

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25th, 1879.

IN illustrating the value of giving lectures on Church History, it is stated that at a recent meeting at Alfreton, in Derbyshire, a nonconformist minister remarked that the fact of the continuity of the church was quite new to him, and that he had thought that "Episcopacy did not exist in England until introduced by Henry the Eighth and his Parliament."

The Bishop of Worcester has again written to the Churchwarden (Mr. J. Perkins) of Bordesley, in which he says: "I cannot admit the validity of your arguments. In whatever respect the bread consecrated for use in the Holy Communion by the Vicar of Holy Trinity differed from such as is usual to be eaten, the offence committed by the person who carried it away under the pretence of communicating, remains still, in my view, as a profanation of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper."

The Liverpool Bishopric Fund has nearly reached the sum of £50,000 stg. When they have invested £60,000, the committee will be able to go to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, and availing themselves of the guarantee fund provided by Act of Parliament, they will be in a position to claim the Bishop.

In concluding a masterly article on "Anglican Advantages" (No. 5) The *Church Times* remarks: "Thus, there is no security any longer for doctrine in the Roman Church, whereas the Church of England is anchored by the double cable of Scripture and history, so that no change in her teaching has taken place, or is to be apprehended."

Some intimation has been given of an intention to dispose of the Church of St. Bartholemew the Great, Smithfield, whereat great indignation is expressed in certain quarters. Very few people have an idea of the magnificence of this old Abbey Church, which is daily open at mid-day for worship. The Ambulatory, the Abbot's window the Norman arches and the mighty pillars present a different aspect from most of the city churches.

The marriage of the King of Spain with the Archduchess Marie Christine, of Austria, was celebrated at Madrid on the 29th ult.

The Count de Grimberger, one of the wealthiest noblemen of Belgium, died at Brussels recently. Before dying he had to invoke the intervention of the public authorities to be disembarassed of those who wanted him to die with the rites of Roman religion.

Recommendations have been officially issued with regard to the Divinity School, Dublin, proposing that it shall still be part and parcel of Trinity College, that the Divinity Professorships shall be opened to clerical graduates of the Church of Ireland; and that the amount now expended on the Divinity School, shall be secured to the uses of maintaining a Theological Faculty and a Divinity School in Trinity College.

The distinguished service reward of £100 stg. per annum, vacant by the death of General Bell,

has been awarded to Colonel Pearson, in recognition of his services in Zululand, more particularly by his holding Fort Ekowe for three months, surrounded on all sides by the enemy, until relieved by Lord Chelmsford.

The earl of Durham died on the 27th ult., at the age of fifty-one. He was the last surviving son of the first Earl of Durham, who was Governor General of Canada.

Mr. Gladstone's election campaign in Midlothian, has caused much excitement. According to the *Times*, "if his journey to Edinburgh was a triumphal progress, his appearances in Midlothian have been a continued ovation. Delicate ladies equally with robust men defy the elements in their devotion to the hero of the hour."

Yakoob Khan has been sent off to India, at the command of the Viceroy, and some progress has been made in the appointment of chiefs to preside over districts in Afghanistan, which have no longer an Ameer.

It is ascertained that the harvest in Ireland has been better on an average than in England or Scotland. The discontent arises in part from failure of the potato crop in some localities almost entirely depending upon it; and the failure is aggravated by the difficulty of drying turf for fuel.

At a recent ordination service in St. Thomas' Church, New York, Bishop Potter performing the office, the Rev. E. B. Rice was admitted to the order of Priests; Messrs. G. A. Anderson and J. B. Morse were admitted to the order of Deacons. Mr. Anderson leaves the Methodist Episcopal body, in which he has been pastor for ten years. His wife is a granddaughter of the late Commodore Vanderbilt.

### THE SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY.

THE distinction between the services on Christmas-Day and those on the Sunday following it is generally understood to be this: that, on the Great Festival itself the Church regards the condescension of the Son of God in becoming man, whereas on the Sunday she sets forth the exaltation of man's nature by such condescension. On the Festival, the Son of God is manifested to us as Immanuel, God coming from the skies to dwell with man as a man; on the other, the sons of men are exhibited to the eye of faith as becoming the sons of God, through the adoption won for them by the Holy Child Jesus. We are heirs of God through Christ, because of the fulfilment of the promise contained or involved in His Name, "He shall save His people from their sins."

This year, the Festival of the Holy Innocents happens on this Sunday. The observance which dates from a very early period is an important one and stands connected with several fundamental principles of Christianity. As St. Cyprian remarks: "The Nativity of Christ commenced forthwith with the martyrdom of infants, so that those who were two years old and under were put to death, for His Name's sake. An age not yet capable of conflict, proved fit for a crown. That it might appear that they are innocent who are put to death for the sake of Christ, innocent in-

fancy was slain for His Name's sake. It was shown that no one was free from the perils of persecution, whenever such accomplished martyrdom." The barbarous event of the destruction of the children of Bethlehem is spoken of in secular history. The Gospel for the day gives the Evangelist's account of it, while the Epistle sets forth the Heavenly sequel of that event in the mystical language of the Apocalypse. The martyrdom of the innocents has always been viewed in this way by the Church; and the tender feeling with which these first witnesses for the Holy Child Jesus were kept in memory is illustrated by a well-known hymn written in the fourth century, and beginning (as translated into English), "All hail! ye infant martyr flowers." As one of the early Christian writers remarked: "It was as if He was saying already, 'Suffer little children to come unto me, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.'" With a new glory He crowned infants, and in His own beginnings consecrated the first fruits of little children; that hence we might learn that no one among mankind is incapable of a Divine Sacrament, since even that age was fit for the glory of martyrdom. Christ loves infancy, which He took on Himself both in mind and body; He loves infancy as the mistress of humility, the type of innocence, the form of meekness.

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### CATECHISING.

OUR attention is at present being called by editorials in a city contemporary to the subject of "pulpit oratory" as a means of instruction, and the decline of it in the present day. Eloquence in preaching is, no doubt, a thing much to be de-

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