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THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1881.

THE Convocation of York has been prorogued to meet for business on the 26th of April.

The General Synod of the Church in Ireland is to assemble on the 26th of April.

The Primate of All Ireland, Archbishop Beresford, has completed his eightieth year. He was consecrated Bishop of Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh, in 1854.

At a special meeting of its executive committee, the Church Defence Institution has resolved that it would be desirable to appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the ecclesiastical judicature of the Church of England.

The news from South Africa is anything but cheering. At the moment when the Boers were thinking of making terms of peace, Sir George Colley attacked them; and just at the instant that he gave orders to cease firing, he was shot dead by one of the Boer force.

The Commission of Church Temporalities in Ireland have published their annual Report, which contains a great deal of interesting matter. The Commissioners have now accomplished the task assigned them by the Irish Church Act. The Report states that the net annual value of the Archbishopric of Armagh was £10,225; commutation money, £88,442; Bishopric of Derry, annual value, £6,847; commutation, £111,867; Archbishopric of Dublin, £8,845, commutation, £93,045; Bishopric of Cork, £2,485, commutation, £18,500. The benefice of Clogherney, £1,563, commutation, £19,124; Louth, 1,329; commutation, £12,941; Carnteel, £1,167, commutation, £9,469; Clones, 1,290; commutation, £13,298; Killoughory, £905, commutation, £16,450; Cappagh, £1,234, commutation, £18,527; Carrigallen, £819, commutation, £12,495. The least valuable benefice was Balcaddan, with only £4 a year, commutation £47. All commutation moneys were calculated at 3½ percent., and the average of the lives of all the clergy at 10.9 years' purchase. The total number of ecclesiastical persons who commuted up to the end of 1874 was 2,282; their net incomes being £589,665, commutation money, £7,546,005. The number of lay commutants was 2,857, their net incomes, 33,060; the commutation paid, £454,700. The total paid under the compensation clauses under all heads, was £11,343,703. The sales of all the property, vested in the commissioners by the Act, realized 9,794,790; of which a sum of 3,362,648, was received in cash. The commissioners have now no actual balance in the nature of a surplus, but have instead an annual income, partly permanent, partly terminable, of 574,219.

The Bishop of Bloemfontein is in England for six weeks to get men and money for his Diocese, and to take counsel with his committee there.

The sub-Dean of Westminster, Lord John Thynne, died about the middle of last month. He received his appointment in 1835, and for a considerable number of years he was virtually Dean.

It is stated on the authority of the *Manchester Courier*, that the total number of electors represented by Mr. Parnell and his followers, is only about 29,000; whereas the total number of registered electors in Ireland is 231,536.

On the 10th ult., the Duke of Connaught, supported by Prince Leopold, presided at the 143rd anniversary festival of the Royal Society of Musicians. The Minister from the United States in his speech on the occasion, said, that the illustrious father of their Royal Highnesses at a time which was vividly remembered by all thoughtful citizens of the United States, interfered when he thought that too high a note was about to be struck. "It was a moment when there was extreme tension, if a musical term might be used on this occasion, of the chords between the two countries, which he would not name; too high, too sharp a note was about to be struck on one side, and he put his foot on the pedal. Perhaps he did more; he drew out the 'vox humana' stop, and by so doing, he prevented consequences which it would be better not to speak of there. They, therefore, owed that illustrious prince a great debt." His remarks were received with great cordiality.

The Convocation of the Province of Canterbury met on the 8th ult. The lower House agreed by a majority of three to one on an "articulus cleri," asking for toleration on the part of Bishops for ritualistic divergences. The Bishops unanimously voted, after giving individual expression to the meaning to be attached to it, a resolution declaring their opinion that "litigation in matters of ritual is to be deprecated and deplored, and if possible, to be avoided." They also declare that authority to settle differences in such matters is inherent in the Episcopal Office; and while entertaining the hope "that the clergy as in duty bound, will, in conjunction with the laity, support the legitimate exercise of this authority," they are confident it will be exercised "with an earnest endeavour to compose such differences, without litigation, and at the same time to maintain order, decency, purity of doctrine, and edification in divine worship." On the motion of the Bishop of Peterborough, their lordships also passed a resolution asking for a Royal Commission to inquire into the laws and constitution of courts dealing with Church discipline, with a view to the full statement and consideration of all objections, and to the reform of whatever may be shown to be amiss." In this the Lower House concurred, but declined to concur in a motion asking the Crown for a letter of Business, "Committing to Convocation the work of providing for a fuller representation of the parochial clergy in the Lower House," apparently because they regard the right of reform to be inherent in the Archbishops. There still continues therefore the deadlock between Crown and Ecclesiastical Lawyers on the subject.

A falling-off of £10,000 in the income of the Church Pastoral Aid Society is reported.

The Bishop of London held a service on the 5th ult., in the chapel at London House for the admission for the first time of the master of a merchant ship to the office of Lay-reader.

Exeter Hall is to be reopened on the 29th inst., under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, by the erratic Earl of Shaftesbury. It was originally opened by Sir Thomas Baring, on the 29th of March, 1831.

The French Chamber of Deputies, by refusing to repeal the law of 1816, has stopped the progress of the Divorce Bill. The Government was not prepared to do violence to the idea of matrimony as at present understood in France, and has thus been relieved of considerable difficulty.

Mr. and Mrs. Gladstone have each contributed the sum of ten guineas to the fund for a Memorial to Mr. Lowder, the late rector of St. Peter's, London Docks. It is desired to raise 10,000, towards which 2,276, has been subscribed for parochial institutions, and the building of a clergy house.

The Rev. D. Elsdale, Vicar of the Church of St. John the Divine, Kensington, having resigned through ill health, the appointment has been made of the senior curate, the Rev. C. E. Brooke, as the new Vicar. The appointment is in the hands of the trustees, Canon Liddon, Canon Gregory, and Canon King. The new Vicar was formerly the patron of the living and had contributed £15,000 towards the erection of the church. He afterwards transferred the patronage to the above named trustees.

In a leading article in the *Times* newspaper the following passage occurs:—"What is it that now divides the population of this island into two camps, with an almost impossible gulf between them? It is not the chasuble, or the mixed chalice, or incense, or any of the points at issue in the 'ritualist' controversy. It is the surplice, and whatever goes with it in the shape of forms and liturgies." Is it possible that the writer went to sleep fifty years ago, and now, on getting half awake, has penned the article from which this paragraph was taken?

The "three choir" Musical Festival will be held this year at Worcester. It is to be opened on Sunday, September 6th, by a full service and sermon at the cathedral. Monday is to be devoted to rehearsals; and oratorios are to be given at the cathedral on the mornings of Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, and on Wednesday evening. Secular concerts will be given in the College Hall on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and a full service on Friday night will conclude the whole. The principal works selected are Mendelssohn's "Elijah"; a new work by A. J. Caldwell, Mus. Bac., of Worcester, the "Widow of Nain;" Rossini's "Stabat Mater"; Handel's "Jephtha"; Beethoven's "Mount of Olives"; and Handel's "Messiah."