

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1878.

AGENTS.

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THE WEEK.

THE almost enthusiastic reception of the Dean of Westminster, during his visit to the United States, has been attended with some curious incidents. Among these, it is said that he received an offer of several thousand dollars if he would give a lecture, in one of the Western cities, on his African explorations!

The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Halifax in the "Black Prince" on Monday. He will stay there in order to receive the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise, who are expected to reach Halifax on Saturday.

Preparations are making to receive the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise on the occasion of their expected visit to the principal cities of the Dominion. In the City Council of Toronto, on Monday evening, it was decided to present the Vice-Regal party with addresses of welcome on their arrival in this city. It was considered only proper that the "Queen City of the West" should take the first opportunity that might present itself of showing its loyalty. The Marquis and the Princess are expected to visit Toronto shortly after their arrival in Ottawa. At the Council Meeting a committee was appointed to draw up an address of welcome.

Accounts have been received of disastrous floods in England and in other parts of Europe. On the 18th, part of the city of Norwich was inundated by a freshet in the river Wensum. The two most densely populated districts were several feet under water. The basements of warehouses, factories, granaries, and dwelling houses were rendered uninhabitable, and five miles of streets were submerged. A fortnight's rain was a very natural cause of the flood. A large number of the destitute and homeless has to be maintained by the authorities, and a vast amount of property has been lost.

At Pesth, also, great floods have occurred from the overflow of the River Save. A great destruction of military property is reported, as well as considerable loss of human life.

The grasshopper plague is not confined to the North west territory. One of the most populous and generally most flourishing portions of Central America is now suffering very much from the attacks of the little marauders, which have spread themselves over the country during the summer. Multitudes of the people and a large number of cattle are in an absolutely starving condition. The Government endeavors to give as much employment to the people as possible by proceeding with the Cauca railway. Several earthquakes are also reported in the Southern portion of the Republic.

Property to the extent of several hundred thousand dollars' worth has been destroyed, and a number of lives lost. The earthquakes are probably connected with eruptions of the Volcanoes Inzaleo and Santa Anna, which are now in a state of unusual activity.

The Afghan question appears to be in pretty much the same state as for the last few weeks. It is understood that the Ameer, while desiring relations with neither Russia nor England, will persist in his defiant attitude towards England. That attitude is believed to mean "Come on, and do your worst." It is expected in Calcutta that should the arrangements for the Commissariat permit, Ali Musjid, the Kuram Fort, and Kandahar will be seized by the British troops during the winter.

The meteoric display usually seen from the 13th to the 15th was not visible this month. The November meteors, known as the *Leonids*, because they appear to radiate from the constellation of the Lion, form part of an immense ring of meteors, many thousand miles in thickness, which circulates round the sun in thirty-three years and a quarter. It is only when the earth meets with the dense portion of this ring, as in 1799, 1833, 1866 and 1867, that the meteors are really brilliant. The ring is in the form of a very narrow ellipse, which stretches from the earth's orbit to that of the planet Uranus. Another shower of meteors in November is known as the *Andromedes* from having its radiating point in Andromeda. Many of the forerunners of the main stream of this body of meteors may be expected this year, and should be looked for between the 25th and 29th inst., particularly on the night of the 27th. Biela's comet appears to follow precisely the same orbit as the *Andromedes*, and Tempel's comet the same as that of the *Leonids*.

The British Museum has just acquired a small fragment of a terra cotta tablet, containing part of the annals of Nebuchadnezzar. The portion relates to his thirty-seventh year, and a war with Egypt.

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT.

THE tone of the office for this day speaks of Advent rather than Trinity, and commemorates the first coming of the King, whose emphatic name is "The Lord our Righteousness," looking forward at the same time to the second coming of Messiah, when the restoration of Israel will be effected. And therefore the peculiar aspect under which we are now to view Him is as the Source and Dispenser of righteousness. From His incarnation arose that mysterious and vicarious suffering of the penalty of death, whereby He became the author of salvation, by being the originator and restorer of righteousness to the whole fallen race of Adam. His own administration too is a purely righteousness one, whether we view it as connected with the extension of His Church now or with the glory of His kingdom hereafter. As the King set upon the holy hill of Zion, He is intimately acquainted with all hearts; and, being present in all places, He can apply His acts with infinite ease to myriads of individual examples, and appropriate smiles and frowns to each, as if there were no other beings that participated in His attention. And His heavenly kingdom is founded

on communion with Him—especially in the use of the Sacraments He Himself has appointed for the purpose—and by His Spirit He lives in His members. Their souls are always in His hands; for he is Lord both of the dead and living, and is ever ready to adapt His government to all cases throughout his vast empire. And in regard to His righteous administration, He not only prescribes laws like earthly rulers and sanctions them by rewards and penalties, but they are also engraven not on stone, but on the fleshy tablets of the heart. In order to secure righteousness to His followers, He chains death and the grave, He quells the lost spirits of perdition, and over-rules all things for the good of His Church. He sits at the right hand of God; but he wills that those whom the Father gives Him may be with Him where He is that they may behold His glory and may be partakers of it themselves. He blends the deepest condescension with the highest majesty. The whole of His history is a history of the sacrifice of selfish principles. The glory of the Father and the good of man—these brought Him from heaven, and regulated all His actions; nor did He allow Himself any repose until righteousness and peace met together on man, and He was enabled to say, "Father, I have glorified Thee on the earth: I have finished the work which Thou gavest me to do;" so that a fit introduction to the season of Advent is the contemplation of the Divine Head of the Church as "The Lord our Righteousness."

ST. ANDREWS' DAY.

THIS festival may occur either at the beginning or at the end of the Christian year, according to circumstances. Its occurrence now will be at the end of the year, as it comes the day before Advent Sunday, which will open to us the beginning of another year. And we cannot but think that if such an institution as a watch-night, however kept, is a desirable thing for Christians to observe, it would be most appropriate for them to keep it on the ushering in of the Christian year itself, instead of observing in on the eve of the Circumcision—one of the Church's minor festivals—and, however important and suggestive, by no means so impressive as the eve of Advent Sunday, which is one of the most impressive, one of the most suggestive and one of the most instructive in the Church's calendar.

The feast of St. Andrew is one of the most ancient of the Apostles' Festivals. It has usually been considered that the intention was to place it near the beginning of the Christian year, because the Apostle thus commemorated was the disciple of the Lord who was called for this purpose. Tradition also points out the last day of November as the day of the Apostle's death. It may be observed, however, that the Festival occurs rather oftener at the end of the Christian year than at the beginning. The very little that is said of St. Andrew and most of the other Apostles in the New Testament teaches us some important lessons. Among the first of them we may notice that the purpose of the Evangelist was chiefly to set before us the person of Christ and the law of Christ, so that whatever beside this is to be found in the four Gospels is merely incidental; and in the Acts of the Apostles the object is not to give us the history of individuals, but to show the work and progress of the Church. As it was to Him Who is the First and the last, to whom all

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