

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1878.

AGENTS.

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THE WEEK.

WE are glad to learn that C. J. Brydges, Esq., is expected shortly to take charge of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The resignation of the Bishop of Durham is reported. The Right Rev. Charles Baring was the eighty-first bishop of the diocese, which was created A. D. 635, and is now of the fixed annual value of £8,000 stg. Formerly the income was seventy or eighty thousand pounds sterling—according to circumstances which were influenced by leases and rents.

The floods in New England during the week have done a great amount of damage. The injury at Brattleboro is more than \$30,000. The Connecticut river at Hartford was twenty-three feet above low water mark. The iron railway bridge was carried away. The Rumford and Buckfield railroad has six wash-outs, and travel will not be resumed for a week. In Pennsylvania a number of mines are deluged, causing a suspension of work. The Susquehanna at Harrisburg was twenty feet above low water mark. All the islands near the city were submerged. The Lehigh Valley railway was submerged, and all travel suspended. The water of the Merrimac reached a point as high as during the freshet of 1869. Bridges and railways in Massachusetts are washed away to a great extent, at a loss of millions of dollars. Families have been driven from their homes and some lives have been lost.

The result of the debate in the British House of Commons on the Afghan war showed a majority in favor of the Government of a hundred and one—nineteen less than expected.

The last Fenian convict in England has been released, and at the present time there is not one political prisoner in the United Kingdom.

Another large failure is reported at Dundee, Scotland. Mr. James Ramsay, merchant, has succumbed to the pressure of the times, with liabilities to the amount of fifty thousand pounds sterling.

The nomination of three candidates, one of whom may be selected by the Pope to succeed the late Cardinal Cullen as Archbishop of Dublin, has been made in the Roman Catholic Cathedral. The voting was confined to members of the cathedral chapter and parish priests of the diocese. The following was the result:—The Right Rev. Dr. McCabe, Coadjutor Bishop of the late Cardinal, *Dignissimus* (43 votes); the Most Rev. Dr. Moran, Bishop of Ossory, nephew of the late Cardinal, *Dignior* (7 votes); the Right Rev. Monsignor

Woodlock, Rector of the R. Catholic University, *Dignus* (1 vote). It is generally believed that Dr. McCabe will be appointed by the Pope.

Snow to the depth of one foot has fallen in Chicago. The snow storm in Kansas City, Mo., is the heaviest ever known in that part of the country. At Fulton and Rock Island the Mississippi River is frozen over, and people walk over on the ice. In Iowa and Missouri the snow is from ten to thirty inches in depth.

The Mayor of Halifax has received four hundred dollars from the Marquis of Lorne, to be distributed in charities.

It appears to be generally felt in Europe that the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin is necessary to the continuance of peace throughout the continent. The French Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Waddington, in his recent speech in the Senate, spoke hopefully of the prospects of peace. He stated that France would take the initiative in the ratification of the Greek frontier, and also declared that he had positive assurance of the co-operation of all the powers.

The trial of the Glasgow Bank directors will begin on the 20th of January. It is shown that the capital and reserve funds of the West of England and South Wales Bank have been lost, and that there is a further deficiency of over a million five hundred thousand pounds sterling, for which the shareholders are liable.

In the Western part of Nebraska Governor Garber has been called on for aid to establish order. In reply he states that he is absolutely helpless, that in order to pursue criminals, men must be hired, and he has not a cent at his disposal for such a purpose. Nor have the Sheriffs of the disturbed counties any funds. The consequence is that the desperadoes kill and burn alive at their pleasure. In one locality nine murders occurred in a single week. One Richards, who is said to have murdered five persons in Kearney County, has been captured by the enraged people, and it is expected that he will be lynched. So much for the blessings of mob rule under the benign shadow of Republicanism!

It is said that an Afghan official has visited General Brown's camp in Jellalabad for the purpose of inviting the British to advance to Cabul and establish a new Government on a general rising against the Ameer. It is also stated that the Ameer has sent a high dignitary to Major Cavnari, at Dacca, begging the British to grant peace on any terms. Both these reports, however, appear to require confirmation.

There appears to be much sickness among the British troops at the front, chiefly from pneumonia. One regiment lost fifteen men in four days, and another has eighty sick.

Reports from Cabul mention eight regiments of Afghan infantry as having shown a disinclination to fight. Many of the nations near the important passes in the South appear friendly to the British. Officials and high personages of the city of Jellalabad have arrived at Dacca, offering submission and assistance to the British troops.

A conspiracy has been discovered in Constanti-

nople, the object of which was to depose the Sultan. It appears to have been set on foot by Pasha Mahmoud Damad and others who had been ordered to leave the city.

The Russians intend to leave fifty thousand troops in Bulgaria at present, and concentrate all their other troops at Adrianople until the definitive treaty is concluded. The British Ambassador at Constantinople, Layard, denies that he is negotiating another treaty with Turkey.

Great sympathy will be expressed by the Church generally with the Archbishop of Canterbury in the affliction with which he is now visited by the loss of his wife. Her only son the Rev. Crauford Tait, died but a few months ago at the age of twenty nine. The devoted mother nursed him with the most tender care through the spring, and has never recovered from the shock of the bereavement, she sunk somewhat suddenly while on a visit with her husband to a relation in Edinburgh. She will be much missed in the Church generally. Her ready sympathy, and indefatigable activity endeared her to her many friends and neighbors, as well as to others in different parts of the kingdom. Public institutions also shared her fostering care.

The marriage of the Princess Thyra and the Duke of Cumberland has been deferred on account of the death of the Princess Alice.

The St. Petersburg journals declare all accounts respecting the speech reported to have been made by General Kaufman, in presenting the Afghan Envoy with a sword of honor for Shere Ali, to be fabrications.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

AS we approach the anniversary of the nativity of the Messiah in the flesh, the character of his immediate forerunner becomes increasingly interesting and impressive. "Make straight the way of the Lord" was the language of the more ancient prophet, but now the words are claimed as the exclusive tones of him who came in the spirit and power of the most remarkable of the Jewish seers. And it becomes to ourselves a more important subject of consideration when we bear in mind that those ministers and stewards of Christ's mysteries, who are preparing the way for the second coming of Immanuel, are called upon to imitate the zeal and ardor, as well as the fearless independence of him whom our Saviour describes as the greatest of those who had been born of women before His own coming. The Baptist had no scruple whatever in bidding all classes in the country in which he lived to repent. It mattered not that their good will might have been of great service to him in a worldly point of view, nor that their opposition might be fatal not only to his temporal prosperity, but even to life itself. Nor did he change his course when he discovered that they were offended at being asked to imagine that they had anything to repent of. He still warned them of the wrath to come. He knew nothing of the false charity of the present day, which would have led him to tell the people they were all right when he knew they were all wrong. Feeling the force of his heavenly commission, we could not imagine the possibility of his being hired by a congregation to tell them just

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