscribers whose payments are overdue to REMIT WITHOUT DE-

EDWARD MIALL.

The cable last week flashed the sad news of the death of another of the noble men of our denomination in England. That it was unexpected is proved by the fact the the Nonconformist of April 28th contained the following paragraph:-

We greatly regret to announce, and are sure many of our readers will share our concern, that Mr. Edward Miall is very seriously unwell, but we trust it may be in our power to announce next week that he has rallied from his present state of prostration. His illness dates from the

day before Good Friday." Three days later he passed away

We have not the materials at hand for an extended notice of the life of Edward Miall; we shall have full particulars in a mail or two, and will speak more in detail. Suffice it now to say that for more than thirty years he has been the undaunted, the unswerving advocate of the separation of Church and State, Almost alone, and when such opinions were counted extreme by the large majority of his brethren, he established the Nonconformist newspaper to do battle for that truth, and through long years of litter opposition on the one hand, and but feeble support on the other, he held on his way. The Anti-State Church Association came into existence mainly by the power of his advocacy, and its successor, the Lileration Society, is today doing the same work, stronger and more confident of success than In addition to his work on

long been convinced that it was only a question of time, and a comparatively short time. The tenor of his writings has largely leavened the Nonconformist body of England, doubt and lukewarmness have given place to conviction and zeal. Thirty years ago it would almost have been that his death would have proved the extinction of the Anti-State Church movement — to-day there are scores of willing hearts and eloquent tongues to carry on the work, a work that will not be com-pleted until the last vestige of a State-Church in Great and the Greater Britain has disappeared for ever.

THE SCOTTISH CONGREGA-TIONAL UNION.

The above Union met at Aberdeen, during the week ending April From the Peoples' Journal we gather that a large number of clerical and lay delegates were present, representing nearly all the congregations in the county. The various societies in connection with the Union appear to be in a healthy condition. The Widows' Fund, Ministers' Provident Fund, Total Abstinence Society, the report of which stated that nearly 70 per cent. of the ministers were abstainers, and not more than 50 per cent. were members of the Society. The Theological Hall, the attendance at which during the year had been twelve students, and the income rather more than \$6,000. The resignation of Dr. Alexander, one of the Professors, was a source of much regret. The churches there have, what we are talking about, a chapel building fund, also a minister's supplementary The departure of the Rev. fund. Mr. Beaton from Coatbridge to St. Johns, Newfoundland, was noticed. Our brethren in Scotland, although, las here, far from numerous, are doing a good work.

THE third and concluding letter of "A Practical Man" has a place in our issue of this week. Nothing has appeared in the INDEPENDENT since it has been in our charge so to rejoin his fellow-laborers, some of important and demanding such whom had so lately preceded him, calm and unbiassed attention as and "to be with Christ." these letters. We do not intend to offer any remarks upon them this week, we would rather leave them as they are for the quiet consideration of the brethren. We trust that they will prove the seed-thoughts out of which will come a change in our body-wiser counsels, larger views, wider sympathics, more active efforts, and, as a result under God, such a growth as we have never yet witnessed in this country.

Contributed Articles

CONGREGATIONAL UNION OF ONTARIO AND OUEBEC.

The annual meeting will be held in Zion Church, Toronto, commencing sirable now in view of the immense June 8th at 7.30, when the Annual strides of the Presbyterians and Baptists, Sermon will be preached by the Rev. J. L. Foster, of Montreal.

The carnest attention of pastors and deacons is again called to the 12th Standing Rule of the Union (Yar Book the paper he sat in the Imperial for 1880-81, page 59), which requires Parliament for some years, and no annually from "each church" in conquestion affecting religious liberty nection with it, a collection for its funds. or social advancement found him Last year only forty-six out of seventy-silent. He has not lived to see the eight churches on its roll of members hip

fruition of his labors, but he has conformed to this requirement, and \$4 in consequence had to be deducted from the claim of each minister and delegate present. Such a deficit, if repeated, will seriously interfere with the success of the Union, and of all the societies which annually meet along with it, and it is earnestly hoped that every church connected with it will take up a collection on its behalf, on or before June 5th, and forward it to the Secretary-Treasurer at the meeting in l'oronto.

