

Briefs.

The increase of population in the Kingdom of Greece, since its emancipation from Turkish rule, is worthy of note. It had a population of less than half a million, it is now fully two millions.....The accessions to the Church from the ranks of dissenting ministers, great as they have been, are largely increasing. We are chronicling several every week.....The difficulties in the way are so great that it is said about 500 miles of the Canadian Pacific Railway will cost not less than \$100,000 a mile.....The gentlemen who visited Canada last summer in the interests of the English farmer, have notified the proper parties that there will be an immense immigration into the Dominion from England next spring and summer.....From all over the country come to us words indicative of hearty sympathy in our efforts to arouse the Church in the matter of lay work. Our laity should not only hear about Christ and their duty, but they should have an opportunity to do some work for Him. What is wanted is organization.....There is more lumber being made ready in Nova Scotia this winter for ship-building than has been used for the same purpose during the past three years.....Each year finds increased interest manifested in Church decorations. Let us hope that this is but an evidence of increased zeal and love for God.....If a Church prove its life by a lively interest in Church questions, then our correspondence columns give abundant proof of great activity in the religious thought of the Church in the Maritime Provinces.....It has sometimes been an objection to the church that its membership is largely composed of women. Will the objector please to consider the corresponding fact that in one penitentiary thirteen hundred and ninety-seven of the fourteen hundred and eighteen convicts were men.....The Rev. Ephraim Thoren has removed from St. Anne to Chicago. He will probably work among the French Canadians of that city.....That dread scourge, diphtheria, has been making its ravages felt in New Brunswick.....A London clergyman advises Dean Stanley, after his recent article on "Baptism," either to join the Baptists or to go over to the Quakers.....The Rev. Collamore Purington of Fairfield, Me., has withdrawn from the Universalists. Among his reasons for so doing: "1. That he sees no good effects from preaching Universalism. 2. He thinks it wise to recede from the discussion of topics, which conduce to spiritual alienation, disfellowship and disintegration." Is this not something for our Reformed Episcopal friends to lay seriously to heart?.....The Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces has called for a dollar a head from the members of that body to carry on their Home and Foreign Missionary and Educational and Benevolent operations for the current year.

The Week.

THE DOMINION.

It is now stated that the Ontario Government will realize two thirds of the cost of the new Parliament buildings by the sale of the present site. The County Attorney has decided that there is not sufficient evidence to warrant the committal of the mother of Clark Brown for complicity in the West Winchester murders. Joseph Kavanagh editor of the "Sydney Express" and Clerk of the Savings Bank at North Sydney, C. B., has been missing since Friday. His cap and stick were found close to a hole in the ice near the C. B. Company's pier. A large meeting was held in Truro lately, to consider the advisability of applying for the next Provincial Exhibition to be held in Truro. The meeting guaranteed a prize list of \$6,500. Large subscriptions were offered by several citizens. A Toronto telegram says the exceedingly cold weather of the past few days delayed communication between St. Paul and Winnipeg from Tuesday till Saturday. The thermometer was 50° below zero on Wednesday in the North West; two persons reported frozen to death. There were 29 new vessels registered at the port of St. John the past year: 2 ships, 2,638 tons; 14 barks, 13,457 tons; 8 schrs, 477 tons; 3 woodboats, 191 tons. 3 steamers, 243 tons—a total of 37,006 tons. In 1878 there was 27 vessels of 16,444 tons and in 1877 there were 35 vessels of 23,682 tons.

It is stated that Mr. Brunel is surveying the route for the extension of the Canada Central Railway from Lake Nipissing to Sault Ste. Marie, 198 miles, and that the contract will be let next spring. In that event this section will be built by the time of the completion of the sections between Port William and Winnipeg, and a short means of communication with the North West secured.

UNITED STATES.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 29.—The steamer Granada, from Panama 4th, arrived last night at Acapulco and took 500 Mexican troops, which were landed at Mazatlan and San Blas, en route for Lower California to quell the insurrection there. Dec. 29.—Immense fire in Boston destroying property on Federal and Devonshire streets, valued at over two million dollars. Rice, Kendall & Co., paper manufacturers, entirely burned out. Houghton, Osgeod & Co., and American Express Company's offices destroyed. S. D. Warren & Co., and American Express Company's offices destroyed. S. D. Warren & Co., lost heavily. The fire extended from Rice, Kendall & Co., on Federal street, to the building occupied by the North Bank on Devonshire street.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Lieut.-Col. Wilson Black has been made a C. B., for distinguished services in the late Zulu war. He was Brigade Major for many years in Halifax garrison, and married a daughter of the late Stephen Boggs Esq. A portion of the bridge across the Frith of Tay was blown down while a train from Edinburgh to Dundee was crossing at 7.14, Sunday night. The passengers, who are certainly all drowned, are variously estimated at from 150 to 300. The gale which destroyed the Tay bridge was the most violent ever felt in Scotland since January 1868. From the time the gale began it continued to increase in fury until the hurricane raged from the S.S.W. The streets of Dundee were covered with debris. All accounts mention continuous howling and roar of wind which deadened the falling crash of the central portion of the bridge.

