

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1879.

### AGENTS.

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### THE WEEK.

THE monument which the Italian people propose to erect to the memory of Victor Emanuel will cost about \$2,000,000. It is to consist of a colossal equestrian statue mounted on a triumphal arch. The competition for it is to be thrown open to the world.

Reports come from the interior of Russia that there is general unhealthiness and a predisposition to an epidemic. Many towns are in a very unwholesome condition. Typhus fever and small-pox are increasing alarmingly in the government of Tver, one hundred cases being reported in a single village. The Siberian plague has appeared in some villages, and an unknown epidemic is also mentioned as having broken out in some parts of the country.

A Roman Catholic priest, in preaching a sermon the other day at the laying of the cornerstone of their cathedral in Providence, said that from five to seven per cent. of those confirmed in their church were converts from without, but their losses were greater than these gains, and that as Roman Catholic immigration had about ceased this was a serious crisis in their history. So much for the prospects of Romanism in the United States!

The Viceroy of India has received a letter from Yakob Khan announcing that his father, Shere Ali, died on the 21st of February. Yakob Khan has also made overtures for friendly relations. A Calcutta despatch states that he will be told that future relations depend wholly on himself. It is probable that the Viceroy will not insist on the army entering Cabul if the negotiations proceed smoothly. There is some talk of a coming war with the Afreedees, but the best judges think it is not worth while.

The Afghan ambassadors were received by Gen. Kauffmann on the 28th ult. The Russian general, Rasganoff, who accompanied the Embassy, says the disposition of the Afghans inclines to resistance. Notwithstanding the efforts of supporters of the English at Cabul, who are said to act as spies on the Afghans, and calumniate the Russians on every occasion, the Ameer in Afghanistan was everywhere received with acclamation by men and children. Ten thousand people came out from Tashkorogan to meet him. The Ameer announced, wherever he went, his determination to continue the war against the British. General Rasganoff says that neither the Afghans nor the British are doing much in war movements at

present. The war will last a long while, he says, unless the Afghans find a good general, which they may do. They have good soldiers but detestable commanders. They possess two hundred cannons scattered over their territory, and numerous cavalry, which is incomparable in quality, and he pretends they could destroy the invaders if properly handled. If the Ameer should die, he says, Yakob Khan would continue the war. The Governor of Samarcand telegraphs General Kauffmann that a report of the death of Shere Ali had been brought to Samarcand by people arriving from the Afghan frontier.

A despatch from Cape Town says that affairs in the Transvaal are causing anxiety. It is reported the Republicans intend to convene the old Volksraad, which was dissolved by Sir Theophilus Shepstone, and elect a President of the Transvaal Republic. It is reported also that a majority of the Transvaal Boers will decline to take part against the Zulus. A despatch from Cetewaye to General Kuregar, a former President of the Transvaal, asking the Boers to remain neutral, has been intercepted. The commander of Dutch Station had seized and sent back to the Zulus cattle captured and sold to settlers, on the ground that the Zulus might be expected to invade the Transvaal to recover their cattle. The British magistrate issued a warrant for the arrest of the commander, but the attempt to execute it will probably be resisted.

There are fifteen feet of snow in Schleswig. Several persons were drowned in Lake Geneva, in Switzerland, during the recent storm. The damage in the Canton de Vaud alone amounts to ten thousand pounds sterling.

The French and English Ambassadors at Constantinople have informed the Porte that they could not assure it that their Governments would support the first Turkish proposal relative to the Greek boundary as it is not based on the Treaty of Berlin.

The residents of Garden City, L. I., assert that Stewart's body was recently placed in the crypt of the cathedral there, where it is now carefully guarded. The police and Judge Hilton are reticent.

It is said that Queen Victoria will leave London at the end of March, rest one night at the British Embassy in Paris, and proceed thence to the Italian lakes where she will be met by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught on their wedding tour. Thence she goes to Germany. Prince Amadeus, Duke of Acosta and ex-King of Spain, will meet her at the Italian frontier. The King will visit her at Lake Maggiore.

A publication issued by a Russian secret press declares that the governor of Charkoff had been condemned to death by the Russian Socialist party for his inhuman treatment of political prisoners. The assassination was consequently executed by one of that party. The publication concludes with the declaration "Death for death, terror for terror; this is our answer to all the threats and persecutions of the Government."

### THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT.

THE key note of the Church's teaching to-day is to be found in that part of the Epistle which is contained in 1 Thess. iv., 7—"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness." And as an additional indication of the obligations as well as of the motives for the purity inculcated by the Apostle, he adds: "He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man but God; Who hath also given unto us His Holy Spirit." Because the duty of purity and the incentives to holiness, did not originate from any human authority but from God, and He has also given to the Christian Church collectively, and to Christian people individually, His Holy Spirit—not only as a guide and a teacher in this particular department of duty, but also as an aid and support in the fulfilment and execution of it; therefore, the obligation and the encouragement to the observance of it are of the highest possible character.

The Gospel bearing on the same subject relates the healing of the daughter of the woman of Canaan, or the Syro-Phœnician woman, who was vexed with a devil, or as St. Mark in the parallel passage of his Gospel (vii., 25) calls it, "An unclean spirit." The power and goodness of the Saviour in the cause of holiness and benevolence are nowhere more conspicuously exhibited or more remarkably shown, than in the account of this miracle. It took place just on the borders which separated the country which He loved from the vast territories of the earth which were "wholly given to idolatry." He had brought His heavenly Presence to the people of the Covenant, and therefore He never appears to have overstepped the boundaries of the Holy Land; but having entered into a house there, He whose name is "as ointment poured out," could not be hid; and among those attracted to it was this Syro-Phœnician woman, whose daughter was possessed of an unclean spirit. As a Greek, her religion was heathen; as a Syro-Phœnician, she came from a stock which belonged to an accursed race, at one time doomed of God to total destruction. She, however, asks a boon for herself and her daughter, which doubtless she expected, from what she had heard of the Saviour's goodness and mercy, would at once be granted. She finds Him, however, very different from what report had represented Him. He had been extolled as merciful and gracious, not breaking the bruised reed or quenching the smoking flax, inviting every weary and afflicted soul to draw nigh and find rest in Him. But He Who had of Himself anticipated the needs of others withdrew Himself from here: He answered her not a word; while His disciples, wearied with her importunities, besought Him to send her away. Christ apparently set the seal of hopelessness upon her entreaties by expressing the limits which had been assigned to His own immediate and direct ministrations: "I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." He could not have meant that the blessings of His Advent to earth were to be confined to the seed of Jacob; for all ancient prophecy had declared that in Him not one nation only but "all the nations of the earth" should be blest; and He Himself had spoke of other sheep "not of this fold," which he should also bring, and they should hear His voice. But He was first to be "a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the

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