Reduced Fares. - The Grand Trunk and Great Western Railway Co's. will grant return tickets to those attending the meeting, on presentation of certificates signed by myself, at a fare and a third. The Richelieu and Ontario Navigatior Co. will give return tickets at the following rates, which include meals and perths: -Port Hope, \$3; Cobourg, \$3.50; Kingston, \$7.50; Brockville, \$9.75; Prescott, \$10.25; Cornwall, \$12; Montreal, \$15; Quebec to Montreal and return \$3, (meals extra); Hamilton to Toronto and return, \$1, (meals extra); Bowmanville, do., \$2.

The Ogdensburg Line will carry at the following rates, including meals and stateroom:—Prescott or Brockville to Toronto and return, \$7.20; Kingston do., \$5.85. Tickets by this line at the reduced rates named, can be procured only by remitting the amount to me. Boats leave Prescott Tuesday, Thursdays, and Saturdays at 1.30 p.m.; Kingston, about

p.m. When sending for certificates please say by what route you will travel.

JOHN WOOD, Sec. C. U. of O. and Q. Ottawa.

STATISTICS.

To the Editor Canadian Independent.

Sir,-Kindly allow me through your columns to remind the pastors and secretaries of churches to send in the statistical returns as early as possible, and to let me know if any have failed to receive the blanks.

Yours truly, W. H. WARRINER, Statistical Sec

Yorkville, May 6, 1881.

RECEPTION COMMITTEE.

The Reception Committee will be glad to hear from any persons willing to receive and lodge one or more of the ministers and delegates coming to the Union Meeting.

W. FREELAND, 71 Bay Street, Secretary Reception Committee.

DR WILKES.

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent: Sir, -Your readers will no doubt be surprised to hear what I have but recently learned, that the Rev. Dr. Wilkes, the venerable Principal of the Congregational College of British North America, has resigned his position in the College, and is about to proceed to England on a lengthened visit. His loss will be severely felt, and it behoves those who have the interests of the College at heart to bestir themselves in the selection of a successor, one, if possible, who will command equal influence and favor. A good choice is more particularly desirable now in view of the immense if Congregationalists wish to retain their position in the country.

Perhaps Dr. Wilkes could make in-My object is merely to draw attention to a matter of vital importance to Congregationalism in Canada.

Allow me to subscribe myself An Observer. THE POSITION AND PROSPECT OF OUR CHURCHES.

To the Editor Canadian Independent.

Sir,-It would probably be seemly for this, my last communication, to be preceded by a statement from the Editor that the Independent, while opening its columns for discussion, is not responsible for the opinions of correspondents. I am aware that those I am about to express may run counter to some received ideas. They may also arouse a certain amount of antagonism, and possibly give pain to individuals. They are, however, the opinions of one who has thought much and seen much of the workings of our church life, and who, during an un-broken connection with it extending over forty years, has had opportunities of comparing it with other forms of church organization. They may be taken, there-fore, as the matured judgment of a friend, and not as the carping criticisms of a foe.

Referring then to the contents of my previous letters, and to the contrast between the growth of the first quarter of a century, when we were contending against odds, and of the second, when on a footing of absolute equality, let me make the following suggestions:—

2. It is doubtful if we have, as a body,

realized the fact that we have an obligation to discharge to the whole people of Canada. We have been wanting, apparently, in that divine ambition which never rests until every quarter of rests until every quarter of the land is occupied, and every soul brought under the truth. There has been amongst us a remnant of the Calvinistic and Plymouth Brethren idea that Christ's people are a little flock, and of great complacency in the fact. The Scottish idea of Independent churches, viz., that their chief function is to bear witness for principles, has probably prevented the development of the sacred ambition of possessing the whole land. The fundamental defect of this theory is, that when the witnessbearing has borne fruit in the reformation of errors, and the adoption of sound principles by the larger bodies surrounding it, the work of a mere witness-bearing body is done. When the Corn Laws of England were abolished there was no longer a necessity for an Anti-Corn-Law League. When slavery ceased the Anti-Slavery Society disbanded. If our position is that of mere contention for principles, the triumph of these principles will put an end to the reason principles, for our existence.

