Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18th, 1879.

THE position of missionaries in Zululand is precisely the same as formerly, except that instead of having to deal with one arbitrary monarch, they have now to deal with a number of independent chiefs.

Our neighbors claim that the newspapers published in the United States are equal in number to those published in all the rest of the world. This is bad, if Dean Stanley's opinion of the papers is correct.

The Bishop of Saskatchewan is proceeding with his new training college at Prince Albert. He raised a Diocesan endowment, in England, of more than fifty thousand dollars.

The French Minister of Public Worship calls attention to the fact that many priests omit the prayer for the Republic in their public services.

The revisers of the so-called Authorized Version of the New Testament are now engaged on a second revision of the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Fourteen years ago the Ladies' Association of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel raised £100 per annum; they now raise £5,000 stg. per annum.

Among the Maories of New Zealand the Church Missionary Society has twenty-seven native priests and 220 teachers, with 10,815 members, embracing one-third of the entire population.

A very successful mission has just been held in the parish of Tividale, in the "Black Country." One of the services was held down a coal pit.

Fifty tons of dressed poultry were shipped at Prescott, Ont., on Monday for the Boston and New York markets.

Information has recently been received from South Africa to the effect that affairs in the Transvaal are still in a disturbed state, and that armed resistance is expected from the Boers.

It is expected that South Australia has 875,000 tons of wheat for exportation. Plenty of rain has fallen throughout the outlying pastoral country.

An attempt is now being made to convey frozen meat from Sydney to London.

The Countess of Montijo, mother of the ex-Empress Eugenie, died at Madrid on the 22nd ult, aged eighty six.

St. John's Church, Johnstone, seating 400 (free), was consecrated by the Bishop of Glasgow on the 22nd ult.

Last year the accommodation provided for the poor in elementary day-schools in England, was 3,942,000, out of which the Church provided for 2,252,000.

Major Pinto, the celebrated African traveller, is recovering from severe illness.

It is proposed to spend a quarter of a million of francs in masonry work on the exterior of the cathedral at Basle, as a first step towards the complete restoration of that edifice.

The watch given by Oliver Cromwell to his nurse, on his death-bed, is preserved at Farnley Hall.

The Bishop of Carlisle, on the 22nd ult.. consecrated four new churches, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke and St. John, at Barrow-in-Furness, at a cost of £24,000 stg, half of which was given by the Duke of Devonshire and a fourth by the Duke of Buccleuch.

The Italian Minister of Public Instruction has denied the report that it has been in contemplation to restore the west front of St. Mark's, Venice. Orders have been issued to prevent the work of restoring the mosaics from being proceeded with.

The Rev. Imaw Shah, of the Peshawur Mission, has visited Cabu and baptized eight of the Armenians in that city, who are at present without a priest. They were founded by a colony from Persia, and had not had a sermon preached in their chapel since 1832.

The "*Telegraph*" (England) announced that a warrant was expected to be issued shortly for committing the Rev. A. H. Mackonochie to prison for disobeying the monition of the Court by officiating at St. Alban's Holborn, after he had been suspended.

The new iron steamship *Arizona* had a severe encounter with an iceberg on the 7th, three hundred miles east of Newfoundland. The ship has seven water-tight compartments; the water that came in was confined to that in the front.

The "Grace Darling" of Bersted, Sussex (Mrs. Wheatland) who is mother of a large family, has saved thirteen lives, in the past twenty years, by swimming out to the rescue of drowning bathers.

The earl of Ilchester has deducted 10 per cent. from the rents of his Wiltshire tenants for the present year. Captain Duberly has resolved to return to his tenants in Huntingdonshire, twenty per cent. upon the half year's rent, due in October. Mr. J. Corbett, has done the same for his Merionethshire tenants, also the High Sheriff of Kent. The Rector of Mersham, Kent, has made an abatement of 10 per cent. on the half year's tithes. Mr. Morrogh, of Dublin has made a reduction of 20 per cent. on last March rents for his Waterford tenants.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

WHEN our Lord came into the world, those who received Him had no doubt as to the application of the prophecy of Malachi to Him. And Jesus being what he claimed to be, it followed that St. John the Baptist was the messenger sent before His face to prepare His way before Him. Prophecy had educated religious souls to look for the Messiah, and these persons were ready to receive Him in any way it might please Him to come, and the Baptist was there to point Him out as soon as He came forward to begin His ministry. St. John's business was to gain the ear of the Jewish people, and say "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"; and then at a later period of his ministry to say, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world." And thus St. John may be considered in some respects like those gifted men in the world of thought, who have the inspiration of what is called natural genius, which is the gift of God. They are like lofty mountains which the sun has lit up while he has not yet begun to shine on the plains and valleys beneath. And these men seem to illustrate the law of God's Providence. It is not often that He takes us so by surprise as to dispense with some preparation for what He means to teach us or to do for us. There are indications, more or less plain, of His coming work and will. We see the signs of the Son of Man, whether in the course of events or in the intellectual heavens —the streaks of dawn which tell of the coming day.

And this law, as we may term it, of the Divine procedure, we might expect to prevail in connection with the second Advent. The prophecy of Malachi in its far-reaching application carries us onward to that glorious event, and the personal appearance of Elijah the Prophet will doubtless precede the coming of the Son of Man in His character as a triumphant conqueror. We may expect that the Prophet's business will be the proclamation of the glories of the latter day, together with a protest of the loftiest conceivable character against the assumptions of the "Man of Sin" who will then have arisen, and lifting up a warning voice against "the spirit of the age," in louder and in deeper tones than men have ever known since the denunciations uttered just before the crucifixion of Messiah.

CHRISTMAS DAY.

AROUND the Incarnation there cluster all the wondrous mysteries of godliness, and therefore we find that the Church celebrates the event in one of her three most joyous festivals—the other two being Easter and Whitsuntide. That God was manifest in the flesh might well occasion wonder, adoration and rejoicing in heaven, and in earth even had it been in a sinless Paradise, while the earth was yet in the splendor and the freshness of its early morning. And how much more is it a subject of the holiest rejoicing when the visit was made to a world of sinful, miserable creatures, and was intended to raise them to everlasting bliss. By this manifestation the chasm between earth and heaven has been bridged over, and a real communication with God through His Blessed Son and through Him only is open to man. This is the real cause of the happiness of this great festival; and this it is that causes the anniversary of Christ's birthday to be so unlike any other in the world's history. It is not merely an anniversary in human affairs of the highest order; it marks a change in the relations between earth and heaven. The two natures which in the Person of Christ are inseparably joined touch two spheres of being,—there, the uncreated and the Divine; here the created, the dependent, and the human. And in virtue of His possession of these two natures, He is the one Mediator between God and man. We lay hold of His pure and sacred Manhood, and we come into real communion with the Divinity. We crowd by faith around His cradle; we accompany Him through