

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1878.

## THE WEEK.

THE late tornado in the United States was attended with some disastrous effects. In one of the towns in Mississippi, one of the severest wind storms ever known in that State was experienced. The tornado burst upon them suddenly, at about 11 a.m., when the Church was filled with worshippers, and no thought of danger was entertained by the congregation, but during the early part of the service the wind suddenly rose and shook the building to its foundation. The clergyman realized at once that a tornado had struck the building, and to secure the safety of the people, cried out to them to throw themselves under the seats. This advice the congregation at once followed, and not a moment too soon, for with a few fearful creaks and jars of the roof and walls, the whole building crumbled into shapeless ruins, burying the congregation under the debris. The shelter afforded by seats protected the great mass of the congregation, but eighteen were more or less seriously wounded by falling timbers. None of these, however, have died of their injuries. The Church is an utter wreck, and the escape of the congregation must be regarded as miraculous, considering the awful force and suddenness of the storm. Many persons, not otherwise injured, suffered from inhaling the dust, caused by the crushing in of the walls and roof.

The article by Sir Garnet Wolseley in the "Nineteenth Century" has made the author almost as distinguished, as a writer, as he was before as a soldier. It has now been for some time before the public, but in view of complications thickening in the east, it is occupying more attention than ever. The stupidity of the blunders of the English army in the Crimea, so universally acknowledged have, he contends, been retrieved, and England, he says, is better prepared for war than ever. Of course her insular position with her unrivaled navy, precludes the possibility of invasion; and since her operations, in the event of immediate war, would be practically under cover of that fleet, she may be reasonably certain that her two army corps of 60,000 men, now ready for service, can intrench and maintain themselves on any coast where they may be wanted. According to General Wolseley, if war were immediately declared, not far from 400,000 drilled men would fall into line, supported by 372 field guns manned and horsed by the Royal Artillery. This estimate includes 180,000 volunteers, and the different classes of army militia reserves available at least for garrison duty. In the event of a war with Russia, she might not penetrate far into the country; but if Sir Garnet Wolseley's estimate is correct, she would undoubtedly become a very formidable antagonist. Along the coast of the Black Sea. The important points of the Baltic,

the approaches to Cronstadt, St. Petersburg, &c., at the time of the Crimean war were impregnable. The more extensive introduction of torpedos in modern warfare might unquestionably have some effect in keeping her off some parts of the Black Sea coast, and the most formidable part of her fleet has never been tried. More than half a million of men could probably be soon raised and marshalled in India to engage in any war that might appear to have for its object the aid of Turkey, or the humiliation of her enemies.

On the Eastern question, the telegrams continue to oscillate between peace and war as usual. On Monday the situation was supposed to be of a warlike character. The *Times* remarked that "neither the objects Russia proclaimed at the outset, nor the events of the war, justified her advance upon Constantinople, or her approach to the Bosphorus and the Dardanelles. As long as she remains in that menacing position, we shall find it necessary to retain our ships in the Sea of Marmora, and so long will peace be uncertain. It is Russia who has trespassed upon the forbearance of England, not England who has shown a lack of consideration for her. That forbearance has now been strained to its utmost limits. Nothing but necessity would induce us to assert our rights by force."

But the *Journal de St. Petersburg* in a semi-official article stated:—"The balance of power in the Mediterranean is only threatened by the presence of the British fleet in the Sea of Marmora, and England's possession of Gibraltar and Malta. The calling out of the reserves is another step in the path of provocation. Russia has fulfilled all her promises. She did not insert in the Treaty a single stipulation clashing with the interests of others. Russia is conscious of having neglected nothing which could secure to the East an era of prosperity, and to Europe long years of peace. She will deeply deplore any aberration which may counteract her pacific work, but will await with arms in hand any attempts to dispute the fruits of her sacrifices, which no threats will induce her to relinquish."

On the following day the news was more pacific. We are now told that Russia having "apparently failed with Austria, shows a desire to conciliate England, that the Russian journals are advocating a direct understanding with Great Britain. Austria's terms are denounced as exorbitant, but it remains to be seen whether Great Britain's conditions will not be declared equally untenable when the circular issued afterwards by the Marquis of Salisbury, as Foreign Secretary, succeeding Lord Derby, shall reach St. Petersburg."

In the event of war, the Porte has decided to remain passive, and endeavor to make its territory respected; failing which, it will protest to the Powers. It is expected that Italy, although alarmed at Russian progress and at her threatening attitude, has too many com-

plications at home, and too much to respect with regard to Germany and Austria, to allow her to interfere with what only indirectly concerns her.

The Queen has sent a messenger to the House of Commons announcing that she has thought it right to direct that the reserve force and the militia reserve force, or such part thereof as she may think necessary be forthwith called out for permanent service.

The circular sent to the European Powers by the British Government declares every material stipulation in the Treaty of San Stefano involves a departure from the Treaty of 1856. It states that Her Majesty's Government, in accordance with the declaration signed in London in 1871, cannot acquiesce in the withdrawal from the cognizance of the Powers, of articles which are modifications of the existing treaties. Objections are made to the proposed organization of New Bulgaria, and also to the indemnity which it is contended would make the Porte a mere vassal of Russia. The acquisition of Bessarabia and Batoum would make Russia dominant over all the vicinity of the Black Sea, while the acquisition of the Armenian strongholds secures her influence over the population of the Provinces, and enables her to arrest the trade between Europe and Persia. The circular objects also to the mode of payment of the indemnity proposed. Its mode of payment being vaguely stated, it may thus be demanded immediately, and made to weigh down the Porte's independence for many years, commuted for more territory, or be made the means of entirely subordinating Turkish to Russian policy. After asserting England's interest in the geographical distribution of the Eastern populations, and expressing her desire for "good government, peace and freedom for the populations to whom those blessings have been strange," the Circular concludes by stating that neither British interests nor the well being of the Turkish Provinces would be consulted by the assembling of the Congress restricted by Prince Gortschakoff's latest reservation.

We have since learned the Circular has given great dissatisfaction in St. Petersburg and the Imperial Staff has been ordered to prepare for war.

Dr. Burgess has intimated his acceptance of the Bishopric of Quincy. The Rev. Dr. S. S. Harris, who was first elected to the office having declined it, a special convention was convened for the purpose of another election; and on the forty-fourth ballot, the Rev. Alexander Burgess, D.D., Rector of Christ Church, Springfield, Massachusetts, was elected.

The Pope gave an Allocution in Rome at the Consistory on the 23th ult., which has given general satisfaction to the Italians. The allusion to the Church's captivity is very mild. His Holiness appears to have no in-