

# Dominion Churchman.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1880.

## NOTICE.

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It is stated that divorcees are now more numerous in Puritan New England than they were in France at the worst period of the revolution.

The Queen has given £2,500 towards the restoration of the Abbey Church of Minster, in the Isle of Sheppey.

It is stated that since its disestablishment, the Church of Ireland has raised twenty million dollars in the cause of religion. Nearly a million and a half of dollars has been secured for the stipends of the clergy. Upwards of twelve hundred incumbents receive an average of a thousand and fifty dollars, and two hundred and eleven receive an average of six hundred dollars per annum.

The Archbishop of Paris has received a letter from the Hon. C. Wood on behalf of the Council of the English Church Union, representing twelve bishops, 2,500 clergymen, and 15,800 laymen, expressing indignation at the persecution of the religious orders in France.

The consecration of the Bishop of Zululand took place on St. Andrew's day, at Cape Town. The Metropolitan was assisted by the Bishops of Grahamstown, Maritzburg, and Blémfontein, the latter of whom was expected to proceed to England forthwith.

The Rev. Page Wood and the Rev. Mr. Hunter two of Dr. Colenso's clergy, have seceded from the "Church of England," as represented by Dr. Colenso, Dean Williams, and Archdeacon Colley, and have joined the "Church of South Africa." These are expected to be immediately followed by a third; so that the break up of the South African schism seems to be imminent.

Garibaldi and his son Menotti having resigned their seats in the Chamber, have been granted three

months' leave of absence and their resignations not accepted.

The Marquis of Ripon has held a grand review at Mianmir, of more than ten thousand men of all arms who have returned from Afghanistan. Subsequently the Viceroy held a chapter of the Order of the Bath, and invested General Stewart with the Grand Cross. A grand darbar followed, which was carried out with great pomp and splendor. Lord Ripon pointed out that there had been no such darbar since that held by Lord Lawrence in 1864; and that it would be his constant endeavor to walk in his footsteps, and apply his principles.

A preliminary agreement has been made by Monsignor Jacobini and M. d'Oubril in reference to the relations between the Roman Catholic Church in Russia and the Pope. The principal matters referred to in the arrangement are, the nomination of the bishops, the management of the Clerical Seminaries, and the education of the young clergy.

The Governor-General of Kazan is about to be replaced by General Guntz, who was formerly Governor-General of Odessa. The Governor-General will be put on his trial for forcibly attempting to convert 700,000 Tartars to the orthodox faith. Flogging seems to have been extensively used as a means of persuasion.

Belgium has lost one of its most distinguished scholars and jurists in the person of M. Orts. Since 1848 he has represented Brussels in the House of Deputies, and for several sessions was President of that Chamber.

Some time since the now deposed Bishop of Tournai asserted that he had in his possession an autograph letter from Pius IX, in which that Pontiff asserted that the election of Cardinal Pecci as his successor would be the ruin of the Church. A confidential agent, who has been to Belgium, has seen the letter, and its authenticity is now admitted at the Vatican.

The Duke of Wellington has returned to all his tenants in the Banghurst and Kingsclere district 30 per cent. of their rentals. The Earl of Sheffield, who remitted 25 per cent. at the last two half-yearly audits of his Sussex estates, has made a reduction of fifteen per cent. in the rents due at Michaelmas. Most of the landowners in the Weald of Sussex have made reductions ranging from 10 to 15 per cent.

Mr. Bright was elected Lord Rector of Glasgow University by 1123 votes, against 814 given for Mr. Ruskin, the Conservative candidate.

St. Paul's, London, is to have a bell of twelve tons in weight, at an expense of £2,500 stg. The bell in Olmutz Cathedral weighs nearly eighteen tons. That in Venice is nearly as heavy. The bell at York weighs eleven tons, and that at Westminster thirteen tons and a half.

The New Testament revisers concluded their long labours on the 11th ult., that day being the 407th day on which they assembled, the whole period

over which their sessions have extended having been about ten years and a half.

At the annual source of the Leeds Church Institute, Mr. Herbert Gladstone, M.P., said the disestablishment of the Church was not a question of practical politics. We moved fast now a-days, and nobody could tell what might happen; but he did not believe there was a general wish in the country to disestablish the Church, and he did not know the man who was able and willing to disestablish it.

Mr. Bright reviewed the Irish question in a speech at Birmingham, and said, that what the Irish wanted was to ensure in some way that when a man has his house over his head—built perhaps by himself, or some ancestor of his—and his little farm around, he should not incessantly be taught that he may any day be turned out of his farm and home, and that the rent should not be constantly added to, until even going out of his farm is a less evil than remaining in it. He wants also some system by which landowners who are willing to sell (and there must be many of them now), and where tenants are able and willing to buy, you may continually add to the number of proprietary farmers in Ireland. Mr. Bright also suggests that a million acres of the waste lands in the country might be divided into forty thousand farms of twenty-five acres each.

Dean Close, in his eighty-fourth year, is about to be married to the relict of Mr. David Hodgson, of Liverpool.

Mr. Ground, who has for many years been a Congregationalist minister, has been promised ordination by Bishop Lightfoot.

The Church of St. Stephen, Edgehill, Liverpool, is in course of removal from one side of the street to the other, for a railway improvement.

An earthquake has shaken the Austrian dominions from Vienna to the Adriatic, and was especially severe at Agram, the capital of Croatia. Three shocks on the Tuesday caused great damage to property and some loss of life. The recurrence of shocks continued for a couple of days, on the Thursday and Friday afterwards. The city has, for centuries, been liable to earthquakes.

### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

THE office and character of St. John the Baptist, as the immediate precursor of Messiah's first advent, is the special subject for to-day. At the close of the Old Testament canon of Holy Scripture, a promise was given that God would send "Elijah the Prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord." When St. John the Baptist made his appearance among the mountains of Judea, there was much musing, wondering and questioning as to his character and mission. His birth was extraordinary, his early life was mysterious, he appeared in the garb of the ancient prophets, his food was locusts and wild honey, and he was as bold a reprover of vice and sin as was ever known among the Jewish people. Doubts were expressed as to whether or not he was the Elijah that was to make his ap-

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