

Dominion Churchman.

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1881.

THROUGH the liberality of the Earl of Sheffield, the ancient parish church of Gletching, Sussex, has been restored at a cost of £6,000 stg., and has been reopened by the Bishop of Chichester.

A new church has been consecrated at Tipton by the Bishop of Lichfield. It cost £5,000 stg. The Earl of Dudley and Mr. W. Roberts, an ironmaster, have erected the tower at their joint expense.

Dean Butcher, of Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, China, has taken charge of the Church of All Saints, Cairo. Before leaving the place, where he had laboured for sixteen years, a numerous signed address was presented to him.

Mrs. Dale has written a dutiful and pathetic letter to the Queen in reference to her husband's cruel imprisonment. Her Majesty did not return an autograph reply, but directed one to be sent to her expressing her intention not to interfere!

The annual meeting of the London Gregorian Choral Association has been held, Earl Beauchamp in presiding, remarked that, although after a thirty years' struggle plain song had so assured a position in the Church, yet at that period it was made the occasion of a greater outburst of bigotry than even the ritual about which so much controversy is raging just now. He said that thirty years hence there will be a similar wonder and surprise that, in the year 1880, clergymen should be sent to prison for obeying what seems to be the plain sense of the Rubric in the Book of Common Prayer.

On Saturday the 11th ultimo, Arthur Sullivan's "Martyr of Antioch" was for the first time presented to a London audience, at the afternoon concert at the Crystal Palace. The composer conducted, and the principal parts were ably sustained by Mrs. Osgood, Mrs. Patey, Mr. Edward Lloyd, and Mr. F. King. The work fully sustained the reputation it so deservedly won at its performance in Leeds, although the Crystal Palace choir can in no way vie with the magnificent body of voices collected in the north country centre of music.

The cantata "Nicodeamus," composed by Dr. F. Gladstone, organist of Norwich Cathedral, was produced for the first time at the Highbury Athenæum, under the direction of Dr. Bridge. The libretto, from the pen of the Rev. George W. Barrett, Precentor of Norwich, is divided into three portions entitled, The Timidity of Love; The Boldness of Love; and the Faithfulness of Love. The music is thoroughly satisfactory, and uniformly well written. Miss Thornthwaite, an amateur, took the chief soprano, at short notice, in the place of Miss Anne Marriot, who was kept at home by illness. Mr. Kennington was principal tenor.

A meeting in aid of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, recently held in Northampton was attended by an unprecedented number of people. Mr. Spencer, M.P., presided, and addresses were delivered by Sir Richard Temple, Earl Nelson, and others.

The Archbishop of Canterbury presided recently at a meeting of the clergy of the rural deanery of Westbere, at which he stated that Convocation would meet in February, when they would have an opportunity of considering any definite proposals that may be made for any important changes that may be desired in the existing constitution of the Church. He said he understood that the present Court of Appeal was adopted only within the last ten years, in deference to what were then supposed to be the wishes of the leaders of what is called the High Church party.

It is believed that the British Government have resolved to bring in a bill immediately on the opening of Parliament, to obtain extraordinary powers for the maintenance of law and order in Ireland. The London Times correspondent says, The country is hurrying on, not by measured steps, but by strides and bounds, towards revolution. It is hardly correct to say that a state of anarchy prevails, for there is a very distinct and potent government which is rapidly superseding the Imperial Government and gaining the ascendancy.

The question is sometimes asked, "What is the use of Cathedrals?" In this country, another question would be still more pertinent, "What is a Cathedral?" In Canada, we sometimes have the name of such a luxury, with its mock dean and its sham canons, who appear to have been honoured with that name, because they happen to be the only priests in the diocese who have never done either good or harm. In answer to the question "What is the use of Cathedrals," as they really exist in the mother country? the Guardian says "Let one day's work at Peterborough be offered as a contribution towards a reply. On Sunday last, (December 12th) there was an early celebration of the Holy Communion, at which there were upwards of eighty communicants. At eleven o'clock was full choral morning service and litany, the regular cathedral choir being augmented by the members of the voluntary choir, so that the surpliced body, including clergy and non-choral members of the cathedral, numbered upwards of a hundred and thirty. This service was held in the nave, and an enormous congregation assembled to hear the Bishop preach for the Agricultural Benevolent Fund. The mayor and corporation were present, as well as the mayors of two other neighbouring towns with some members of their councils. The collections amounted to £91 stg. In the afternoon there was full choral Evensong, some of Spohr's "Last Judgment" being sung for an anthem, in the presence of a large congregation. And in the evening, a special Advent service was held in the nave—probably 2,000, at least, being present—when a sermon was preached by the Rev. T. J. Rowsell, and a second collection made for the funds of the society whose claims were advocated in the morning.

Evesham, with a population of about five thousand, and with less than a thousand voters, is the only constituency in England in which more than one election has been declared void during the present parliament on account of the prevalence of corrupt practices.

Mr. Ground, late minister of the York Street Congregational place, Dublin, to whose case we alluded in a recent issue, has been ordained by the Bishop of Durham. He appears to have become dissatisfied with the pretended orders of the Congregational body.

The situation in Basutoland is not much changed. Considerable reinforcements have entered. Several occurred in Griqualand East and Tembuland, in which the colonial forces have been uniformly successful. Several hundred rebels killed. No extension of the area of rebellion is announced.

The British Parliament was opened by Commission on the 6th inst. The Queen's Speech alludes to the alarming increase of crime in Ireland, and the frustration of the administration of justice. It refers to some remedial measures to be proposed, and also to the establishment of "a co-government in Ireland, founded upon representative principles." It also refers to additional powers which will be asked for, in order to secure personal protection and "vindicate order and public law."

The National Gallery has just acquired the large Leonardo da Vinci, known as "La Vierge aux Rochers," which was lent by the late possessor, the Earl of Suffolk to the Royal Academy in 1870. It is considered superior to another version of the same picture which is in the long gallery of the Louvre, and which belonged to Francis I. In 1796, Mr. Gavin Hamilton bought it out of the Capella della Concezione, in the Church of St. Francesco at Milan for thirty ducats (about seventy dollars) and some time afterwards sold it to the Earl of Suffolk. The nation has now paid for it £9,000 stg.—a price which is considered to be much below the value of this important work.

It is not unworthy of notice that in the antipodes men are passing direct to Romanism without even going through the Church of England at all! Last week we adverted to the reception into the communion of the Vatican of Dr. Duff, his wife, and family, all Presbyterians of the Presbyterians by birth and bringing up, and now we find that at Dunedin—the inhabitants of which are so "anti-Ritualistic" that they at once got rid of Dr. Jenner on his arrival as Bishop of that diocese—no less than five Methodist ministers have gone over to Rome, of whom one has already been ordained a priest, while the other four have been accepted as candidates for Holy Orders. As the Church of England has not in any of these cases been made the thoroughfare to Romanism, the extreme Protestant papers, and especially the Methodist organs, are, of course, silent on the subject. We make them a present of the information.

An anonymous Bishop, whose letter the London Times publishes in editorial type, writes to that journal decrying the Public Worship Regulation.