Some of these have prevailed already. There is no longer a dominant State church in Canada. There is perfect religious equality. The principles of congregational freedom are rapidly gaining ground in the great religious organ-For these we have always conizations. tended. But have we not been mistaken in putting forward so prominently this witnessing for principles instead of representing our churches as the embodiment of a scriptural and apostolical church polity? On the latter ground we can stand, and from it spread ourselves until we cover the land. On the other we may stand indeed for a time, but the more successfully we witness, the sooner will the necessity for our existence disappear.

2. I have already referred to the foundation of our Collegiate Institute, and to the defective appliances of early years. The men who carried on the institution amidst difficulties and defects have always been held in honor amongst us. But it is a question whether a misconception did not pervade the operations of those early times. The country, it must Perhaps Dr. Whites could make in those early times. The country quiries in England, if no one equal to be confessed, was in a raw and inchoate the emergency is forthcoming in Canada. condition. There seemed but little congruity between backwoods clearings and academic culture. In fact, it would seemed as if academic culture, in and any thorough sense, would have been an

lutter exotic in such a climate. The

dominant idea of the college authorities (and very naturally) seems to have been to impart so much of culture as would fit men for the rough-and-ready life of backwoods settlements. This idea regulated the style of men who were received, the preparatory training required of them, and the method and scope of the culture itself. I speak, of course, in general terms. There were exceptions, .doubtless.

This policy had, however, the redical defect that it was suited to a temporary state of things, which by and bye would

entirely pass away.

The founders of our great educational system proceeded on an entirely opposite Rough and barbarous as the theory. country was at that time, they looked forward to the day when an advanced They civilization would cover the land. prepared for it schemes of education, suited rather to the future than to the imperfect present. Certainly they have had their reward. We have now, perhaps, the finest system of education on the face of the earth. Our common schools, high schools, and universities, cover the land; and our people, edsicated under such a system, taken broadly and generally, are among the most intelligent of populations.

Let us consider, then, the effect of the working of these two opposite systems-An ecclesiastical education, suited for the imperfect development of the early stage of our existence; and a secular education, suitable to the most advanced state. Is it not evident, that while those who are trained under the former can maintain their influence in the days of early development, they will lose their hold, and have a less and lesser degree of influence, as the people rise into higher stages of intelligence?

It may be objected that if our minisistry for the last quarter of a century has not been abreast of the times, it has been abreast of its neighbors, and that these neighbors have made wonderful progress none can deny. I do not care present to discuss the question our ministry is abreast neighbors, but I deliberatewhether of its neighbors, but I deliberate-ly say that unless it is in advance of them we can never make progress, unless other conditions are altered. For let us consider the position. We have adopted a church system which strips us of all adventitious aids. The power of such aids in other church organizations none can deny who are familiar with their working. Even the other branch of the Congregational order has a powerful adjunct in a striking ordinance, of which the very most is made in the working of the church. In our system, however, everything depends, and must depend upon the minister himself. It is idle to talk of its depending upon minister and people. It is the minister who is the formative power in the church. The people take their tone from him, and must do so in the very nature of things. very working of our system, as it exists amongst us, necessitates it. It may not be so in other churches. But it is eminently in a Congregational Church, as such churches are known in Canada. Having then adopted such a system, we are bound by every consideration to see that the men upon whom we place the responsibility of its working shall be equal to the charge laid upon them, by careful selection in the first place, making sure of their having faculties which would fit them for the work, and then by thorough training - severe training, let me say in mental and moral culture -- we may

educate a race of men who will be able to command attention anywhere.

