

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1878.

THE WEEK.

A FACETIOUS writer of the present day remarks that he finds modern science the most attractive pursuit he can follow, because, he says, one gets such large returns of conjecture for so small an amount of fact. Scientific men have just been glorying over the remarkable discovery of the two little tiny moons of the planet Mars as confirmatory of some older conjecture; when, lo! the announcement is made that one of the newly discovered Moons refuses to move according to the general law which modern science has laid down for such bodies. That is to say, it goes round its primary planet about three times as fast as the primary itself. And this circumstance is at once seen to militate against the nebular hypothesis, to which most astronomers of the present day are understood to be committed, and which they would throw aside with great reluctance; although there are several other facts which give considerable improbability upon the theory. Professor Doolittle has urged that the Satellite has had its orbit shortened by collision with meteoric bodies. But the *Tribune* remarks that "no evidence is brought forward to prove that the meteors of the early ages of the Solar System were so strikingly numerous. If they were, would they not have left their mark in the most ancient strata of our own planet? Possibly, however, this new theory may strengthen an older one that latterly has been lost sight of, which explains the cup-like cavities in the surface of the moon by supposing that they were made by great aërolites falling into our satellite, while yet it was of a pasty consistence!" A pretty large amount of conjecture truly from a rather small modicum of fact!

It is certainly time that the state of things that has recently been going on in Montreal should, if possible, be stopped; and, therefore, it is that satisfaction is universally expressed with the measures introduced into the Dominion Parliament having this object in view. Whether it is the carrying of fire arms or the adoption of party processions which have a manifest tendency to promote a breach of the peace, every law-abiding citizen will rather submit to some infringement of his own personal liberty than to permit the continuance of such a state of things as admits of the slaughter of his fellow-men with a considerable degree of impunity. The practice of carrying deadly weapons appears to be increasing to an alarming extent. It was doubtless borrowed from our neighbors, and if persevered in will unquestionably bring our Dominion to the same state of lawlessness as is to be found in many parts of the Union. The practice is generally useless as a means of protection and defence, while it is easily available for purposes of mischief. A man or a small body of men may be well armed,

as were the Earl of Leitrim and those that were with him; but when ignorant of the quarter from which danger is to be feared, several persons may be shot down, especially in a crowd, without the slightest opportunity of using the weapons with which they may have provided themselves. Party processions on both sides are thoroughly adapted to keep up ill feeling, and conduct it to its worst results; and if they were required to be universally abandoned, no one could complain. Even that most unmeaning and most inappropriate of all processions—the funeral one, might, if found necessary, be required to be laid aside.

Enlistments are still going on for the English army, and every preparation is being made for a struggle on no insignificant scale. The war, however, supposed by some wiseacres a few weeks ago to be absolutely "inevitable," has not yet come, and there are not wanting indications tending to support the conviction that it is further off than ever. At St. Petersburg the public desire for a peaceful solution of the question appears to be increasing. Although the concessions lately made by Russia seem to have been exaggerated, still the fact that Russia asks England to specify in detail her objections to the Stefano treaty, shows some desire for conciliation, at the same time that it indicates an intention of withdrawing as little as possible from the terms of the original treaty. France appears to be lending England considerable support in the matter. Count Schouvaloff was expected to arrive in St. Petersburg at the beginning of the week, the object of his visit being understood to be to report on the progress of the negotiations. He is spoken of as successor to Gortschakoff. Austria has declined the offer of further concessions made by Russia, or at least until the Congress shall meet.

The Turks are expected to raise fresh difficulties about the evacuation of the fortresses, based upon their interpretation of the San Stefano treaty. Another palace revolution is also threatened; and great discontent is manifested on all hands.

The question has been started by Sir William Harcourt, in the British House of Commons, as to whether it is in accordance with the principles of the Constitution for the Government to employ Indian troops for use in a European war should one unfortunately arise. The objection was offered on the ground that the consent of Parliament should first be obtained. Sir Stafford Northcote, however, on the part of the Government, defended their act in preparing to make use of the Indian troops for such a purpose, and contended that it was perfectly constitutional, and viewed it merely as the movement of troops from one part of the same empire to another. He expressed some degree of dissatisfaction that information on the subject had been made public, as

the Government had desired to keep the matter a secret. A former Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal declared that some of the regiments included in the expeditionary force were unfit to cope with Europeans.

It is thought that a change of feeling with regard to the action of the British Government on the Eastern question has taken place among the people. Among the events which are supposed to have led to this idea, is mentioned the recent Parliamentary election at Tamworth, which resulted in a very large majority for the so-called Liberal candidate.

An effort is to be made to construct a cathedral at Truro, the seat of the new diocese of Cornwall, England. The suggestion made proposes to raise a hundred thousand pounds sterling in ten years. It is supposed that there are more than ten church persons in the new diocese both able and willing to give a hundred pounds a year for ten years without feeling an overwhelming amount of inconvenience thereby. And when the large sums given in the North of England for church purposes are taken into consideration the proposal is not considered by any means an impracticable one. It is told of a Manchester merchant that he lives quietly and inexpensively, and yet gives five thousand pounds a year to the poor and in various charities. A noble lord is also spoken of who has given fifty thousand pounds for the restoration of Worcester cathedral. And moreover it is found that liberality can be exercised in Cornwall as well as elsewhere. Wonders have been done by persevering exertions among the sects during the last hundred years; and the most confident hopes are entertained that wonders equally great in connection with the Church, will be accomplished during the hundred years next to come. What will be done in Canada in a proportion to its capabilities during the same period?

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

THE "little while" during which the Lord remained with His flock, between His Resurrection and His Ascension, was one of joy not unmingled with apprehensiveness of sorrow at the prospect of His departure from them, in order that He might go to the Father. His presence was the great element of strength, without which they were weak indeed; and what were they to rely upon in the event of His departure from them? In the comforting assurance of the Gospel, though they should weep and lament and the world should rejoice, yet their sorrow should be turned into joy; and their joy was to be of so permanent a character that no man, no event of time should deprive them of it. The Saviour teaches therefore His perpetual Presence with His Church—that Presence which He verily and indeed vouchsafes whenever His faithful ones assemble together, and especially when they break bread in His Name—a Presence as surely manifested as if their eyes rested upon