

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26 1880.

THE BLUE LINE.

THOSE who see a blue line under the address label of their paper, will understand that it means *their subscription has not been paid*; and it also means that we would thank them to forward their arrears with the present year's subscription at once.

THE Bishop of Ely has been engaged in conducting a mission in Cambridge. It extended over thirteen districts and occupied more than a week.

The Prince of Wales is expected to lay the foundation stone of Truro Cathedral in April next.

The total number of Clergy in Ireland is 1679. There are 12 Archbishops and Bishops; 1261 deans, archdeacons, and incumbents; 363 curates, and 48 other officials.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has conferred a Degree in Medicine on Mr. James Rogers, of Swansea, who was Mayor during the late Church Congress.

Forty-seven faculties were granted for the restoration and improvement of Churches in the Diocese of Chester, in 1879. The sum expended on them amounted to £50,000 stg.

The proposed bill for demolishing five of the Exeter Churches has been abandoned for the present by the Town Council, owing to the refusal of the Dean and Chapter, who as patrons of the living, refuse to consent to the project.

The *Scottish Guardian* states that "some feeling has been caused in Dissenting circles at Cardiff by the fact that portions of the Church Liturgy have been introduced into the service of Great Frederic Street Calvinist-Methodist Chapel, and so great is the discussion that has been caused that the minister feels called upon to publicly defend the course he has taken by announcing a public lecture on the subject.

Cardinal Manning denies the report that he has been in conflict with the Jesuits. He says that the Romanist Bishops in England have only demanded from the Pope a definite rule for their guidance in their relations to those members of religious bodies who are employed in the cure of souls. In this matter therefore the Jesuits are very indirectly affected.

Among the new acquisitions to the British Museum are 1,200 fragments of inscribed terra-cotta tablet from the excavations in Babylonia; some of them being very fine. They include a tablet of Tamsu-Irba, a Babylonian monarch hitherto unknown, who probably lived near Bards, and was one of the intermediate rulers between Cambyzes and Darius, B. C. 518. Another fragment has also a representation of one of the gates of Babylon.

The University of Oxford is preparing to organize a mission for India. Calcutta, the "brain" of India, will be the first object of attention. In this city 1,100 students crowd the lecture rooms of our largest native University. There is one Government school, the smallest of its kind, conducted by the Church Missionary Society; but in these schools evangelization is practically impossible. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has not at present a single European clergyman in the city, and only one native. The Church Missionary Society has eight clergy in all; but not one of them is able to devote himself primarily to direct missionary work.

The Bishop of Oxford has issued a circular to his clergy in reference to the Centenary of Sunday Schools established in England. He purposes to hold a service in his Cathedral, on Thursday, the 1st of July, to be followed by a meeting of clergy and teachers. A number of other places are also mentioned as suitable for holding similar services at about the same time. His Lordship hopes that the effect of this will be to send all back with renewed energy and interest to work for the little ones of Christ's flock.

The Anniversary of the Feast of St. Paul's conversion was celebrated by a special service under the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral. Dr. Stainer was the conductor. The choir numbered 250 men's voices with 75 voices of boys; the orchestra contained fifty players with Mr. Amo as leader, and including professors like Mr. G. Horton, Mr. Lazarus, Mr. T. Harper at the head of their various departments. Selections from Mendelssohn's St. Paul were very effectively rendered.

On the question of a Reform of Convocation, the Bishop of Carlisle, in a pastoral letter, deprecates the fusion of the two Convocations, believing that the character of the populations is more distinct now than two centuries ago. He thinks nothing should interfere with the right of the Metropolitans to call together their clergy as such, and as distinct from any other body or class. He says:—If a lay element were introduced into Convocation, it would cease to be Convocation, and would become something else; and the existence of this something else ought not to destroy—though practically it would tend to destroy—the right of the clergy to meet as clergy, and to discuss those subjects which they think fit to discuss. He says that his own strongest feeling in regard to the two Convocations is not so much with regard to the reformation of their representative character, or to the addition of lay wisdom, as with regard to bringing about some change in virtue of which it may be possible to give real force to the conclusions to which they come. He thinks that if there existed a constitutional machinery whereby the regulations passed by them would be made binding on the Church, the Convocations would rise to the occasion, and, under the sense of responsibility, would prove themselves equal to their work.

A service with selections from Bach's Christmas Oratorio was held at Westminster Abbey on Thursday evening, the 15th. A special choir of fifty boys and nearly seventy men being gathered. The band,

partly professional, consisted of forty members, Dr. Stone playing the oboe de caccia, and Mr. Horton the parts for the oboe d'amore, as originally written by Bach. It is probable that thus, for the first time in modern days, Bach's music in an English Church was accompanied by Bach's instruments. Dr. Stainer, of St. Paul's, presided at the organ, and Dr. Bridge, of Westminster Abbey, conducted. The prayers were intoned by the Precentor; the Dean read a portion of Isaiah 60th chapter as a lesson, and pronounced the Benediction. Canons Duckworth and Farrar were present. The Prince of Wales and the Princess Louise attended the service and expressed themselves much gratified at so successful a rendition of Bach's grand music.

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT.

THE sympathy of human nature with evil is a fact no less appalling than true. The fact is prominently brought out in the Church's teaching for this Sunday and is also an appropriate subject for the contemplation of the Christian during the season of Lent. This sympathy with evil is expressed by the Church in another way, when she says that "man is very far gone from original righteousness, and is of his own nature inclined to evil, so that the flesh lusteth contrary to the spirit, and therefore from every person born into the world, it deserveth God's wrath and damnation." And it is strange, passing strange, to see in how many thousand ways this sympathy with evil shows itself in man. But, alas! man thinks but lightly of sin, which is the cause of all evil, temporal and spiritual. In his exceeding sinfulness he thinks not of the enormity of his sin; and he only calls those actions sins which are palpable violations of his duty between man and man. Many transgressions are acknowledged as sins, such as murder, theft, and drunkenness: but with regard to the affections—the disbelief of the Divine testimony, the forgetfulness of God, the withdrawing of the desire of the heart from Him Who is the Fountain of living waters, to the vain and transitory concerns of time—these he deems as very pardonable, and scarcely transgressions at all. Man is very apt to forget that the first duty he owes is to the God that made him. If God has commanded us to be holy, then unholiness is a sin; if He has commanded us to believe, then unbelief is a sin; if He has commanded us to love Him with all the heart, the soul, and the strength, then to love the world or self more than God is a sin. And sin when completed brings death.

NEGLECT OF INFANT BAPTISM.

THE neglect of Infant Baptism in this country is quite alarming. One cause of this may be the attention required to be paid to the registration of the birth by the secular authorities; and some of our people who are but slenderly instructed in Church principles—and there are many of these—imagine that the registration having been attended to, baptism is so much the less necessary. Another cause for this is the neglect paid to Christ's own institutions by the "denominations" generally, evidently showing that it is not Christ's teaching they care to listen to, but their own self-willed conceits. And yet these men who pay so little regard to the injunctions of Christ Himself, and who