In giving utterance to the foregoing reasons it will be observed that nothing has been said as to certain other reasons (lack of the right kind of emigration,

these, because I do not believe in them. The Baptist churches, certainly, are subject to the same influences; yet while we have been stagnant, they have been making striking advances.

To conclude the whole matter, let me

give e opression to a few suggestions with

regard to the future:

1st. Let us rid ourselves of narrow-Being filled with ness and littleness. the idea that we have that in our possession which is good for the whole people of Canada, let us feel the pressure of responsibility to extend our system over every part of it.

2nd. Let us endeavor to break up this spirit of rampant independency under which every church does what is right in its own eyes. Independence is often a mere synonym for self-will. Independence is a powerful shield against ecclesiastical tyranny. But when tyranny is overthrown, and freedom established, other forces need to workled into play, if we would consolid... advance, and assume an aggressive attitude. In order to win victories, we must adopt for our watchwords—organization,—order,—co-operation. We must sacrifice self-CO-OPERATION. We must sacrifice self-will for Christ's Kingdom. Self-will and selfishness have ruined churches, destroyed usefulness, and retarded progress in innumerable instances.

There is one kind of Independency which would indeed be desirable in many cases, viz., independence of help from outside sources. Perpetual pauperism and independence are certainly not com-

patible.

So far my suggestions may be merely the utterance of ideas. A practical man-it may be said-should say something practical. But let us bear in mind that the world and the Church are ruled When ideas are dominant in by ideas. the mind, they must force themselves into utterance in the shape of policies, arrangements, and lines of action.

3rd. But, proceeding to practical suggestions. I would say, in the first place, we must increasingly aim after a higher standard of college education. Knox College has recently adopted the rule that none but graduates in Universities can be admitted within its walls. Our admission standard should be raised to something like this. And afterwards such a rigid system of mental and spiritual discipline should be enforced that both unspiritual men and dunces should be plucked without mercy.

4th. We must make far more of our church organization and life. a tendency amongst us to relapse into the condition of mere auditors in a lec-ture room. Our ordinances and membership require far more attention than they receive. Purity of communion should be strenuously maint hank. Our worship, or what we are pleased to call the "preliminary service," ought to be advanced to the front place. There can be no comparison between the uninstructive baldness of many Congregational churches, and the edifying ful-ness, scripturalness, and power of some other sections of the Body of Christ.

It would be well, too, if there was a general adhesion to the solid biblical truth of old times, and an avoidance of shallow, unphilosophical rationalism.

We must, too, make more of our church order. Prominent men, both ministers and laymen, have sometimes boasted that they were not denomina-tionalists. Now, while bigotry is abominable, there is a spurious liberalism which is mischievous. To say "I am not a denominationalist" sometimes means "I do not care whether I am a Congregationalist, a Methodist, or a Presbyterian." Churches wholly of such material would soon become extinct as such. We have no right to remain separate unless we can give a reason for our ex-

Missionary Society, Labrador Mission, Manitoba Mission, and Congregational College, might all be managed by Committees of the Union.

6th. The Union itself ought to be strengthened. Connection with it should be the ground of recognition, both for Congregational churches and pastors. Separation from it should be equivalent to withdrawal from the body.

I put the last two suggestions I have to make in the shape of queries:

1. Would it not be desirable to cultivate a closer connection with the thousands of American brethren on our border?

2. Ought we not to do something for Could we not make some systematic effort for Foreign Missions? female education.

Soliciting the earnest and prayerful attention of the brethren to these letters, and thanking you for the courtesy shown in their insertion,

I am, &c. A PRACTICAL MAN. Montreal, April 7, 1881.

THE NEW TESTAMENT HOLY CATHOLIC CHURCH.

VIII.

