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Dominion Churchman.

We have much pleasure in stating that Lachlan H. McIntosh, Esq., is Agent for the DOMINION CHURCHMAN, and is authorized to solicit subscriptions and collect all accounts.

THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 1876.

1876.

The last moments of another year are now fast gliding away. Its events, whether for weal or for woe, will soon belong to the pages of history, and as far as they go, will more or less modify the character of the future history of the world; although, whatever may be the manner in which the future may shape itself, the ultimate destiny of the Church has been already predetermined by Him to whom the government has been given. No events of an extensive influence, such as belong to years like 1791 or 1848 have taken place, unless we may accept those which have occurred in the East, and the result of which is not yet known. In our review of the events of last year, we noticed the fact that several nations of the world were preparing themselves for a conflict, which, if it should take place, would be one of the most tremendous and most deadly ever yet known. The preparations we then alluded to have been unremittingly continued up to the present moment; but, inasmuch as the best way to secure peace is to show the world that we are ready for war, so it may be hoped that all the preparations that have been made, on the grandest scale, are so many preventives of war in real earnest. And it does so happen that the present immediate prospect, so far as the British Empire is concerned, is eminently one of peace; and perhaps this is very considerably the result of the prominence which has been given to the fact that, should it be necessary, England is quite ready to defend the interests confided to her keeping.

CANADA.

The commercial depression, and the losses which we had to chronicle a year ago have been, to some extent, continued, although perhaps not to so large an extent as the previous year; and had not the harvest been much less productive than was expected, it is probable that considerable commercial improvement would have taken place. The United States Centennial and the Presidential contest do not appear to have had the reviving effects upon us which some had anticipated. The failure in the fisheries of the previous year seems likely to be compensated by the discovery of new fishing grounds on the coast of Labrador. Some fears have been expressed of another Fenian raid, and insurance companies have made arrangements to facilitate the prosecution of their business in the event of such an infringement of the law of nations; inasmuch as it is very unlikely that the present Government of England would

allow United States ruffians to attack our peaceful shores again with impunity. We opine, however, that no Fenian raid will take place until England may happen to be engaged in war with some other power. Some movements have taken place, which have for their object the opening of a trade with the West Indies and also with Australia; and doubtless both these would have a beneficial effect. The United States very largely supply Australia and the West Indies with machinery and various other merchandise, while it is very well known that Canada could supply most of them at much lower prices. The difficulties, however, in the case of Australia are connected with English rather than American rivalry; and in the case of the West Indies, the question is entirely one of tariff. We have always advocated an absolute free trade of all the British dominions with each other, and reciprocal trade with all the rest of the world. Halifax has been made the winter port of the Dominion, much to the satisfaction of some people, as well in Ontario as in the Maritime Provinces, and equally to the dissatisfaction of others. Unfortunately the question appears to have assumed a political aspect, which is much to be deplored. It is, we presume, an experiment which we trust will be successful, and we see no sufficient reason why it should not.

The ecclesiastical record of the year has been marked with a great many incidents for which we have cause to be abundantly thankful to Almighty God. But as we have given as full an account of these as possible throughout the year, it will be unnecessary to repeat them now. As we reported last year, we still have to say that [the Diocese of Algona has not yet received the attention and support which its merits demand and our engagements require." We said then, and we must repeat that the Dominion must rouse itself to a sense of its duty in this respect; failure would be, not disgraceful, it would be base and treacherous; and at our own door will lie the sin.

ENGLAND.

One of the most remarkable things connected with the mother country during the past year has been the "Mission" movement, which has grown to large dimensions. St. Paul's Cathedral, London, has often been filled with eager listeners, beyond the reach of the human voice. Special meetings in York grew so large that they removed to the Minster, where enquiry meetings were held after the other services. One of the most note-worthy mission efforts was that held at Sheffield, beginning Oct. 8th, under the auspices of the Archbishop of York, and the local Clergy. Open-air meetings, visits to workshops, took place in every district. Special services were held for men, others for women; and the greatest care was taken to select the most suit-

able "Missioners" and preachers for the occasion. There is every reason to believe that great good has already resulted from this movement. At Cheltenham a similar Mission has been held and doubtless with equal success. A band of workers has also been engaged at Reading, where great good has also been done.

The British Palestine Exploring party have fixed the site of the Cave of Adullam, and also that of our Lord's Baptism. The latter is recorded as having been at a ford near Bethabara. They found on an average three fords to a mile, and at length they discovered one named Abara, near the village where the Lord had just previously been.

English Literature has lost one of its highest ornaments in Harriet Martineau, who died in June at the age of 75. Among English women of letters, only two can be placed in the same category with this talented and versatile authoress, Mrs. Somerville and Mrs. Lewis, ('Geo. Eliot.') She was a woman of lofty intellect and of the purest character.

The death of George Smith, the celebrated Assyrian Archæologist is a very great calamity—to him more than to any one else, the world is indebted for the marvellous discoveries which have been made by opening up the buried Assyrian treasures. His death is supposed to have been caused by anxiety and irritation, on account of the interference of Turkish Officials with his intended explorations.

The return of the Arctic expedition with the news that the North Pole cannot be reached is one of the important events of the year. Whether Captain Nares has made a mistake in supposing that the four hundred miles yet remaining cannot be passed over is a disputed point. A more favourable season in regard to mildness of temperature can scarcely occur again until the inclination of the earth's axis has considerably changed. But this very circumstance may have created some of the difficulty in accumulating the detached masses of ice in parts where they threatened to annihilate the voyagers. And moreover, the east coast of Greenland has never yet been fairly attempted, and the course of the Gulf stream, if it is not a myth in those regions, has not yet been followed. It has also been more than hinted that the expedition was comparatively unprovided with the requisites for preventing scurvy. So that we may well suppose it will not be long before another effort will be made to plant the British Standard at the North Pole.

The church congress at Plymouth gave evidence of great and increasing power connected with the church. The operation of the Public Worship Act is, as might be expected, very local in its application. The work of the Church has been going on, her operations are on a larger scale than ever, and the in-