

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1878.

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THE WEEK.

THE Bishop of Manchester in a recent address says that the people of England do not appear to attach as much importance as those of France or Germany, Sweden or Norway, to higher education. Certainly 0.4 per cent. of the population did not seem a large estimate of the number requiring it in the district of Burnley. One of our leading statesmen, Mr. Forster, had lately expressed an opinion that it was desirable that a boy's education should terminate at an earlier age. As far as he gathered, Mr. Forster held that they should leave the University at about eighteen years of age. As the University course was about three years, he supposed that boys would have to leave school at fifteen, and that would bring the Universities back to the state of things which obtained in the Middle Ages; which he thought was not a satisfactory state of things. He was afraid that the result of forcing youths to master the multitudinous farrago of attainments in almost every conceivable subject which to-day went by the name of a complete education, would probably stunt the mind and cripple it, and more or less deprive it of that stock of vivid force and energy which would carry them through the storms and turmoils of active life:—

The more he saw of men upon whom the country was to rely in the future, the more he was inclined to say, "Don't hurry these boys in what you are pleased to call the acquirement of useful knowledge at too early an age." He was sorry that the present system of education compelled them to take up so many subjects. He was afraid that boys could not master all the subjects, and got only a smattering of some of them. He hoped the principle of sound methods would prevail. He would put it in another way, and say he trusted that the principle of qualitative would always prevail over the principle of quantitative education. He should like to see the subject of political economy made one of the subjects for examination in these

schools. During the recent strike in that district, he was pleased to receive a letter from a working man, who regretted that the science of political economy was not understood by the men, and he expressed a desire that a course of lectures might be delivered in Blackburn upon the subject. He (the Bishop) was pleased to find that Professor Bonamy Price, of London, and Professor Adamson, of Owen's College, Manchester, had arranged to deliver lectures next month in Blackburn upon the question. He looked with very sanguine hope to the diffusion of sounder principles of political economy amongst both masters and men, because it appeared to him that there was not a great preponderance of wisdom on either side.

It is believed that the burden of the deficit of the Glasgow Bank will fall chiefly on about two hundred shareholders. Many failures in Glasgow and throughout the country are anticipated in consequence. Stock jobbers as a matter of course flood the country with rumours intended to raise or to lower prices according to the objects they may have in view. The *Times* says that the accounts of the Bank have been deliberately falsified, securities entered at fictitious values, bad debts taken as good, and the very gold which ought to have been held against the note issue deliberately squandered to the extent of over £300,000. The Government have been deceived by false returns, shareholders by crooked balance sheets, and everything done, in short, that perverse ingenuity could think of, to conceal the bankrupt condition of the bank, until it became a national calamity. The revelations of the investigation must startle the mercantile community almost as much as the news of the failure, and ought to be the signal for many much-needed banking reforms. No comments can add to the force of facts like these. It is alleged that if such offences against the innocent public and suffering shareholders are allowed to go unpunished, there is an end to confidence in Scotch banking. A shock will indeed be given to the credit of all banks, such as must prove most injurious to the mercantile credit of England. It is, therefore, suggested that punishment alone will not suffice, there must be reform as well. The *Daily News*, in its financial column, alluding to street rumours, says as far as could be ascertained at the last moment on the 18th, there was no foundation for the report that any London bank is in difficulty. On the contrary, accommodation was then given more freely. These endeavours to create difficulties by concoctors of this species of intelligence are just as numerous and just as injurious as ever. A similar report which was started relative to a loan from the Bank of France to the Bank of England may have served the ends of its inventors. The *Times* in its financial article says no fresh complications were announced on the 18th, or apprehended. A very imaginative story was started of an arrangement for the Bank

of England to get fabulous amounts of gold from the Bank of France. The story was utterly without foundation. The whole management of the City of Glasgow Bank, namely, the Secretary, Managing Director, and six directors were arrested on Saturday on the charge of fraud. They are confined separately, and are not allowed to communicate with any person. They all surrendered without trouble, and declared they would have done so voluntarily if they had known they were wanted.

On the 21st, the Stock market closed steady upon the contradiction of the rumours regarding the suspension of large Liverpool firms.

Lord Lawrence writing on the Afghan difficulty expresses his judgment against the policy of Lord Lytton. He says that it seems to him to have been a serious mistake organising a Mission to Cabul before we had ascertained whether Ameer Shere Ali was prepared to receive our overtures or not, and a still greater mistake despatching the Mission until we had received his consent to our doing so. Had these precautions been observed, the affront would not have appeared to be so flagrant as it now does. But, however vexatious the Ameer's conduct, it ought not to lead us to force our mission on him, still less should it induce us to declare war against him. It appears to him to be contrary to sound policy that we should resent our disappointment by force of arms; for by doing so we play the enemy's game, and force the Afghans into a union with the Russians. Lord Lawrence thinks we should not bear too hardly on the Ameer, and that, if we promise to give up forcing a Mission on him he would make any apology that we could reasonably call for. Lord Lawrence considers there would be no real dishonor to us in coming to terms with him; whereas, by pressing on him our own policy, we may incur most serious difficulties, and even disasters.

The *Times*, however, in a long article on the subject replies in defence of Lord Lytton's policy, and argues that Russia sometimes entered into a kind of moral guarantee that Afghanistan would not be interfered with by her, but should be something of a neutral ground between the two nations. But that now the Ameer having admitted an Envoy from Russia, must be compelled to receive an Embassy from British India. The *Times* says that our safety demands this as an absolute necessity.

There is a report in circulation to the effect that the Ameer is strenuously endeavoring to seek compromise, and that he has expressed a willingness to meet the Viceroy at Peshawur. Should the report turn out to be true, it is regarded as an expedient to gain time. The idea of a winter campaign among the Afghan mountains, being apparently abandoned, this would make no difference to the British attack. Nothing but immediate and unqualified submission will avert the war;

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