A church founded on lineage had been tried and had failed. founded on nationality combined with lineage had also failed. The descendants of Abraham, the best of earthly fathers, and the monarchy of David, the great model king, had alike and combinedly failed as means of establishing the kingdom of God among men. With some natural among men. With some natural and powerful elements for good in each, which should hereafter be found to have served great educational ends, they were nevertheless totally insufficient as groundworks on which to build the church of God. A deeper and a firmer basis in human nature had to be sought. No system of religion claiming to be from God could afford to overlook the moral and spiritual elements of man's nature. Hence, from far back in the Jewish economy, recognized along with the great national and family sign, was ' circumcision which was not outward in the flesh, but which was of the heart in the spirit," (Rom. ii. 28, 29; Deut. x. 16);—a genuine love of God and man. (Deut. xxx. 6).

And now for the first time in the history of the world there is to be a Kingdom, a Church, a Society, whose bond of union shall be individual or personal, moral and spiritual, in opposition to being national and lineal.

The first Adam was at the head of a race after the flesh. The last Adam shall henceforth be at the head of His people a quickening Spirit. Hence, Jesus Christ has no descendants after the flesh. He stands opposed to Abraham and his posterity, as He does to Adam and his posterity. "That which is born his posterity. of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. (John iii. 6, 7). "Whosoever shall do the will of my Father who is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother. (Matt. xii. 50.)

Now, the more intensely spiritual men are, the more truly personal and individual they become in character. If you would deny to men i individuality, you must deny to them also spirituality. The disciples under Christ were permitted the full play of their individuality; but "filled with the

greatly intensified. At Pentecost, and subsequently, Peter's weakness had well-nigh vanished, but the prevailing characteristic of his temperament was maintained at its highest point. He is the spokesman whenever a mouthpiece is needed. John, who before "leaned on his master's breast at supper," clings now more intensely than ever to the divine love that throbbed within it. And in every believer the Holy Spirit acts on every faculty of the soul in its right relationship to the rest, guiding all to the great end of Christ's life and death. As if

"The Saviour's Spirit enfranchised on the Cross

"From the rent tabernacle of His flesh"

filled and directed all for Him. 2 Cor. iv. 17.

But the working out of such a manhood, or individuality, means freedom for the man - personal liberty in thought, action, life. Not to be used as a cloak of maliciousness (1 Peter ii. 16), neither as the servant of men (1 Cor. vii. 22, 23), but as the servant of God or of Christ. It is freedom from the dominion of sin-the world, the flesh, and the devil-that by God's Spirit and truth men may be moulded into the divine image. Thus stood this first and infant Church of Christ-no one attempting to restrain another; not anyone asking the question even, Which of us is greatest? But each one so filled with "peace and joy in the Holy Ghost," and the spirit of service to his Master as to be wholly absorbed in the work divine providence had, for the time being, committed to their hands. The life within corresponds to the law without. There is no disposition on the part of any to "exercise lordship" as the Gentiles, or eldership as the Jews, or governorship as at feasts. Each one loves the other, as he loves himself-as Christ loved them.

"One family, they dwell in Him, One Church above, beneath, I'hough now divided by the stream, The narrow stream of death."

> COUNTRY PARSON. (To be continued.)

Correspondence.

THREE IMPORTANT ITEMS.

To the Editor of the Canadian Independent:

SIR,-Three things I wish to say which you may place under different heads, or put altogether as a short letter from me, as it may please you.

1. The Church at Ottawa did on the 1. The Church at Ottawa did on the 27th April by unanimous vote, heartily thank the Colonial Congregational Mission try Society and the Colonial Missionary Society for their long continued assistance in maintaining and carrying forward its work," and resolve, though not out of debt on their property, to struggle on without asking for a further grant. Here are at once faith and pluck to be greatly commended. I rejoice to add that while their finances are "more encouraging than ever before, the spiritual condition of the Church and congregation is as hopeful as are its temporal affairs.

