

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1877.

## THE WEEK.

**T**ROUBLE has arisen on the Mexican border. The entire region of El Paso County, Texas, is in the hands of a Mexican mob, supported by the Mexicans south of the river, who defy the authority of the United States Government, and claim an allegiance to the Mexican Government. Ord declines to interfere in a matter that belongs to the State of Texas. General Escobedo has been tried on a charge of violating the neutrality laws. He had three hundred armed men in camp with him; but as it was not proved that they actually intended to invade Mexico he was acquitted. It is believed in certain quarters that Escobedo will immediately attempt another revolution. Several large parties of Indians have also passed over into Texas for raiding purposes. The Indians and Mexicans are represented as unusually hostile on account of Bullis, who destroyed their camp near Saragossa. The Indians boast they have men enough to fight the troops, and threaten to put out the eyes of all the men they take.

Business troubles have not yet seen their termination among our neighbors. Conrad Poppenhausen, late owner of the Long Island Railroad, applied for bankruptcy on the 17th. His liabilities amount to three and a half millions; but his assets comprise stock, estimated at par value, to be worth more than five millions. The People's Savings Bank, Newark, N. J., suspended on the 17th. About fifty thousand dollars are due to depositors. The assets, if realized, would be sufficient to pay in full. The proprietors of the Astor House, Alexander and Prince R. Stetson, have been adjudicated bankrupts. Liabilities, fifty thousand dollars; assets, nominal.

One of the most noteworthy events of the past week was the opening of the new Convocation Hall, Trinity College, Toronto, and the installation of the Hon. G. W. Allan in place of the late Hon. John Hillyard Cameron, as Chancellor of the University. The Convocation Hall was built chiefly by James Henderson, Esq., and family in memory of their late father, and was designed by Frank Darling, Esq. It is a valuable addition to the University, and is worthy of the gentlemen who designed and built it. The day of the opening and installation, Thursday, the 15th, will be ever remembered by the alumni and professors of Trinity College as one of the proudest and most triumphant days in its history. Full particulars of the interesting ceremony are given in another part of this issue. We are exceedingly happy to congratulate the Hon. G. W. Allan on the honorable post that has been given him, and equally so to congratulate the University on securing the valuable services of so eminent and influential a man as Chancellor, on the important addition made to the College build-

ings, and on the highly successful proceedings of Thursday last.

A committee has been appointed by the French Chamber of Deputies to inquire into electoral abuses. It is to consist of thirty-three members, and all of them will be of the Left. The prosecution of the inquiry will, in the estimation of many, only make the question of civil war one of a certain number of weeks or days. In what precise way it will break out or what will form the immediate signal for its commencement cannot yet be determined. And indeed it is to be hoped that the prognostications to this effect are not well founded. France has surely suffered enough from civil wars or revolutions and their concomitants without expecting to mend matters by another attempt of that character. The calm and quiet attitude she has lately assumed under some trying circumstances has rather surprised the rest of the world; and it appears scarcely possible for a nation of Frenchmen to settle down to mere passive obedience for a much longer space of time than they have already done. MacMahon, however, is said to scout the idea of a *coup d'etat*, and asserts that he objects to every kind of violence; although his motive in saying this may be only in order to cloak his real intentions. Thirty Senators of the Constitutional party—whose votes would turn the scale in that body—and of the Right Centre, while assuring the Marshal of their devotion, have refused to support the Ministry in its policy of resistance. The Constitutionalists are said to be in favor of an understanding with the moderate members of the Left, and would oppose a second dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. At his reception on Saturday last the President is reported to have said that he would remain faithful to his post, defending social order as long as he received the support and co-operation of the Senate. In the Senate on the 16th M. Arago, in the name of the Left, moved the previous question in regard to Andreau de Kerdrel's interpellation as to how Ministers have instructed officials to act with regard to the electoral inquiry. The interpellation was rejected by 155 to 130. The arrangements for the formation of a new Ministry have made considerable progress; but the list has not been made known as yet.

India is not the only country that complains of suffering from drought. A large tract of country in the Southern Continent of the new world is reported to be in similar sad circumstances. The north-eastern provinces of Brazil are suffering greatly from prolonged drought; and in this highly productive country where vegetation is most exuberant, nearly a hundred thousand head of cattle have perished from want of sustenance. In some districts all the cattle have died. In Cachoeira more than a hundred lives have been lost, and thousands more are expected to succumb. Up to the time of the

last accounts the Government had expended half a million of dollars for their relief, and at that time fifteen thousand persons at least were in a starving condition.

There does not appear to be much of importance that has taken place in European Turkey. The Russians are said to have met with several repulses before Plevna. A Sophia special states that on Friday the Russians attacked Etrapot and the Turkish positions at the entrance of the Orohanic defile, and were repulsed with heavy loss. An assault on Plevna is also reported to have been repulsed. It is believed in Constantinople that Osman Pasha can hold out till the beginning of December, and Mehemet Ali is expected to attempt the relief of Plevna during the last week in November. A despatch from Bogat says news has been received that a detachment of Cossacks and infantry succeeded in driving the Turks out of the Rasalic pass by turning their fortified position of Morzaidagh, and the Turkish camp there was captured. Skobeloff during a skirmish on the night of the 16th received severe contusions from the fragments of a shell. He continued, however, to direct the fire against the Turkish positions.

The Montenegrins stormed the citadel of Spitzza on the 19th. This success gives them possession of the coast from the Austrian frontier to Boyana. The Turks still hold the citadel of Antivari. A couple of Turkish ships are reported to have kept the Montenegrins somewhat in check. It is to be hoped that when peace shall have been declared, these sturdy mountaineers, who have never yet been subjected by Turkey, and have never acknowledged their authority over them, will have their independence acknowledged by the European powers. The Turks are said to have violated the Austrian frontier on the 17th inst. They sacked several houses and appropriated cattle. The Austrian Government will doubtless look after the affair.

Count Andrassy has expressed his conviction that Servia will not break the peace. Every effort has, however, been made by Russia to induce Servia to co-operate with her. General Horvatovics is said to have informed the Servian Government that if it wishes to join in the war, it ought to do so at once, as the Turks are throwing up strong entrenchments, mounted with heavy guns, along the eastern frontier, and are also concentrating troops near Clissoura and Tirnova, apparently with an inclination for invasion. Servia, however, appears to view Russia with almost as much suspicion as she feels hatred towards Turkey. She is said to demand conditions of Russia which the latter power considers exorbitant and undesirable, and which consequently she refuses to accept.

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