AFGHANISTAN.

The Afghans who attacked Roberts at Sherpur on the 23rd inst., numbered 6,000. The ground around Sherpur is thick with corpses. General Roberts, on the 23rd, informs the Viceroy that on that day he succeeded, after a severe engagement, in defeating the Afghans, and driving them from all their positions around Cabul. The victory of the British is claimed to have been complete, the enemy losing heavily, while the English casualties were comparatively light. Mohamed Jans is reported to have fled early in the fight, and it was the intention of General Roberts to take possession of Bala Hissar and Cabul the following day. A telegram from Gen. Roberts, dated 26th, says a heavy snow fall on the 25th inst., prevented the pursuit of the enemy. The country about Cabul, and the line of communications, is now clear. Bala Hissar magazine has been emptied. There were several explosions in Bala Hissar during its occupation by the insurgents, and one explosion, it is stated, killed one hundred persons. Roberts telegraphs, 26th inst: "Butkak has been re-occupied." A force will start for Kohistan to-morrow to punish those who participated in the recent movement there." Roberts total loss up to date is 77 killed, 220 wounded.

The Canada Gazette publishes the following:—

The commission is published appointing the Earl of Carnarvon, the Right Hon. H. C. E. Childers, Sir Henry Thurston Holland, Admiral Sir Alex. Milne, General Sir John Linton Simons, Inspector General of Fortifications and Director of Works, Sir Henry Barklay, Mr. Thomas Brassey, M. P., and Mr. R. G. Crookshank Hamilton, Accountant-General of the Navy, to enquire into the condition and sufficiency of the means, both naval and military, provided for the defence of the more important seaports within the colonies and their dependencies, and of the stations established or required for coaling, refitting or repairing the ships of the navy, and for the protection of the commerce of the

colonias with Great Britain with each other and with foreign countries.

The commission is to consider on which of the stations and ports it is desirable, on account of their strategic or commercial importance, to provide an organized system of defence, in addition to such general protection as can be afforded by the naval forces; and whether such defence should consist of permanent works manned by garrisons of Imperial or local troops, or both combined, or of any local naval organization or other armaments and appliances.

It is also to consider whether, and in what proportion, the cost of such measures of defence should be divided between the Imperial Government and the Colonies to which they relate, or should be wholly defrayed by the Imperial Government or by the colonies.

The oldest specimen of pure glass bearing anything like a date is a little moulded lion's head, bearing the name of an Egyptian king of the eleventh dynasty, in the Shide collection at the British Museum. That is to say, a period which may be moderately placed as more than 2,000 B. C.

According to the census of 1878 there are in New Zealand of adherents of the Church of England, 176,337; of the Presbyterian Church, 95,103; of the Roman Catholic, 58,881; of the Methodist, 37,879; and of the Baptist, 9,159. The smaller denominations are represented by various figures, from 5,000 down to 5.

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Weekly Markets.

Table listing various market prices including Fish (Large Cod, Small Shore, Arichat, Bank, Labrador, Hake, Haddock, Arichat, Western Shore, Collock, Terring (Vessel)), Mackerel, Flour (Canada Sup, Extra, Strong Bakers, Spring Extra, Extra State, Rye Flour, Am), Cornmeal, Oatmeal, Oats, Beans, Peas, Provisions (Beef, Mutton, Pork, Lard, Bacon, Ham, Shoulders, Eggs, Liverpool, Turf, Cadiz, Inagua), Tea, Oolong, Soap, Candles, Domestic Brown, Canada Laundry, Molasses, Demerara, Cienfuegos, Trinidad, Sugars (Porto Rico, Vac. Pan, puty paid, Yellow C, Extra C, Scotch refined, Crushed, Granulated, Porto Rico, Cuba, dark), Country Produce (Butter, Cheese, Beef, Mutton, Lamb, Veal, Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Chickens, Partridges, Potatoes, Turnips, Carrots, Hay, Buckwheat, Apples).

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