2. Rev. J. Burton's communication in your last issue on "Church Extension" should have immediate attention. He must not be discouraged because no one has written in your pages on the subject and so forth), which have sometimes and so forth), which have sometimes been made prominent when discussing this question. I have said nothing of Our Home Missionary Society, Indian ted the full play of their indistinct not gifted in the matter of organizatio n therefore leave that to others who are, but when at work let me suggest the Sabbath School of the Fourteenth that measures be taken to insist, as a condition of help in any form, that the trust deeds be so constructed that it shall be wholly illegal and void to mortgage a that twenty-five years they have amounted church building in order to pay the minister's salary or any part of current expenses, even those for repairs. There may be an original mortgage on the property if that cannot be paid off; this inmovement fail, and the property is sold 8,518 distinct offerings during the year; by the mortgagee at less than it cost there nore 8,480, only 38 omissions. But if minister's salary and current ex-But if minister's salary and current extended this indicates an average attendance in penses cannot be met, there is reason these classes of about 164. The primary for a change of some sort, yet not for department is about half as large. In placing a mortgage on a property which a previous generation has put in trust for all time, that it may be used for divine worship and Christian work. Let me add that the sum for which the church property in Meaford has been sold may form the nucleus of the proposed church extension fund.

3. One word on the questions to which the able letters of "A Practical Man" are turning our thoughts, namely. How far did the personal visitation of places and congregations by the late Mr. Roaf in the west and your correspondent in the east up to 1855, -visits that were for the mo t-part annual, -conduce to the progress he describes during the previous twenty years? Have the District Com mittees to whom the work has been assigned during the last twenty-five years been the best arrangement for promoting advancement? I offer no opiniion, but simply throw out the hint for others to think upon.

Yours truly, HENRY WILKES. Montreal, 4th May, 1881.

Mcws of the Churches.

BUFFALO.-Just one year ago this month Sec. Holbrook met, by invitation, a company of persons in Buffalo, for con- and aided, 7,645 families have been sulting as to the expediency of forming visited, and 2,684 Bibles and Testaments the First Congregational Church of that city. It was decided to go forward, and the church was organized and Rev. G. B. Stephens secured as pastor. On the 5th inst. the Niagara Square I ree Will Baptist Church was purchased for \$15,-250; one half paid down, and the other half to be paid in six months, and the amount is all pledged. This is a fine edifice in a very central and eligible locality, and is to be renovated and refitted at once. There have been accessions to the church at every communion; there is a large and prosperous Sundaythere is come harmony and much en thusiasm in the society, and a membership now of nearly 200, with every ; rospect of rapid growth and prosperity. - Chicago Advance of April 14th 1881.

NORTH WEST, Rev. W. Ewing preaches each Sunday at West Lynne, Manitoba; Pembina, Dakota Territory; and St. Vincent, Minnesota. pected that a Congregational Church will be organized in each of these thriving towns. An organ is much needed in West Lynne. Will some friend or friendly church assist in this matter?

OLD FRIEND.

Marling left in Canada-and their name is legion - will be glad to find that he is surrounded by good workers, and that the Church and School with which he is now connected gives very crive support to Home Missions, as the following from the S. S. Imms will tell:-

ly, but thou excellest them all," is a commendation that might well be applied to Street Presbyterian Church of New York city (Rev. Dr. Marling's), in view of their missionary contributions. During the to \$23.959.17; annual average, \$958.36 for the last year they were \$1,033.70 Yet this school is by no means one of the largest. In case each member of the senior and intermediate classes in volves no loss of what has been given in a tual attendance had made an offering order to obtain it, unless the whole every Sabbath there would have been every point of view this result is remark-

How was so much money gathered? Of course by exciting and maintaining a lively interest by the efforts of the pastor, officers, teachers, parents and other triends, by addresses, letters, &c.; but hiefly by the creed of their Missionary Association carried out by thorough system and persistent energetic endeavor, faith working by leve, "all at it, and always at it." Their esprit du corps is evident from the almost infinitesimal fraction of omissions, and the fact that of 2,357 absentees during the year, 810 sent offerings.

