

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1878.

THE WEEK.

AN Assistant Bishop is expected to be appointed for East London, England. The vast population of the present diocese of London, embracing a larger number than the whole Dominion of Canada can boast of, begin to feel their need of more Episcopal supervision, although every parish it contains could be reached by its Bishop in an hour or two. A large meeting of the clergy in the north-eastern part of the Diocese was held a few days ago to take the subject into consideration. The Bishop of London presided at the meeting, and expressed himself satisfied with the proposal, and willing to avail himself of the assistance of a suffragan Bishop. As far as we can determine, there does not appear to be any reason why the Diocese should not be divided, except that arrangements have not been made by the Government for the purpose; there may also be reasons urged in favor of providing a certain number of assistant bishops in preference to the excessive multiplication of small dioceses, especially in a country where the appointments may happen to be made in accordance with a variety of considerations other than those of eminent learning, administrative ability, and special adaptedness for the particular diocese which may require a Bishop. However that may be, the feeling of the English public has set in strongly in favor of a general increase of the Episcopate, and a large and influential meeting has lately been held in London, presided over by the Earl of Devon: the object of it being to support the Government Bishops Bill.

The relations of Church and State in England, however long they may be continued in a position fundamentally the same as at present, may yet, and probably will receive considerable modification. Even the Bishop of Carlisle has come to the conclusion that the time has already arrived when it has become necessary that the principles of legislation upon matters affecting the spiritual affairs and interests of the Church should be revised and re-arranged. At the meeting of the Convocation in York next month, His Lordship proposes to ventilate his ideas upon the subject. He intends to submit to Convocation a recognition of the principle that it is freely acknowledged that the absolute power of legislation affecting the subjects of the Sovereign resides in Parliament and the Crown, and that in many matters connected with the Church that power may be rightly exercised, yet that the relegation of all legislation to Parliament and the Crown must have the effect either of hindering changes altogether, or of introducing changes at the expense of engendering a sense of wrong in the minds of many of the most attached and faithful members of the Church. He thinks the difficulty might be obviated by some plan like this: That Canons and Constitutions for the

internal government of the Church should be first debated and approved in the Convocations of Canterbury and York, and be approved by both Convocations: That such Canons and Constitutions be then submitted to the Sovereign: That if the Sovereign should be so advised, such Canons and Constitutions by Her Majesty's command should thereupon be laid upon the table of each House of Parliament: And that if within a certain prescribed time, no address be passed by either House, praying the Sovereign to withhold the royal sanction, the Canons and Constitutions thus laid before Parliament should be communicated to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York for promulgation in their respective Provinces.

Between earthquakes and those eruptions of sea, which are erroneously termed "tidal waves," the eastern coast of South America has been pretty severely exercised. Repeated and severe shocks of earthquake were experienced along the Peruvian coast at the date of the latest intelligence from that region. The terrestrial disturbance, however, did not appear to effect much injury, but the development of the so-called tidal waves on the coast has been attended with a great destruction of property. The earthquakes were unusually severe at Iquique and Arica—places which suffered considerably last May by disturbances which affected the whole Pacific coast from Oregon to Southern Chili. It may have been from the contour of the coast which concentrated the wave force on the region in which those towns are situated that the great volcanic waves that swept the coast were most destructive at Arica and Iquique. Eruptions are reported to have taken place at Cotopaxi and neighbouring volcanoes in Ecuador, which suggests a connection between the earthquakes and the activity of these great outlets of subterranean forces. All great earthquakes seem to occur along the lines connecting the chief volcanic centres, and these centres are perhaps united by vast subterranean fissures in which the forces that cause both earthquakes and eruptions are developed. As the development of volcanic waves is clearly due to the upheaval and subsidence of the bottom of the sea, we can easily imagine how this phenomenon is more possible over a great subterranean fissure than over a comparatively solid crust. It is not improbable that the eruptions at the volcanic centres may be caused by the inlet of immense quantities of water through the fractured sea bottom to the regions of internal heat, and the development of an enormous steam or gas pressure, which seeks a natural outlet through the volcanoes. The disturbances of the South American coast are possibly those developed within the area of the Pacific Ocean and the adjacent coasts of the Asiatic and American Continents. In the centre of this system is found the great volcanoes of Mauna Loa, and Kilauea, of the Sandwich Islands.

Neither Russia nor England appears to have perfect confidence in peace as the result of the proposed Congress or conference. It certainly seems inconsistent with such a hope that the Russian army should concentrate in immense force at Adrianople and near Constantinople, sometimes declaring her intention to enter that city, and that she should be fortifying Rodosto on the Sea of Marmora, and threaten Gallipoli. The war party is said also to dominate in Russia, and a war party certainly makes the greatest noise in England, which is sending its iron clads in great haste to the East. Some tell us that everything depends upon the attitude assumed by Germany—a power which at present can hardly be said to favor either side, but seems to be looking on with folded arms, as much as to say:—"What are you going to do about the matter?" Germany probably expects that the next war in which she will be engaged will have most immediate reference to the possession of Alsace and Lorraine, and most likely is in no hurry to interfere particularly or definitely in the Eastern question. Whether the Congress will take place or not, or whether it is to be changed for a simple conference for the mere purpose of discussing certain questions and deciding on nothing, is still uncertain. Telegrams are as variable as possible. Almost every alternate telegram points to immediate war, while the others indicate the speedy advent of peace. The differences still existing arise from Russia's claims of territory for herself, while the oppressed Christians of Turkey are hardly thought of, and sigh for liberty as deeply and as despairingly as ever.

The Standing Committee of the Diocese of Springfield in the United States, in unani- mously consenting to the consecration of the Rev. Dr. Seymour as Bishop of that diocese, have drawn up a string of resolutions re-affirming their confidence in the teaching of the Bishop-elect. They refer to statements made in the public prints and elsewhere charging the Bishop-elect with error in religion, in holding doctrines at variance with the teachings of the Church and dangerous to its peace. They also aver that the action of the diocese in electing him to be its Bishop has been similarly misrepresented, and has been said to be the result of a plot against the peace of the Church. They therefore desire, in giving canonical assent to the consecration of the Rev. Geo. F. Seymour, D. D., as Bishop of that diocese, to put upon record an expression of their undiminished confidence in his doctrinal soundness, and in justification of the act of the diocese in choosing him as Bishop. They reaffirm their unqualified confidence in the conformity of his opinions to the teachings of the Church as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. And further the Standing Committee most solemnly denies the knowledge of any plot to elect any individual to the Episcopate, or the existence in that diocese of any combination or of any