

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1877.

## THE WEEK.

ETHER the bulletins issued by the Russian and Turkish commanders are more than usually mendacious, or fortune is more than usually capricious, and shews an extreme hesitation in the choice of the standard on which she is ultimately to perch. Some unexpected, and as yet imperfectly explained reverse has befallen the Russian troops in Asia Minor, so much so that the siege of Kars seems to be practically abandoned for the present. One account alleges that a Turkish force was allowed, or more probably assumed permission, to march for the neighborhood of Van across Persian territory, and thus unexpectedly make a descent on the exposed left flank and rear of the Russians, the recall of whose advanced guard was thereby necessitated. This explanation would account for the retreat of the left and centre, but not for the defeat, apparently confirmed, which they have suffered at Batoum. On the whole, the Turks have a brighter prospect in Asia than they could look upon a week ago.

In Europe the Russian advance has undoubtedly been slower than was anticipated, and there is no evidence as yet that it has been ever sure. It is true they have achieved the passage of the Danube with comparatively small loss, but there has been little dash about their later operations. Apparently their chief advance is to be in a line to Tirnova about due S. of Sistova, where the passage of the river was effected. This will take that corps a deal to the West of the fortress of Schumla, the centre of the Turkish position. Another force has occupied the Dobrudzka, and is preparing to advance into Bulgaria proper. The Turks therefore will have to fight on two lines, one from Varna to Rustchuk against the Dobrudzka invaders; the other from Rustchuk to Schumla against the Sistova force; the latter, in its turn, being exposed to attack on its right flank by the force which the Turks are hurrying up from Montenegro and Albania. Both combatants are nearly, if not quite, bankrupt, but on the whole the Czars "cat has got the longest tail." Though we place little confidence in the affirmations of disinterested sympathy with the oppressed which Prince Gortschakoff puts forward as the sole reasons for going to war. Still we trust and believe that by it the state of the Christians in Turkey may be permanently ameliorated. The English fleet is ordered to Besika Bay, to be within easy reach of the Ambassador at Constantinople.

It is to be hoped that the fracas which occurred last week on an Ottawa steamboat will not be made the occasion of any political or ecclesiastical excitement. If quasi-religious tourists wish to have the flag of their organization floating over their heads, they

can readily arrange for having their harmless wishes gratified; but it will be well, in future, if they forbear, when excited either by picnic stimulants or religious enthusiasm, from hauling down the national flag to make room for their own eccentric and unrecognized bunting. There are points on every vessel where complimentary flags can properly be exhibited; but there is a flag in Canadian and all British waters which has its own place, the place of honour, and enthusiasts, whose hearts are on the banks of either the Tiber or the Boyne, will do well not to play pranks with the Union Jack on the St. Lawrence.

Surely the time has come for suppressing, in the common interests of peace and quietness, all religious and quasi-religious processions in the public streets. It has been constantly said that there is less than no reason or justification for perpetuating in Canada the animosities and party cries of the old hemisphere, and of course it is humiliating to think and to confess that in the nineteenth century we cannot have the charity and the common sense to allow our neighbours to worship God in their own way, and that our religion is of so sensitive and pugnacious a character that, on the one hand, our conscience compels us to flaunt our emblems in our opponent's faces, and, on the other, a jealous regard for their own rights and for the impugned honor of their Church—for this is, we understand, the correct phrase to use—forces men to rush madly into the fray and punch heads right and left to the exasperating strains of the "Boyne Water" or "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning." All this, we say, is childish and humiliating. Still we have to do with what is, not with what ought to be. The Orangemen who have declared and who adhere to their intention of walking in procession in Montreal on the 12th of July, have the right to do so equally with the organizers of a Romish 'pilgrimage'; but each party knows full well that its proceedings are admirably calculated to provoke a breach of the peace. Still they persist in doing it, and claim from the authorities that protection to which every citizen is entitled while he keeps himself within the bounds of the law. The responsibility of keeping the peace being thrown on the State, it is quite legitimate for the State to simplify its own course by declaring illegal all processions which are calculated to lead to disturbance. Let the restriction be at once thorough in its scope and absolutely impartial in its application, and then neither side can complain and all can have peace.

To the speeches made and the resolutions carried at the late meetings in London of the Church Association and the Church Union, too much prominence, it seems to us, is being given. The utterances of the two Societies which represent the two extreme wings of the extreme parties in the Church, are only important as indicating the prospects of peace

or war. Neither of them is perfectly satisfied with the late judgment, and neither intends to rest on its oars. The one binds itself to support those clergy "who, having with the consent of their congregations revived the lawful ceremonial of the Church of England, are now prepared to suffer" rather than to submit to the ruling of the Privy Council; whilst the other, disavowing any intention of becoming a "persecution and prosecution society, unlimited," yet declares it to be its duty to aid the three aggrieved parishioners in their easy attempts to bully obnoxious parsons. The one is in practice a good deal more intolerant and bigoted than the other, but we have little sympathy with the view that a clergyman and a congregation, provided they are of one mind, ought to be at liberty to carry on the services of the Church just as they please, and to "suffer" for opposition to the rulings of Courts which you dislike, is necessarily a laudable thing. We are glad to see, however, that the E. C. U. disavows all sympathy with the advocates of disestablishment. Speaking of the difficulties inherent in the position of Bishops at the present day, the *Guardian* says, "Here comes in the duty of the great party of the 'Centre' in the Church, in which—let extreme partisans say what they will—lie her real strength and her real hold upon the country. More especially, we believe, as we have already said, that the key of the position rests with the old High Church party. They do not, as the Bishop of Lincoln showed not long ago, really want what the extreme ritualists clamour for. Hitherto they have been, according to the nature of all Centres, drawn on by the action of the extreme party, which they do not like, and yet are reluctant to disavow. On their wisdom and determination with which they do this, the future will very largely depend."—words which, *magnis componere parva*, are not altogether inapplicable to a situation somewhat nearer to our own homes.

Besides political pic-nics and "magnificent demonstrations" in favour of the rival chieftains, there seems to be little to chronicle in the political history of the Dominion at the present moment, unless it be the dismissal by the Court of the petition against the election of Mr. Laflamme in Jacques Cartier. It is already alleged that an appeal will be carried to the Supreme Court, but taking Chief Justice Dorion's decision as, for the present, final, we may congratulate the country that it is spared the disgrace of having its Minister of Justice unseated for bribery and corruption.

Our friends across the border are once more involved in an Indian war, this time far removed from our own boundary line. It shews little for the business shrewdness—perhaps a good deal less for the Christianity—of the United States Government that such a state of things, as lamentable as it is