

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 1878.

## THE WEEK.

THE outlook for Turkey in Europe is no better than that to be seen in her Asiatic provinces; and the disasters which have befallen her armies during the past month must have a material effect upon the negotiations. We have also received private information of a reliable character which goes to show that, in support of Russia's claim that her sacrifices have been tremendous, it is unquestionable that her losses have been enormous. Besides the myriads that have been slain and disabled in battle, multitudes have perished in the mountains; and of these losses scarcely any definite account has been taken. On the other hand the Turks have lost a most important post, in addition to forty-one battalions with ten batteries of artillery and one regiment of cavalry, which have fallen into the hands of General Radetzky "after desperate fighting." The Russians under Prince Mirsky are now at Kezanlik, south of the Balkans, where some months since they were defeated by Suleiman Pasha. Another Russian force occupies Sofia, so that Adrianople is threatened from both the east and west. In fact the whole country around is now open to the invading army; and nothing seems to prevent them from marching on at least to the neighborhood of Constantinople, unless it be that the Great Quadrilateral from Rutschuk to Varna is still garrisoned by the Turks, and it would not be safe to advance too far, leaving behind a number of garrisoned fortresses in the hands of the enemy. It is also not improbable that the Government in England would entertain a strong suspicion that "British interests" were imperilled by the march of a Russian force towards Constantinople, whether by land or water.

While Europe and America are fixing their chief attention on the possible encroachments of Russia in Europe, other parts of the world regard with apprehension the advances she is making in other directions, and which also are likely more particularly to affect British interests. It is very well-known, as we remarked some time ago, that the Russian outposts in Tartary have already approached within about three hundred miles of the British territory in Cashmire; but strange to say that while the Empire has been convulsed with alarm at the passage of a Russian force through the Balkan Mountains, as though such an event had been a direct menace on India, yet no attempt appears to have been made to arrest her progress through what used to be Independent Tartary—no alliances have been formed with the tribes in that region, no efforts made to continue their independence, and thus form the best barrier that could have been desired against the further advances of Russia in that direction. If Russia has to be fought, it would surely be better to carry on the contest among the

mountains of Turkestan than in the fertile valleys of Cashmire. The Shah of Persia has, however, taken the subject into his sagacious consideration; and although he has not been called upon as yet to throw the weight of his power into the scale of either Russia or Turkey, he nevertheless appears to have taken the alarm at the aggressions of the nation which threatens very soon to make the Caspian Sea one of its inland lakes. It has for many years been a matter of wonder to most people how it has happened that England has made no offensive and defensive alliance with a power that is even more concerned than Great Britain is to keep Russia as far as possible from her frontiers.

In the multitude of the divisions and contentions arising in the church, it is comforting to listen to any voice emanating from a calmer region, unruffled by the discordant elements that are so widely spread. The *Guardian* lately proposed the designation of "the party of the centre" for those who in truth are not party men. A correspondent remarks that at every Church Conference and Congress it appears to be the universal practice to put forward representatives of what with a decided yet not obtrusive compliment are called "the Three Schools of Thought in the Church." The writer contends that there are very many—perhaps the majority of clergymen who are quite content to belong to none of these "Schools of Thought," but to be simply Priests of the Church or "the Party of the Centre." The description of this class is, that repudiating the Calvinistic element, they pay more attention to the external forms of religion than the Evangelicals; they cannot join with the extreme ritualists in virtually repudiating the work of the Reformation, which they regard as the *raison d'etre* of the present position of the Anglican Communion; while they cling to so many of the prominent doctrinal truths of both these parties that they cannot be understood to assimilate to the Broad School. They are practically and properly ignored as a party, for they are a party in the strict sense of the word. But so thoroughly are they at one with the spirit and aims of the Church of England, that its future rests largely with them, inasmuch as they unostentatiously seek to obey all her rubrics and to teach her doctrines, while in cases of a really doubtful or uncertain character, when the Church has not spoken distinctly, they cheerfully and loyally shape their ministrations in accordance with the directions of their respective Bishops.

The opening of the Ontario Legislature was pretty much of the usual character, except that the Speech from the Throne is generally thought to be less suggestive than formerly. The crowd in the galleries, however, was larger than is generally to be found there on such occasions, and the visitors who occupied seats on the floor of the House are spoken of as making "a more than usually

brilliant assemblage." The Speech from the Throne was read by the Lieutenant Governor. It referred to the increased home consumption for lumber; and stated that a spirit of enterprise, sustained by ample supplies of capital, have maintained the revenue derived from that source at the point estimated by the Treasurer in his last financial statement; that the wild lands of the Province are gradually but rapidly being filled with settlers from the older districts, and therefore with those who are best adapted to cope with the difficulties of pioneer life; that the sales of public lands have been equal to the expectations of the Department; and that although the influx of immigrants from abroad has not yet been large, yet, contrary to the case in some other years, it has consisted of persons from the class most needed. The success which has attended the establishment of the new model schools, the increased attention to the laws relating to vital statistics, the operation of measures for the suppression of intemperance, are all adduced to indicate advancement in the moral and social condition of the people. Caution is suggested in the distribution of surplus funds in the hands of the Government, already too lavishly expended in certain favored directions, ostensibly for railway purposes. The necessary proclamation was issued at the close of the year for bringing into force the revised Statutes of Ontario. Among the Bills to be introduced are some to provide for offenders against Provincial and Municipal Laws to be put to hard labor when necessary outside the gaol limits; to place on a more satisfactory footing the relations of landlord and tenant in certain cases; to provide a convenient machinery for winding up joint stock companies which have proved abortive or have completed the purposes of their incorporation; and to regulate the Civil Service of the Province. The Hon. Mr. Hardy, who joined the Cabinet, and was re-elected for South Brant in the recess, was introduced by the Premier and Mr. Williams; and Mr. Masters, who succeeds the late Mr. Fleming as member for South Waterloo, was introduced by the Premier and Mr. Springer. The Attorney General moved the first reading of a Bill regulating the administration of oaths to persons appointed as Justices of the Peace; he also moved the ordinary formal resolutions respecting contested elections, the independence of Parliament, bribery of the electorate and members of the House, the printing of the votes and proceedings, and Standing Committees. The new Provincial Secretary submitted the report of asylums and prisons for the year ending Sept. 30, 1877.

It is sometimes the surest way to promote peace by making ourselves perfectly prepared for war, and showing that state of things to the world. In this view the preparations made by England may have that tendency. The latest news from Europe, however, has a

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