

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1875.

HEAVY rains are again reported from Texas occasioning the usual accompaniment of floods and damages. The parts which appear to have been most visited are the southern and the western. The rivers and bayous are higher than they have been for years. The railroads are in some of them in so unsafe a state on account of the condition of the tressles that trains have not been allowed to leave their stations. Much damage has been done to the roads and bridges. Loss of life has not yet been reported. The year appears to preserve its character for storm and flood up to its usual measure.

IN COUNT ARNIM'S recent pamphlet, following remarkable words occur:—"If Europe is in perpetual uneasiness, the cause is to be found in Berlin, where are Bismark's residence and the Foreign Office. Monsieur de Bismark has changed lodgings, but Napoleon will not brook dictation from Berlin more than from Paris." The demand for the pamphlet on the Continent of Europe has been enormous. It proposes to prove as calumnious, the charge brought against Count Arnim having purposely thrown difficulties in the way of the convention regarding the evacuation of French territory. It also gives an account of an interview between the Count and the Emperor of France, at which the Count is represented as having deplored Prince Bismark's selfish tendency, which had already cost His Majesty many a faithful servant, of whom several are named.

THE Pacific Railway, it would seem at present, is to be entirely shelved. A minute council proposes that the agreement which would build the railway shall be cancelled, as well as the compromise since made; also that seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars shall be paid down in cash to the Province of British Columbia, instead of commencing the Esquimaux and Nanaimo Railway, and spending millions annually on constructions within the limits of that Province. It is urged that all the British Columbians wanted was to have money spent in their colony. No doubt they would have no objection to some arrangement, which would lead to so satisfactory a result. But that was not all that the Province of Canada wanted; nor is it all that they still want in that direction; and

there can be no question that the railway if constructed would be a vast blessing to the Dominion of Canada. It would do more to open up our part of the continent than any step that has been taken for that purpose since the conquest of Quebec, and would give the whole Dominion a power and an agency almost beyond our present conception. No doubt the railway must be a work of time, but the project is not therefore to be given up.

A BENEFACTOR of the human race has departed this life, the Abbe Paramello, at St. Cere, in his eighty-fifth year. He was most remarkable for having studied the springs of rivers evidently fed from underground streams, and also the natural irrigation of several well watered departments. He had been much struck with the sufferings of both man and beast from want of water, which could only be procured at great cost and by dint of much labor. Plenty of rain fell in the department where he lived, but it all disappeared under the chalky soil. After nine years of study and two years rambling, he thought he understood something of the subject. He laid his theory before the General Council of the Lot, who rewarded him six hundred francs to make experiments. He immediately pointed out five spots where operations should be commenced, one of which furnished water enough for the whole department. He was regarded as a sorcerer, and succeeded 305 times out of 308; and when in 1854 owing to age and infirmity he gave up a labor of love for which he had left the church, thirty-seven departments were demanding his services. He spent the latter years of his life in writing his experience and has left behind him a work entitled "The Art of Discovering Springs." The story of men like these should not be allowed to pass away unheeded.

A STARTLING disclosure has been made respecting the death of Shelley, which took place on the 8th of July, 1822. A dying sailor is said to have been confessed by a priest, who was at the time requested to give publicity to the statement. The confession has through the medium of a friend reached the ears of Miss Trelawney. She has written the account from Rome to her father, who is well known as having been an intimate friend of Shelley's. The sailor stated that he was one of the crew that

ran down the boat containing Shelley and Williams, and that it was done under the impression that the rich "Milord" Byron was on board with plenty of money. They did not intend to sink the boat, but to board her and murder Byron. He says she sank as soon as struck. Captain Trelawney credits the account. He says it so exactly corresponds with the event, that it solves that which has been a mystery for half a century. Captain Roberts who after several days dragging succeeded in recovering the *Don Juan* (Shelley's boat) said that every thing was in her, showing that she had not been capsized. The gunwale was stove in, the hull half full of blue clay, many of the timbers on the starboard quarter broken, so that the opinion expressed by many at the time was that "a native boat had tried to board her piratically," and that "she had been run down by some of the feluccas in the squall."

TWENTY-TWO THOUSAND women of Ontario have presented a petition to the legislature asking for an act to be passed limiting the number of licensed taverns, and entirely discarding saloon and grocery licenses. The petitioners attribute a large portion of our pauperism as well as of our immorality to this source; and they claim to have a personal interest, many of them, in the solution of the question. Considerable amelioration might result from the limitations proposed. The more drinking saloons there are, and the more other trades use such an instrument as intoxicating liquor for the purpose of enticing customers, so much the stronger is the temptation to indulge in the habit of drinking too freely. A poor woman in Glasgow knowing her husband's infirmity, used to go and meet him after he had received his wages on Saturday afternoon. She said she could get him past seven places of drink but not past fifteen. This gentle treatment will not however cure the evil. Without going to any extremes, without by any means contending that taking wine or ale, or even sometimes spirits, in moderation is a sin, we may nevertheless subscribe to the Archdeacon of Bombay's principle on the subject. He admits the benefit that these beverages may oftentimes produce, but believes that every one will also admit the evil occasioned by their use to be infinitely greater than the good; and he therefore contends that this one fact, denied by none, ought to decide the question as to a total prohibition of the manufacture and sale of all alcoholic beverages.