

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 1879.

AGENTS.

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THE WEEK.

A TERRIBLE storm of wind and rain passed over Northern Kansas and Southern Nebraska on Friday evening. It was the most violent between Blue Rapids and Centennial stations on the Branch railroad. The storm moved in a direction a little north of east and passed into Nebraska through Richardson county. The town of Irving, ninety miles west of this place, was nearly destroyed. At this point the storm took the character of a cyclone and levelled everything in its path. Hundreds of people were killed and wounded. A furrow was torn in the ground a hundred yards wide and ten miles long.

From Zululand we learn that Col. Wood has broken up his camp at Kambula and formed a new one at Queen's Kraal, on the White Umvelosi river, in order to co-operate better with Col. Newdegate. Col. Crealock is seriously ill with typhoid fever. Probably Lord Chelmsford will ask for leave of absence and return home when Gen. Wolseley arrives. The Zulus are the Celestials of South Africa, the word "Zulu" signifying heaven. Their reputation as a warlike race dates from Chaka, who became early inflamed with the ambition of rivalling Napoleon Bonaparte. While quite a youth he fell in with some English sailors, who had been cast ashore in St. Lucia Bay, and from them he heard of the victorious career of the great Corsican. He vowed that he would be a conqueror, and at once set to work to fulfil his vow. When, in 1825, he heard for the first time of the overthrow of the French Empire at Waterloo, he complacently remarked:—"Yes, I see now, there are only two great chiefs in all the earth. My brother, King George, he is king of all the whites, and I, Chaka, I am king of all the blacks."

Major Cavagnari will accompany the Ahmeer to Cabul escorted by a detachment of guides. Cabul is tranquil.

The learned and daring Swede, Nordenskjold has immortalized himself as a successful arctic explorer. After several attempts to reach the North Pole his latest expedition has been to seek a passage to the Pacific Ocean through Behring Straits. His vessel, the Vega, sailed on the 4th of July, 1878, and on the 3rd of May, 1879, she was reported in the Straits out of danger, all on board well, and about starting for home by way of the Suez Canal. Late in December, when within a few days of the end of his perilous voyage, he was blocked in the ice near Kellett Land, an island off the north-east coast of Siberia, where he and his company had to pass the winter.

Buddhism, after an existence of about 2,500

years, is still as full of vitality as ever. One of its sects, the Shinto, in Japan, has recently finished a college at Kisto, in which six hundred students will be trained for proselyting purposes, some being prepared for missions to Europe and America. The same sect has recently established a mission in China.

Among the colored people in the Southern States the devil-worship has been revived. They had been left to their own teachers and it was recently discovered that they were about to sacrifice a child to their sable divinity.

An address has been presented to General Grant in Penang, by a delegation of Chinese merchants. They expressed a hope that he would endeavor to have the bill prohibiting Chinese immigration abrogated—evidently supposing it had become law. He replied that a good deal of the antipathy towards other races in the United States was demagoguery, and did not represent the better feeling of the country; that there was a strong objection to the Chinese coming to the United States in a state of slavery; but that the great body of their people had nothing but the kindest feelings towards the Chinese, and would extend to them, if they chose to come, the warmest welcome.

An intimate friend of the Czar, Count Koskiell, has been assassinated. The circumstances attending the murder are mysterious. Some suppose that the count was slain by order of the Secret Nihilist Committee, as he is known to have advised the Emperor to treat the revolutionists severely. Others suppose that the murder was the result of personal enmity against the count, entertained by the lover of a lady whom he had wronged.

The war between Peru, Chili and Bolivia is still going on. An engagement has occurred between the Chilian ironclad Blanca Escalada, and the gunboat Chacabuc and the Peruvian forts of Phagna. The town is reported as almost demolished. It is thought that should the issue of the sea fight be unfavorable to the Peruvians, the Bolivians will side with the victor and go in for a division of territory.

A heavy shock of earthquake was felt at St. George's, Bermuda, on Sunday, doing some little damage.

The new Prince of Bulgaria has arrived in Paris. He left Livadia, where he had been to visit the Czar, on the 16th of May, and went to Odessa, thence to Vienna and Berlin. From Paris he will go to London and Darmstadt.

A splendid eruption of Mount Etna is now going on. A considerable portion of the bed of the Alcantara River is covered with lava. The damage to agriculture is serious, and the inhabitants of the village of Majo have been forced to leave. The stream of lava is half a mile wide and a hundred feet deep.

TRINITY SUNDAY.

THE observance of this important festival in honor of the Blessed Trinity as especially happening on the Octave of Pentecost dates from a very early age of the Church. It is remarkable

that in the ancient English and in the ancient German office books, all the subsequent Lord's days until Advent are named after Trinity; whereas those of the Roman type name them after Pentecost. And it is therefore believed that this distinctive mark is an indication of the independent origin of the Church of England, similar to some other peculiarities noticed by St. Augustin the Monk, and which were attributed by the ancient British bishops to some connection with St. John. In this case it is significant that it was St. John through whom the doctrine of the Holy Trinity was most clearly revealed, and also that the early Church in England appears not to have been troubled with the heresies on this subject which disturbed other parts of Christendom.

At the end of the cycle of days which the principal events of the history of our blessed Lord on earth are commemorated, it may be well to pause and inquire how far a correct estimate is formed in reference to the nature of the Gospel He proclaimed and set forth. What is the Gospel? Now, such is the defective teaching of the present day on this subject that probably most people would answer that it is the good news of the death of our Blessed Lord as an atoning sacrifice for sin. But if we consult our Church on the subject, we shall find that all our authorised formularies are constructed on the principle that the Gospel of Christ is rather *the good news that tells us of the fruit of the death of Christ as enabling us to live the life which He lived.* And therefore we find that our Church dwells more fully and more frequently upon the life of Christ than upon his death; and that most of the services she has provided for us are drawn up so as to exemplify this principle. The ordinary and so-called "evangelical" notion on the subject is altogether elementary, confines us to the rudiments of Christianity, and prevents the Christian from going on to the fulness of the blessings of the Gospel of Christ, or as St. Paul calls it, from going on to perfection.

The beginning of Christ's acts was associated with a revelation of the Three persons of the Trinity, and His last command to His Apostles was a commission to disciple all nations by baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. The perfect revelation of the Three in One may also be considered to have been made on the day of Pentecost, when, to the work expressed by our Lord in the words, "My Father worketh hitherto and I work," was added that further operation of the Holy Ghost which was previously unknown even to holy men, but has ever since been familiar to all. On Whitsunday, therefore, we see the crowning point of redemption; and the Feast of Trinity, on the Octave of Pentecost, commemorates the consummation of God's saving work, and the perfect revelation to the Church of the Three Persons in One God, as the sole object of adoration. The love of each Person had been commemorated in the separate festivals which memorialize before God and man, the Incarnation, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of our Lord, and the sending forth by the Father and the Son of the Blessed Spirit on Whitsunday. In the festival of Trinity all these solemn subjects of belief are gathered into one act of worship, as the Church Militant, through the door that is opened in heaven, and bows in adoration with the Triumphant Church, saying, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Which was, and is, and is to come."

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