For twenty years this association has ontributed to the support of Martin B. Lewis, one of the missionaries of the American Sunday School Union in Minnesota; and his more than 200 letters and occasional visits have been a large factor in the result. They have had the monthly details and incidents of his work, keeping it and him continually in their hearts. They appropriated to him last year \$500. In reviewing these twenty years of co-operation, in his letter read at their "Silver wedding," he says:

"29.873 scholars have been gathered under 1 850 teachers into 825 scholars under 4.859 teachers, into 825 schools organized where there were none before: 1,129 other schools have been visited have been given where there were none, and \$5,115.99 have been disbursed in and helps to needy schools.' Well does the Congregationalist say of such a school, "The members are ac quiring a most valuable education in the matter of Christian giving at an age when it may easily be made a fixed habit.

A TISSCA INCM TOCICRIA

A subscriber sends us the following from the Victoria Independent, suggesting that it may not be without its lesson school, prayer meetings are well attended, to our Canadian Churches. We think so too, and publish it accordingly. letter tells its own story, and the extracts from the article in the I'. I are pertinent and deserve all attention. Because the office or the pastor is a spiritual one, hurches are sometimes found to think that any sort of arrangement, or none at rall, will suffice for his support. It cannot be too strongly insisted upon, that the relations of a pastor to the church should be settled on business principles, which should be sacredly observed. Pastors themselves should see to this.

" My DEAR FRIENDS .- On Thursday I received your deputation, and from it I MISSIONARY WORK OF AN hear that you wish to know if I will reconsider or withdraw my resignation, provided you will rearrange the general The friends whom Rev. F. H. management of the church with a view to the increase of my income.

My dear friends, I cannot. Please consider the following facts -In 1854 you began to exist as a congregation. came in 1800, and, as was agreed, recented curing four years £300 a year, you being assisted for ten years by the Hense Mission Society of New South Wales, after which period that aid ceased. "Many daughters have done virtuous- | Decause of the circumstances of that |

ment of my accord, offering to accept what you could raise; and during sixteen years I have had the balance after all other expenses were paid. Meanwhile, your own circumstances have greatly improved. You have known by the annual reports read, printed, and delivered to you, how little money came to me. I waited patiently, and you know I have said little about money, save as to the general principles, and that you have shunned all responsibility by promises of a definite sum to me. have been slow to move, lest I should run before sent from a trying post, but! once convinced that I could righteously do so, I felt bound to act, hence my resignation. Now you kindly offer to discharge your duty; but, my dear friends, it is too late, as regards myself. I cannot for any money you can offer remain now. I and my family have suffered such privations that nothing but a stern sense of duty would ever induce one of my children to think of the ministry unless they had other means of exist-ence; and this is the case with most ministers' sons, because of like experi-For years I have suffered the agonies which honest men feel when in debt; and for years since have worked from sixty to seventy hours a week. All this I have afforded; but I cannot afford to have you or any think that I could resign my church (as it were a mere business matter) to extort more money. No ' I resigned as the best means to lead you each to feel and discharge you duty, not to me, but to Christ, the Church, and the world. Now you must raise a certain sum, or the building as a church must be closed, for no true minister will come unless he sees how to live. I see no reason why you, (some of you have made thousands by business) cannot, from the present congregation, raise easily £200 a year and manse free of all charges. Of course there must be a little self-denial, but not so much as you have had example of in me. If men maintain any principle they must pay for it. I feel grieved when I think how much this decision of mine will pain most of you; because I know, whatever you may at times have thought, or said, or neglected, there are very few of you but will feel that you are losing both a friend and a pastor. I thank you, dear friends, for your kind offer, though I cannot accept it. I have not thought to build up an organization, or any ecclesiastical system, but to instil Christian principles which I know will live: yet I would be very sorry to have this church become like that of Laodicea and others that have passed away because unfaithful. I entreat, therefore, if you have not received all truth in vain, to be united as one soul in persistent effort to make, by your hearts, lives, offerings, and efforts, this church a praise.-Yours, as ever,

period, I released you from your agree-

affectionately in Jesus, "Richo, Thos. Hills.

