

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 1879.

AGENTS.

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THE WEEK.

THE emigration to Manitoba has begun in good earnest. Four car loads of emigrants passed through Toronto a few days ago on the way to that part of the Dominion. It is doubtful whether some of them will not turn round at once and come back again, as it is too early to camp out on the prairies, and they will find living in Winnipeg rather expensive. The emigration promises to be extensive this year, especially from the better class of farmers.

Mr. Bishop Falkner, for twelve years pastor among the Congregationalists at Brooklyn, N.Y., has resigned his post in order to enter the ministry of the Church.

It is feared that on the opening of spring some of Sitting Bull's principal warriors will threaten violent action. That chief, however, favors peace. His camp extends for two miles. There are also rumours in Montana of warlike movements among the Sioux, who threaten that, as soon as the grass begins to grow, they will go to war and sweep everything out of the country.

Among the items of intelligence from France, we are told that a communication has been made by the leaders of the Roman Catholic party to Gambetta and Grevy. It states that "the Catholic population throughout France are sincerely anxious for the success of the Republic. They are quite willing to forego all their predilections in favor of a monarchy or the empire, and to join heartily in the work of building up the Republic. But there must be a clear understanding as to one point. The Republic must not assail the Church, nor take from her any of her liberties. The proposed bill, for instance, to deprive the Jesuits of their rights as teachers, and measures looking toward the robbery of that freedom of education secured under the present laws, cannot be submitted to by the Catholics of France. They are perfectly willing to have the educational system of France placed upon the same basis as that of the United States, and they do not care anything whatever for subsidies from the public funds. If permitted to retain the charters granted by the last educational law and to go on supported by the voluntary contributions of their own people, they will ask nothing more. But if these rights are refused them, and the Republic is found to be an anti-Christian and anti-Catholic machine, conducted in the interest of infidelity, and directed by men who avow their intention to rob their Church of her freedom, to prevent her teaching her children, and to introduce the abominations of free love, they will be compelled, against their present wish, to resist its progress and to seek for a return to a wiser and safer method."

The work of tunneling the Detroit River is

expected to commence this month. It will extend from Stoney Island to Anderdon, Ont., a distance of 3,700 feet, and will be provided with double arches, each 18 feet high, and 15 feet wide for a double track. The cost will be 1,500,000 dollars.

The British Government purpose laying a submarine cable to South Africa by way of Aden, Zanzibar, Mozambique, Delagoa Bay and Natal.

In the House of Lords the Marquis of Lansdowne moved a resolution regretting that "an ultimatum calculated to produce immediate war should have been presented to the Zulu King without authority from the responsible advisers of the Crown and war commenced without imperative necessity or adequate preparation; and that after the censure passed upon the High Commissioner the conduct of affairs in South Africa should be retained in his hands." After considerable discussion the motion was defeated by 156 to 61. A debate on the same subject has also taken place in the British House of Commons, Colonel Dilke having moved a vote of censure on the Government for the Zulu war policy. The motion was rejected, the numbers being 306 to 246—the majority of 60 in favor of the Government being much smaller than was expected.

Immense damage has been done by an extensive prairie fire up Big Sioux Valley, in the Southern part of Dakota. The fires were of unusual force and destruction beyond precedent. Several people near Portlandville lost their lives; and many families had their houses, stables, barns, and grain burned. A merchant at Eden counted from his own door thirteen farm houses in flames, and more than forty families in that vicinity have lost everything.

It is announced that Austria, England, Russia, Turkey and Italy, have agreed to a joint occupation of Eastern Roumelia, in order to prevent a conflict between the Turks and Bulgarians.

On the Grand Trunk Railway, near Smith's Creek, Mich., on Saturday night, the engine and three forward cars were thrown from the track and completely wrecked. Two men were killed and others injured. The accident was caused by two rails having been maliciously removed from the track.

The Governor General and the Princess Louise will visit Quebec in the month of June, and will open the new Dufferin Terrace.

It is stated that the Government have resolved to discontinue the subsidy for the Mail service between Halifax and Great Britain.

Disturbances in Greece in reference to the frontier are threatened. A Turkish man of war has been ordered there. Turkey will take measures for the defense of Thessaly and Epirus. Mukhtar has asked for forty thousand men and a hundred cannon for the fortification of several frontier towns.

Chili, Peru, and Bolivia are preparing for war. The Bolivian troops are concentrating at Calama, on the frontier. Two thousand Chilean regulars have embarked, and the whole fleet sailed for the Bolivian coast. The warlike feeling in Valparaiso

is intense, and the Government loan has been largely subscribed to. The Peruvian Chambers have been convoked in consequence of the threatening aspect of the situation. Meanwhile the Peruvian fleet has received orders to proceed to the Bolivian coast. Chili, in rejecting Peru's offers of mediation, declared that the nitrate duties imposed by Bolivia must be removed before an amicable settlement could be entertained. The Peruvian press is strongly hostile to Chili.

Her Majesty embarked on the 25th of March at Portsmouth for Cherbourg, on the way to Italy, where she intends to spend some weeks in quiet seclusion. She went by way of Caen, Tours, and the Mount Cenis tunnel.

The financial situation in London, Eng., becomes more gloomy than ever. The Oriental Banking Corporation, whose head offices are at 40, Threadneedle street, and which does a large business in India and China, has recently met with heavy losses, and there are constant rumours of impending calamities. The unhealthy state of affairs has extended even to France, and accounts from there represent that suffering and distress prevail to a great extent among working people and small tradesmen.

Lord Lytton is still in negotiation with Yakoob Khan, who says he desires peace, and is willing to agree to any terms that will leave him and his people their independence. He is, however, thought to be insincere.

The plague in Russia has nearly ceased. The accounts are said to have been much exaggerated.

A British steamer landed the first reinforcements at Durban, Natal, on the 5th of March. A troop ship with the 57th regiment arrived there on the 10th. The relief of Ekowe will now be attempted.

THE SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE EASTER.

THIS is commonly called Palm Sunday. In comparatively early times it was called Indulgence Sunday, which is supposed to have arisen from a custom of the Christian Emperors who were in the habit of setting prisoners free on this day, and of closing the courts of law during the week. It is the beginning of a week which commemorates the awfully significant events which took place in the last week of the Lord's life, and which is therefore called Holy Week, and sometimes the Great Week. As early as the days of St. Chrysostom, there was a general cessation of business among all the members of the Church: fasting was observed with greater strictness than at any other time; special acts of charity were engaged in by all, while the Christian Emperors set an example in a variety of benevolent acts, of which the Royal Maundy in England is a very feeble relic.

The great event which took place on the Sunday immediately preceding the Lord's death, singularly enough, is not alluded to in the Scriptures for the day, which are altogether occupied with the Lord's suffering. Previous to the year 1549, the benediction of Palms, in which the characteristic of the day was commemorated, was observed. In that year the observance was set aside, and another arrangement was adopted; which is to be regretted in some respects perhaps,