

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, AUG. 2, 1877.

TO THE CHURCHMEN OF THE MARITIME DIOCESES.

IT is with sincere regret that we have received the news of the discontinuance of the *Church Chronicle*, a paper with which we never sought to enter into competition, because we believed that it was faithfully and effectually in its own sphere serving the cause which both of us have at heart. But its publication having now ceased we feel at liberty and indeed bound to attempt to occupy the field thus left vacant. It may be supposed to be difficult for us at a distance thoroughly and satisfactorily to meet the local requirements of the Churchmen of the Maritime Dioceses, but we can assure them that no efforts shall be wanting on our part to do so; and there will be no difficulty whatever in the matter, if all interested will heartily be helpers in supplying new and exact local information on all church matters. But we shall, above all, strive to set before our subscribers, in the future as in the past, a newspaper of a sound, healthy church tone, one that, while conducted with toleration and charity, yet speaks with no uncertain sound, one that glories in the catholicity, and does not seek to narrow the wide comprehensiveness of the Church of England, one that no churchman need be either afraid or ashamed of, one that can honestly inscribe on its title page the good old motto of the *Church Chronicle*, "For the Church of God."

In its last issue the *Church Chronicle* took leave of its readers with these words:—"In conclusion, and before saying 'good-bye' to the public, we would wish to recommend to our Church people the *DOMINION CHURCHMAN*. In former years it was not conducted in such a manner as to meet our approval, but its altered tone and great improvement enable us to express the hope that it will be generally taken by the members of our Church." We shall only be carrying out the wishes of the managers of the paper in sending to all of its subscribers specimen copies of the *DOMINION CHURCHMAN*. We ask for their confidence and support, and we request each and all to notice our terms of subscription, which are—Two Dollars per annum, paid in advance; and Three Dollars, if not paid in advance. Those who may not find it convenient to remit immediately, will oblige by sending a postal card to the effect that we may enrol their names.

TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

WE are sending out our accounts in this week's issue to all subscribers now in arrears. It is scarcely necessary for us to remind our friends that we expect them to enclose the amount with the account, to the proprietor immediately. As a longer time than usual has elapsed since we sent them out before, and as the sum is very small to each individual—although amounting in the

total to several thousand dollars—it must be clearly seen that by allowing these small subscriptions to accumulate the matter becomes a very serious one to us. *The main point is to remit immediately on receiving this notice.*

THE WEEK.

ONCE again there has been a sort of lull in the war. The Russians, very wisely for their own cause, do not tolerate special correspondents with their army, and the information that reaches us from the Turkish side is singularly vague and unsatisfactory. It would appear, however, as if the Russian force which penetrated the Western passes of the Balkans had made good its footing to the South of the first mountain range, and had a fair chance of advancing on Adrianople. There are rumours again of the approach of peace, but we fear they are but rumours, and false ones too. Hitherto the contest has been altogether confined to the two original combatants, both of whom most of us distrust and with neither of whom have we much sympathy. But the crisis is approaching, and in a few weeks, perhaps a few days, England's position must be defined, and the question of peace or war irrevocably settled. The Government is reinforcing the Mediterranean garrisons, a precautionary measure which it seems to us they would be culpably foolish not to adopt, albeit Mr. Gladstone stigmatizes it as "a perfect example of the art of disquieting and annoying one side, without conferring the smallest advantage on the other." The Russian press, which does not speak without permission from high quarters, is indulging in vehement tirades against England, and the danger lies in the irritation and anger which may now arise in the popular mind and which may precipitate war.

The railway strike in the United States has, since we last wrote, assumed very extensive and dangerous proportions, but now happily the worst seems to be over. Nothing can be urged in palliation of the riotous excesses which have been committed, but in several, if not in most cases, the mob that has set the law and the Government at defiance has been composed, not of the persons who struck but of the rowdy and idle class that is, especially in times of commercial depression, always on the look out for a reason for creating a disturbance. The Federal and State authorities have acted vigorously, and in most instances the better class of citizens, appreciating the extreme gravity of the situation, have promptly declared themselves on the side of law and order. The outbreak, however, shews the thinness of the crust on which much of our commercial and political fabrics is now-a-days reared, and the tumults being suppressed, the causes, near and remote, which led to them must receive most serious consideration. Employers of labour must face the fact that the

employed must live. Competition is rightly regarded as a good thing for the general public, but if competition is kept up by keeping wages down, the general gain is soon counter-balanced by the aggregated individual losses, and a state of discontent and poverty is produced which culminates in such disastrous and disgraceful scenes as we have lately heard of. Fortunately the strike, which at one time did affect the Canada Southern Railway, and threatened to extend to other lines too has been arrested by judicious management and mutual forbearance on the part of the employers and employed before much harm was done in Canada.

We constantly hear, from the restless and dissatisfied, of the inapplicability of the Prayer Book to all sorts and conditions of men and to all the requirements of modern life. The Chaplain of the Thames Church Mission recently admitted that he never held Church of England services for sea-going men, that he never administered the Holy Communion to sailors, that he never used the Prayer Book for "poor sailors, who were far too ignorant to understand it." A former chaplain writes, "I find that during two years 1554 Books of Common Prayer were sold to sailors by our Mission Agents; indeed by instructions from the Committee the Prayer Book was always offered with the Bible. Then our services, four or five times weekly, were always liturgical, and whenever shore visitors attended they are always struck with the fervour of the sailor's responses. The administration of Holy Communion was as often as circumstances would allow: our rule being to celebrate monthly." A correspondent "N. R." writes on this: "What a change! But who has changed? the sailors' liking for the Prayer Book and Church Services, or the fidelity of their teachers?" Those who are acquainted with the Garrison Chapel at Halifax are aware that there is in the Dominion a standing proof that liturgical services are most highly appreciated by soldiers and sailors. It is not complimentary to the education or the taste of Western Ontario that when efforts are made here to "evangelize the masses" recourse must be had to "Gospel melodies," and the extemporary utterances of non-conformist laymen. Where there's the will to use it, the Church's way will be found not only possible but the best.

We are glad to see, by the way, that the inadequacy of the spiritual provision made by the Government for the officers and men of the Royal Navy has been receiving attention from the Lower House of Convocation. Not only is the supply of Chaplains for the men afloat very small, but when a ship is in port little care is taken to provide sailors with proper services. It is proposed to create a Chaplain General for the Navy, if possible of the Episcopal Order. What life would be infused into such an office by a practical