From the Victoria Independent :-

We are convinced that this take what you can get method of doing business is utterly bad, both for minister and people. Churches are but human, and, alas have "a deal of human mature in them. and, while they can find men who will submit to a condition like the one mentioned, are extremely likely to be very unconscientious in their giving, while the minister himself, to say nothing of the harrowing care that must result from having no fixed income, will certainly be continually irritated by knowing or fancy ing that persons are niggardly in their contributions. However small the contributions. However small the stipend may be, let the minister know exactly what he has to get, and then he can at once either lay his plans accord ingly or seek new pastures.

In all this we are quite aware that

should disaster come upon his people, as has not unfrequently been the case inthe changing circumstances so commonin these colonies, loyally and readily suit himself to such change, and sail his ves-sel with reduced canvas till brighter days enable him to spread sail again. And such, we know, I as been done, and done with a Christ-like readiness for sacrifice, over and over again. But then, on the other hand, as congregations grow richer, their tried and faithful ministers should share in their growing prosperity. It is a scandal to Christianity that any man should have to write of the members of his congregation making "thousands by business," while they permit him to give them the hard labor of his brains for a pittance less than he could have earned in the coal mines of the district.

When will our church members learn to be faithful in these things? are numbers in our churches who, wealthy men as they are, give no more to the cause of Christ than they did when they were mere clerks or workmen. The matter of astonishment is that educated men, many of whom could to-morrow double their incomes if they went into secular pursuits, should remain faithful to the ministry. To our minds it is one of the standing proofs of the truth of the Gospel, that its preachersshould, as a rule, be so unselfish. trust the West Maitland Church will at once "bring forth fruit meet for repentance," and that other churches will take warning and see that they amend their own ways.

LITERARY NOTES.

A "General Directory of Missionary Societies," giving a list of all missions and cities," giving a list of all missions and missionaries, mission boards and officers, is a most useful addition to our books of reference and information, giving us an army list of the Christian world in heathen lands, and affording the means of knowing indi-vidually where the members are. The pre-paratory edition before us contains 52 pazes, and is to be followed by a more complete edition. Address of the Editor—Win. E. Blackstone, Oak Park, Cook Co., I'l.

O. Ditson & Co., Boston, New York, and O. Ditson & Co., Roston, New York, and Philadelphia, have issued a new Sabbath School hymn book, "The Be con I jut, which we have run through. A few of the old stand-by pieces are retained, and a more than usual number of pleasing new ones appear. It may safely be commended where "frequent changes of books" are deemed "necessary in a wide-awake school." [While on the subject of Sunday School

[While on the subject of Sunday School music we may be permitted to say that a condensation of the three separate volumes of Gospel Hymns by Moody, Sankey, and Bliss, into one, has been published in Toronto, and should not be passed over by those who are not tired of such hymns as "The Old, Old Story," and yet desire to add to their present stock of children's and of prayer-meeting hymns. In this condensation the repetition of the three separate volumes is avoided, the hymns are numbered consecutively, and the old numbers, for ready reference to the older books, are also retained, so that the new and the old may be used together.] [While on the subject of Sunday School

*I. K. Funk & Co. are still continuing their Standard Series in the new octave form. The second part of "The Diary of a Minister's Wife" is out: they who have read the first part will not need urging to read the second; they who have not will do well to read now the completed story of real life. "Lothar, by the late Lord Beaconstield, is the last reprint of standard works of fiction in this Series which has more than sustained its first reputation. "The Preacher's Cabinet," in two series. by E. B. Thwing, is a choice selection of pithy sayings and extracts, arranged alphabetically according to subjects, for read-betically according to subjects, for read-reference, affording useful suggestions and apt illustrations to the time pressed teacher or preacher. In truth, thus far, we have not seen a useless or inferior book with the mark of I. K. Funk & Co.

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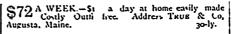
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