

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1880.

**T**HE Liverpool Bishopric Fund progresses. The Additional Bishopric Committee have appropriated a further sum of one thousand pounds stg. for the purpose. A guarantee is also proposed of five thousand pounds, which would secure the immediate foundation of the Bishopric.

At the close of the year the Bishop of London consecrated the Church of St. Augustine, Stepney, erected at a cost of £7,500 stg.

On the occasion of the consecration of St. Mary's Cathedral, Edinburgh, a Pastoral staff was presented to the Bishop by the Clergy and Laity of the Diocese. The staff is of a simple and pure design, so as to harmonise with the early style of the Cathedral. Accompanying the staff was an address, engrossed in Gothic character.

The Bishop of Chester has appointed the Rev. W. E. B. Gunn, M.A., Incumbent of St. John's, Egremont, near Birkenhead. About three years ago, Mr. Gunn received £800 stg., as Minister of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Kirk, Liverpool. He has since joining the Church held an appointment worth £19 a year and no house.

As Holy Innocent's Day, 1879, fell on Sunday the annual services for children at Westminster Abbey, to commemorate the slaughter of the Jewish children by the order of Herod, was held on Saturday afternoon, St. John's Day, when a crowded congregation attended. Dean Stanley preached the sermon on 8 St. John, 3: 4.

A trilingual inscription has just been discovered in the ruins of an ancient church in Zebed, on the north-east of the Syrian desert. The first inscription is Greek; the second Arabic, in the most ancient ante-Mahammedan kind of writing; the third in an unknown character. It contains a dedication of the Church, and is probably of about the fourth century.

The Bishop of Manchester in a recent sermon in his Cathedral, remarked that in national and political affairs the past year was not marked by much of which as a nation we could be justly proud. He said the question must force itself on Englishmen, "What business had we with our armies either in Zululand or Afghanistan? Could it be pretended that either of them was just or necessary?" He added that "unless we were to abandon all pretence to justify a recourse to arms, he, as a Christian Bishop, must distinctly say, if he was to be faithful to his message, that as a nation we had misdoings to repent of for having been the first to draw the sword in those two wars." We fear there is some foundation for the Bishop's complaint.

A United States newspaper states that a certain physician gave to a sample of whiskey submitted for his examination the following "first-class" certificate:—"Gentlemen, I have tasted your whiskey, and having at different times tried various vermin-killers, I believe yours to be superior to them all. You are at liberty to make use of this."

At the monthly meeting of the Presbytery of Manchester, the Committee in Synod on lapsed Presbyterians recommended the Presbytery to hold a Conference at an early day to consider "how we are to prevent the enormous leakage that goes on from year to year from the Communion rolls, and the disappearance from our congregations of a very large number of our baptised youths and others."

**CORRECTION.**—In our issue of the 15th inst., page 29, col. 1, line 38 from the bottom, read "no mere"; col. 2, line 2, for "regulating" read "equalizing"; line 30, before "affected," read "not"; line 72, for "minority" read "seniority"; col. 3, line 72, for "passed" read "paved."

## SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY.

**T**HE Exhortation in the Order for the Visitation of the sick forms an admirable collection of the chief lessons the Church brings before us today. They primarily allude to only one kind of the trials to which we are exposed in the course of our sojourning on earth; but the principle they inculcate are equally applicable to every mode and every form of adversity in which our Heavenly Father may see fit to test our attachment to him. These Exhortations are chiefly identical with those in use in the English Church for many ages; and as expanded into their present shape, they are most touching and impressive. "There should be no greater comfort to Christian persons, than to be made like unto Christ, by suffering patiently adversities, troubles, and sicknesses. For He Himself went, not up to joy, but first he suffered pain; He entered not into His glory before He was crucified. So, truly, our way to eternal joy is to suffer here with Christ; and our door to enter into eternal life it gladly to die with Christ; that we may rise again from death, and dwell with him in everlasting life." And moreover, however painful and mysterious the discipline to which we are subjected in this life, it is all under the guidance of a wisdom and a goodness which are infinite. The tendency of all the sorrows and privations we can endure is to foster in our hearts the very dispositions—the fitness which must be cultivated for the Kingdom of God. St. Paul teaches us that Adversity not only tries, but produces virtue; not only ascertains our capacity for eternal happiness, but increases it. "Tribulation worketh patience." "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." In fact, the whole argument for resignation under the painful and mysterious discipline which prepares and educates us for our heavenly inheritance, may be summed up in the words of the Author of the Epistle to the Hebrews:—"Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence, shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of Spirits and love. For they, verily, for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure, but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness."

## THE INCREASED USE OF OPIUM.

**T**HE evils which more openly present themselves are apt to be more loudly decried than those which are silently and insidiously, but more effectively undermining all that is sacred

among men in religion and morals. We have in late years heard much of the outcry against the abuse of alcohol, until some extremists have decried the use of it in any shape or form. And to a very large extent the outcry has a great deal of very good reason for its exercise. The effects of the excessive use of alcohol are apparent and generally they are violently so. But it is worthy of consideration that in places where this stimulant is unattainable, or where the greatest possible obstructions are laid upon the use of it (some portions of the United States for instance), a stimulant has taken its place which is infinitely worse in every respect but one—and that is in the violence with which the alcoholic stimulant manifests itself, whereas the opium substitute is indulged in by those who are not suspected of using it, except by some who are well acquainted with its immediate effects. Alcoholism in its worst forms is generally a curable disease, as the thousands of asylums for chronic drunkards in Europe and America and the myriads of reformed drunkards testify. But in many places where the use of alcohol has been forbidden, especially in the United States, and in parts where the use of it has been frowned down by public opinion—in England, in the United States, and even in Canada—a far more deadly stimulant has taken its place; and that stimulant is opium. This is infinitely more dangerous and more destructive to body, soul, and spirit than any other known stimulant, and the use of it is rapidly increasing in several parts of England, in some of the United States, and also in Canada. This deadly narcotic, sometimes so serviceable as a medicine, when it is taken habitually obtains certain and entire control of the deluded victim; it ruins the body, and destroys all the powers of the mind. It is resorted to in secret, its immediate effects are only discernible to the practised observer; and the wretch who dares not in the face of public opinion take a spoonful of lager beer, secretly indulges in the most accursed of all known stimulants. We are told by the *Brooklyn Eagle* and elsewhere that in New England "the consumption of opium by all classes, by farmers, clergymen, and their families is growing at a fearful rate;" and that there, "the deadly mind-destroying drug..... threatens to become an ineradicable curse." "It begets a cunning like that of insanity; all moral obligations vanish in the face of the irresistible craving..... The moral nature is destroyed, and reformation, except under compulsory abstinence, cannot begin. The horrors of *delirium tremens*..... are but as a pleasant dream compared with the agonies, the unspeakable torments of the starving opium-eater..... Its victims are found in store and counting room, in the pulpit, on the stage, in the courts, in the public offices, in legislative halls and private drawing rooms. They belong to no class and comprise both sexes." We ourselves knew a "minister of the Gospel," a great "temperance" lecturer, who not only indulged in this seductive vice, but also recommended his people to do the same. The habit is increasing in this country, and must soon become a subject for legislative inquiry and action.

## CLERICAL LIFE ASSURANCE.

**I**T does not require a great stretch of the imagination to suppose that clergymen are frequently