

Dominion Churchman.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1880.

ARCHDEACON BOYS, of Bombay, has been presented to the Vicarage of Hildenborough, near Tonbridge.

Queen Victoria has invited the Empress Eugenie to spend the winter with her at Windsor.

We learn from the *Scottish Guardian* that the Bishop of St. Andrew's has appointed Mr. J. P. B. Robertson, advocate, to be Chancellor of his diocese.

Our contemporary also states that Emma Eden, the beloved wife of the Prius, departed this life November 24th, in her 77th year.

A serious war is reported in Western Africa. Will Braid is the pretender for King Amachree's kingdom in New Calabar. A sanguinary fight has been going on between them.

The arrangements for the proposed Church Council are progressing. The following diocesan conferences have agreed to send representatives:—Ripon, Bath and Wells, Lichfield, Chichester, Norwich, Truro, Winchester.

The people of Plymouth have decided to erect a statue on the Hoe, in commemoration of the tercentenary of Sir Francis Drake's return after circumnavigating the globe.

The *Scottish Guardian* states that already one-fourth of the clergy of the "Scottish Church" have signed a memorial of sympathy with Mr. Dale, and also that those who term themselves "Low Churchmen" among the laity have expressed similar feelings.

The news from South Africa is anything but cheering. In fact it is growing in dimensions, and involving a warfare carried on among the native tribes themselves. In the twelve thousand men who are to be raised by the Cape Government, native troops are included. Captain Barker, who was lately killed in a skirmish with Bassetos, had fourteen natives for his companions in death.

Bishop Steere, in connection with the University's mission in Central Africa, writes that he expects soon to extend the work of the mission in the direction of Nyassa Lake. He rejoices over the arrival of the first native of the Zaramo country to attend school at Kingani. At Magila Archdeacon Farler has a young Mahammedan convert in training for Holy Orders. He says that, on Sundays, the congregations are so large that he is obliged to put the children in the chancel and seat many more on the altar steps. The Sunday school is full of men and boys.

The trial of Mr. Parnell and the other persons against whom a criminal information has been filed is to begin on the 28th of December.

On the 28th ult., slight shocks of earthquake were felt at Callander and Inverary, Londonderry, and other places in Scotland and the North of Ireland.

The Montenegrins now have possession of Dulcigno. As soon as Dervish Pasha made up his mind to employ force, he was soon able to make his way into the town.

On the 25th ult., the Old Testament Company of Revisers finished their sixty-sixth session at the Jerusalem Chamber. The second revision of the Historical Books was finished as far as the end of Esther 2nd.

The recent news from Afghanistan is described as, at least, negatively good. Abdul Rahman seems to be getting on fairly at Cabul, and Ayoub Khan is in so embarrassed a position at Herat as to encourage the hope that he will not be able to give further trouble at Candahar.

Mr. Dale has been before the Court of Queen's Bench on the motion to release him from imprisonment. The Court taking time for its decision on the validity of the proceedings in Lord Penzance's Court against him, released him meanwhile on his own recognizances in the sum of \$500. A writ of *habeas corpus* has also been issued in the case of Mr. Enraght.

On the question of requiring Greek at Cambridge, or substituting French or German, a writer, in the *Guardian* says he teaches five times more Greek than twenty years ago. The British youth, he says, are so antagonistic to the foreigner that he has always found the French and German department the most trying; and until Englishmen can supply the "teaching power," this grave difficulty cannot be removed.

At a meeting of the Church Pastoral Aid Society at Wimborne, Lord Shaftesbury after bewailing the decrease of the Funds of the Pastoral Aid Society as the institution best suited to his "views," remarked that "Unless we have personal distinctive teaching, we shall never instil into the hearts and minds of the people the truths and practice of the Gospel. The Church of England has been appointed for this purpose; and unfaithful as she may have been, she is now rising to a higher sense of her duty."

The Rev. Mr. Enraght was arrested on Saturday the 27th ult., and conveyed to Warwick Gaol. Some very wide issues were raised in the Queen's Bench Division on Monday the 28th, when it was contended that the proceedings against Mr. Dale were wrong from beginning to end. Mr. Green had not been arrested up to the date of the last advices. His case comes up in the Province of York, and other questions arise in reference to it, such as the appointment of Lord Penzance by the Archbishop of York, and the authority of the Advertisements in the Northern Province.

Later news than we have given above from South Africa is still unfavourable. Convoys are not safe near the seat of war; the patrol column has found itself unable to hold the positions which it had occupied, and there is too much reason to think that the Pondos have placed themselves among the enemies of the Cape Government, by attacking the Xesibes, who are British subjects.

The Sultan of Zanzibar on receiving news of the murder of Messrs. Carter and Cadenhead, of the Belgian expedition, and supposing the act was committed under Mirambo's orders, has despatched a force to the interior to attack that chief. The inquiries, however, of Dr. Southon and Dr. Baxter resulted in the conclusion that Mirambo was not guilty of the death of these gentlemen. The Church Missionary Society has made representations to the British Government of the facts of the case, and urged that Mirambo be not attacked until he is proved by investigation to be guilty.

Okrika is a town of ten thousand inhabitants, forty miles from Bonny, in the Igbo country, at the mouths of the Niger. Bishop Crowther hearing that the people there had built a church, and were holding services, sent Archdeacon Crowther to inquire into the facts of the case. The Archdeacon found the facts as represented, and that worship was held in it every Lord's Day, a school boy from Brass Mission reading the service, and a congregation of five hundred persons in attendance. The people desired a regular teacher, and offered to contribute to his support. Surely here the fields are white already to harvest.

The "Established Church of Scotland" has produced its counterpart to the famous English "Essays and Reviews" in a volume just published, called "Scotch Sermons." These are twenty-three in number, and were preached by thirteen different ministers of the "Established Church." The best known of the preachers are Principal Caird, Dr. Story, Dr. Cunningham, and the Rev. W. L. McFarlan. The volume is edited by the Rev. Professor Knight, and is put forth as an attempt to adapt Christianity to the spirit of modern times. The attention of the Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has been called to the unsound nature of these sermons; but the Committee has declined to interfere, some possibly sympathising with the authors, and others feeling that they could do nothing but add to the notoriety of the book by attracting more attention to it.

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

AS it is not more than about a hundred and twenty years ago that the first of January was reckoned as New Year's Day, it is not to be wondered at that the Church has never mixed up her festal services with the heathen rites originally practised on that day. The festival of the Circumcision is but the most diminutive reflex of the glory and gladness of Christmas; still it is a reflex of what belongs to that great festival. From very early ages of the Church, the day was observed as the Octave of the Nativity, and that ought to be the principal idea connected with it. The Sunday we are now considering, in a still more eminent degree, must be regarded as belonging to the celebration of the Nativity.

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