

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 1878.

THE WEEK.

A VALUABLE contribution to Assyrian literature will shortly be published. It is not generally known that the late Mr. George Smith left, in an almost complete state, the History of Sennacherib, in the same style as the well-known History of Assurbanipal, with the cuneiform texts transliterated and translated. All that was wanting was the last twenty pages, which have been supplied by the celebrated Assyrian scholar, Mr. Sayce. The work is being published from funds supplied by the late Mr. Bosanquet, and is expected to be of very great interest.

The latest intelligence from King Mtesa, Uganda, on the Victoria Nyanza, is not so favorable as heretofore. The Missionaries of the Church Missionary Society were cordially received on their arrival; and the King appeared much pleased to talk to the Rev. Mr. Wilson, and to read the Bible. He also showed his favorable disposition by giving the Missionaries a hut and a plentiful supply of provisions. A sudden change however manifested itself, arising it was supposed from a suspicion of the schemes of Egypt. A retrograde party also obtained the ear of the King, and urged him to compel Mr. Wilson to leave his hut and go further off. This occurred at the time the news was received of the massacre of the other Missionaries at Ukerewe. Mr. Wilson then obtained leave to quit the court and kingdom of Uganda. Thereupon he crossed the Lake to Speke's Bay, made his way to Unyanbembe, and the last report from him states that he intended joining the other Missionaries on the Lake Nyanza. Of the four who reached the Lake last year, one, Dr. Smith, sickened and died, and Lieut. Smith and Mr. O'Neill have been murdered. It was therefore an act of prudence on the part of Mr. Wilson to retire from the field. In the meantime, it appears to be the settled determination of the Egyptians to advance southward. Col. Gordon is now moving towards Gondokoro, and at the arrival at that place there will probably be stirring events at Uganda—perhaps bloodshed and devastation. Col. Gordon has already stationed a medical man, by birth a German, and by religion a Mussulman, as his agent at the capital of Uganda. Mtesa may possibly be foolish enough to murder him, and if so, an opportunity will be afforded for retribution and perhaps occupation of the Lake by Egypt. It is very much to be regretted that the peaceful and adventurous designs of the Missionaries, who are not only desirous of planting Christianity there, but have also the means of introducing improved agriculture and manufactures, should thus be thwarted by the designs of Egypt on the North, and the conduct of the Zanzibar Natives on the South. It is stated that the Church Missionary Society has no idea of abandoning the Mission, but is determined to strengthen it. They

have upwards of fourteen agents in the field, some of whom are carpenters, mechanics, and agriculturalists. The idea is that with a fair start, a Mission thus constituted will be self-supporting. It is also intended to continue the chain of Mission Stations, between Speke Bay on the Nyanza and Zanzibar. Discouraging as the immediate prospect may be, we look for success to Him Who has in His hands the hearts of all men.

In order to escape the rock, it will be of little benefit to be engulfed in the whirlpool. In the endeavor to get as far as possible from Rome and Ritual, the Church in Ireland is believed to be in no small danger of Plymouthism, which is making rapid strides in that country; and in order to prevent people from seceding to that pestilential heresy, it is proposed to accommodate the dogmatic teaching of the Irish Church to the maxims of that creed—if that can be called a creed which consists of little more than a series of negations. Lord Carrick has already gone over, and it is supposed that if the Irish Prayer Book can have the Baptismal and other offices purged from all Scriptural and primitive teaching and brought as nearly as possible to the Plymouth idea, there will be very little necessity for any Plymouth brother or sister to separate from her communion. A statement made by Master Brooke in the Irish Synod at its recent sitting, in reference to the success attending Lord Carrick's raid upon the Church in Limerick, has led to an enquiry as to the truth of it. The result is that it is found that rash assertions can be made in the Irish Synod as well as in that of Toronto. It is also stated that "of those who comprised the number stated to have been won over from the Church of Ireland in one week at that mission, the greater portion were members of the Plymouth sect for years, others were brought from various places to make the greater display in connection with Lord Carrick; others were dissatisfied members of the Presbyterian and Independent bodies, whilst one only had professed to be a member of the Church of Ireland, he having been, in principle and heart, with the Plymouth people for many years." Another attack on the Church from the same quarter has already begun in that city this summer—with what success remains to be seen. Plymouthism is, perhaps, the one heresy of the age against which we have most to guard, and towards which many among us are drifting.

The sittings of Congress are still in progress at the time we write. The results of the deliberations are more secret than some people pretend. As far, however, as can be ascertained, things are going on as satisfactorily as could be expected. It is stated that the right of the Sultan to place on the Roumelian frontiers whatever force he may deem necessary for the safety and security of the empire was much contested, but the principle was ultimately agreed to, notwithstanding a

number of counter suggestions that were offered by Russia. Lord Beaconsfield has shown a determination not to yield the points he was most anxious to insist upon, as every one who knows anything about him would expect. He is decidedly master of the situation, and can shape his course in absolute defiance of what "public opinion" in England might have to say, if the public ear in England had access to the Premier's utterances in the Congress. It is said that the Congress has decided to allow nine months for the evacuation of Southern Roumelia and Bulgaria, and that the main features of the Bulgarian question will be pretty nearly settled when Russia withdraws her amendments, which she is expected to do in consideration of the time allowed for her withdrawal. There is believed to be practically now, as more or less all along, an alliance existing between England and Austria, each of these two powers coming into prominence, when her own interests are concerned. During the discussion of garrisoning the Balkans, England has been most forward in pressing her views, while Austria is expected to become more prominent in reference to the permanent organization of Bulgaria. It is believed that Germany has expressed a wish for a speedy termination of the Conference. If this should turn out to be the case, some details, including the arrangements for the autonomy of Roumelia will probably be left for a supplementary Conference.

A military convention is spoken of as likely to take place between Russia and Turkey. By the terms of the proposed convention, the Turks will evacuate Shumla, retire on Varna, and there embark for Roumelia, while the Russians will concentrate about Adrianople.

The attitude assumed by Lord Beaconsfield at the Congress is illustrated by a reply he is said to have given to some urgent solicitations which had been made to him. Prince Bismark having urged him to make some concessions, the Earl replied, "I did not come here to yield."

In the settlement of the Bulgarian question, the *Times* considers that, if it is ratified by the Czar, it will be nothing less than the abandonment by Russia of the policy which has guided her relations with Turkey during the last hundred years. It adds:—A process of piecemeal nibbling at Turkey's outlying provinces, and periodical reopening of the Eastern Question whenever circumstances seemed to favor it, would have been continued by an extension of Bulgaria south of the Balkans under Russian influence.

The Archdeacon of Middlesex (Dr. Hessey) gave his annual charge on Thursday morning, May 28. After noticing various questions of interest, coming to the main points of his charge—the rights of the laity in the Church's councils, and the wisdom of calling them into council, he said that, with much activity of life, there co-existed some evils. These were generally 'the languidness of the