

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 13, 1877.

THE WEEK.

IT is proposed to establish a new Missionary College at Burgh, in the Diocese of Lincoln. A circular, explanatory of the project, says: "The need of such a training school for Missionaries having been enquired into, the answer was that St. Augustine's College requires a searching preliminary examination; that Warminster College, which is doing so great a work in preparing candidates for St. Augustine's, is full, and likely to continue so; that if it were not so, the great distance of Warminster from our eastern counties will always be a drawback to sending poor students to study there. It was also said that many valuable missionaries who have completed their course at St. Augustine's College, are Lincolnshire men, and that many have offered themselves as the result of the days of Intercession for Missions, whose friends have not been able to afford them the necessary training which would enable them to pass the Matriculation Examination of St. Augustine's; whilst individual clergymen are endeavouring to meet this need in their own parishes. It was thought, therefore, that if the means of giving a thorough elementary training be at hand, many will gladly embrace such an opportunity." A rumour having been put in circulation to the effect that an infraction of the wholesome and sensible rule which only acknowledges one Theological College in any diocese was being contemplated, Canon Bullock writes promptly to correct such a misapprehension. "The Chancellor's school of Theology at Lincoln is the Theological College for the Diocese. . . . For obvious reasons it is most important that there should be no confusion between our efforts at Burgh and the very successful College at Lincoln."

That in the Church of England there are no *ex cathedra* utterances from which it is heresy to differ is a fact of which we have everyday proof in the extreme freedom with which judicial decisions, Episcopal utterances, and the rulings of the Convocations themselves are criticized, condemned, and ignored. That liberty, abused though it often may be, no one wishes to curtail, but still it might be exercised with decency and charity. We may disagree *in toto* with the decisions of the Privy Council in the Ridsdale case, but we need not affirm them to be "only intelligible on the hypothesis that, judgment having been first decided on, reasons in support were laboriously elaborated afterwards." Such language addressed to him by some parishioners of Hammersmith has drawn upon them a not unmerited rebuke from the Bishop of London. "Never, probably, (he says), has a tribunal sat so strong and unimpeachable in the number, ability, and integrity of the Judges and assessors assembled as that

which pronounced the decision in question.

We are not accustomed, thank God, to impeach the integrity of our Judges in temporal suits, even when their decisions may seriously affect our own interests; rather, we pride ourselves—and with reason—on the unsullied purity of the judicial ermine. May we not, therefore, be led to suspect, when we find ourselves impeaching both their ability and their honesty in dealing with causes ecclesiastical, that our strong feelings and pre-possessions may have somewhat warped our own judgment, and perhaps impaired our charity?" The Bishop, apart from condemning the uncharitable and unworthy assumption alluded to above, has his own reasons for differing from the conclusion at which the Hammersmith congregation arrived. He says: "In the face of such a verdict passed by you on the honesty and impartiality of the highest authorities of the Judicial and Episcopal Benches, it would be idle for me to say that having been obliged some years back to examine the question of the legal meaning of the 'Ornaments Rubric,' I was led to the conclusion that no hypothesis would explain and reconcile the acknowledged facts of this very difficult case, but that which is formulated in the decision which you have allowed yourselves to treat with such contempt. Nor would it avail, I suppose, to point out that a similar interpretation of the rubric and on the same grounds, has been given by learned men, at times when no controversy existed on the subject, and when the question was examined as little more than one of legal curiosity. An instance may be found in a Charge of the very able Archdeacon Sharp, delivered in 1735."

In political and civil affairs the ventilation of a subject by newspaper correspondence, great as is the ignorance, mendacity and uncharitableness displayed by anonymous writers, usually results in some good. In ecclesiastical matters that much can hardly be said; for when a dispute or controversy arises, especially concerning the Church of England, everyone thinks himself bound to put his oar into our water. Nominal Churchmen, dissenters, rationalists—every Tom, Dick, and Harry rushes to add his little pot of oil to the flames, or to give, under the safe cover of a *nom de plume*, advice which almost invariably rests upon as slender a basis of sense as of charity. Romanists have in this respect more wisdom, as well as more power, than ourselves. That there are differences in that Church, though outwardly the cracks are smoothed over *ad unguem*, is well known, but the ventilation of them is never permitted in the newspapers. The outside world knew that Dr. Conroy arrived in Canada on a special mission, and that he was received with the honours due to a prelate high in the esteem and deep in the confidence of His Holiness; but the precise reason for his mission and the steps which he has felt bound or authorized to take, can only be

guessed at. It may, of course, be accidental that, after he had been a sufficient time in Canada to have mastered the ecclesiastical and political situation, a rumour should have become current of the resignations of the Archbishops of Toronto and Quebec, but the coincidence is, at least, suspicious, and outsiders may be excused for surmising, and also for fearing, that it indicates a triumph of the extreme Ultramontane faction and a rebuff to the Gallican or more liberal-minded section of that denomination. The tenets and practices of Bishop Bourget and his followers must necessarily cause, sooner or later, political trouble in Canada. In no other respect are we much interested in the jealousies and squabbles of the various parties in the Church of Rome.

In the "manufacture of atrocities" the Turkish Government has shown a clumsy over-anxiety. Seeing the success attending the running of the "Bulgrocity" stalking horse in England last autumn, it is not unnatural that the Porte should have considered the *tu quoque* a permissible and valuable argument for its purposes. That lying and invention should have been resorted to is merely an evidence of the national proclivity towards untruthfulness; for unfortunately a strict adherence to truth and a bald narration of proved facts would have laid before the world occurrences at which humanity shudders. In the last twenty years Europe has had plentiful experience of war, but it has been of war carried on by and between civilized nations, who politely and scientifically kill each other under conventional regulations. But a column or two—and there are scores of them—of English correspondence from the East puts us back at once to the ages when war meant the suspension of all rules of justice and humanity, and the invasion of a country involved the massacre of the men and the appropriation—with all the term involves—of the women by the conquerors. Can anything, we ask, be more fearful than what has been going on lately near Eski Zagra and Kasanlik? In that lovely valley, the centre of the manufacture of the attar of roses, when the Russians advanced through the Balkans, the Bulgarians, with the connivance, and in many cases at the instigation of the invaders, rose against the Mussulmans, who were subjected to every possible cruelty and ill-treatment. Suleiman Pasha's advance compelled Gen. Gourko hastily to evacuate all the villages he had occupied; and then the Mussulmans had their innings. Of the indescribable horrors on which during the past month in those districts the sun by day and the moon by night have looked down, we refrain from attempting to give any account. There is unfortunately indisputable evidence in hospitals full of wounded women and children that inhuman barbarities have been committed by both sides. Still a great preponderance of the horrors undoubtedly

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