

# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12 1880.

D. R. Littledale observed at the Exeter Hall meeting on the Prayer Book, that "The Church's battle, like that of the early Christians, must be fought in the towns, where we were bringing together great congregations of ex-Dissenters by the exhibition of greater life, vitality, devotion, and zeal."

Can there be any doubt of the value of lectures on Church history? At a recent meeting at Alfreton, in Derbyshire, a Nonconformist minister rose and remarked that the fact of the continuity of the Church was quite new to him, and that he had thought that "Episcopacy did not exist in England until introduced by Henry VIII. and his Parliament."

It is rumoured that Cardinal Manning has recommended to the Vatican the permission of marriage to priests, and the use of the vernacular in the public service of the Roman Church in England. Neither of these suggestions has been received with favour. The Cardinal, it is now said, is busily engaged in an endeavour to bring the regular clergy as well as the secular, under his jurisdiction.

To persons seeking an illustration of the continuity of the Church, may be commended the following from the Bishop of Carlisle, part of a speech recently delivered at the Huddersfield Church Institute: "Last year at this time," said the Bishop, "I was making my way up the River Nile. The Nile is a continuous river down from the central mountains to the Mediterranean. But there are cataracts in it. And you may as well say that the Nile is not the same river below the first cataract as above as say that the Church of England is a different Church at one period of her history from what she was at some former period."

Dr. Pusey has returned to his residence at Christ Church and is much improved in health.

Canon Miller is regaining strength, and was able to take part in the services a few weeks ago.

A bill of the Vandal character is to be brought before Parliament, providing for the demolition of five Churches in the city of Exeter. Surely no outrage so monstrous will find support!

On Monday, January 5, a Roman Priest was reconciled to the Church of England by the Bishop of Bedford in the Church of St. Matthew's, Upper Clapton.

The terrible tragedy in Biddulph Township, Ontario, is one which has never before been equalled in this country, and has probably never been surpassed in savage atrocity, even in the most lawless parts of the Western States. Law and order with a sense of security appear to have been luxuries unknown in that Township, at least, for many years past; and the state of things there has been so deplorable that the executive ought to have been called upon long ago in order to enforce the main-

tenance of something like law. The abuse of the pardoning prerogative may come in for a share of the blame; but an almost total laxity in the administration of justice appears to have been the rule rather than the exception over a considerable tract of that part of the Dominion. It has long been the boast of Canadians that they are essentially a "law-abiding" people; but the "Biddulph tragedy" will seriously militate against the continuance of such a reputation; and for many an age to come it will be remembered as the most barbarous and the most wanton crime against humanity that has ever been heard of in this country. It seems most likely that every one actually engaged in the commission of the crime will soon be brought to justice—if such a thing can be realized in that neighbourhood.

It is not true that, in discontinuing the rubric enjoining the use of the Athanasian Creed, the Church of Ireland has brought its usage into conformity with the rest of Christendom, the Church of England only excepted. For the Church of Haiti, though planted by the Church of the United States has taken a course opposite to that of the Irish Church.

The total number of marriages in London last year was 33,593, of which 28,873 were at Church, 1,172 at Roman Catholic places, and the remainder among the denominations and at Registrar's offices. On this an English contemporary remarks:—"The singular paucity of Roman Catholic marriages is striking. They are but 3.48 per cent of the whole number, a smaller ratio than that for England and Wales as a whole, and this in spite of the enormous foreign and Irish element which the population of the capital contains, and the vast sums which have been spent on Churches, clergy and religious houses, not to speak of the present exertions of two Bishops—one of them being Cardinal Manning—and of the elite of the priesthood. It is quite clear that notwithstanding the perseverance and address of this Cardinal, the once famous Mgr. Capel, and other famous 'vert catchers, Anglo-Romanism must lose more than it gains."

In magnifying the virtues of the Zulus, Mr. Froude, lecturing a few evenings ago at Edinburgh, remarked:—"They have defeated an English General, and converted an English Bishop."

The question of spreading a network of schools of Art and design over the principal parts of the Dominion is occupying the public mind to a considerable extent, and has been too long delayed. At first it would be necessary to begin with one or two in each Province, which would afterwards form Normal Schools in those departments. Government aid, to some appreciable extent, would of course be required at first. If any progress is to be made by Canada in manufactures where the art of decoration is to be introduced—and that would include almost every branch of manufacture—no time should be lost in starting institutions for the purpose of teaching the first principles required to be brought into operation. Canada must expect to be behind England and the United States in bringing into the market productions exhibiting superior skill unless her governments and her people speedily turn their attention to this subject.

The London Times gives the following as the amount of work done by one English Bishop in the year 1879:—"Sermons preached, 89; clergy ordained, 50; Churches consecrated, 4; churchyards consecrated, 2; Churches opened, 23; confirmations held, 63; persons confirmed, 7,211; speeches at public meetings, 40; other addresses, 152; committee meetings attended, 46; interviews, 474; letters received, 6,744; letters answered with his own hand, 4,529." Several of the English Bishops perform a much larger amount of work than this.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT.

AMONG the most prominent subjects which the solemn season of Lent brings before us, is the Temptation of Christ, as given in the fourth chapter of St. Matthew's Gospel. There are, no doubt, many difficulties connected with the account, but the more nearly we keep to a literal interpretation of the text the fewer difficulties we shall find. And in any mode we may adopt for understanding it, as far as it can be understood, we must not forget the existence of either the Divine or the human nature of our Blessed Lord; however, we may agree with the belief entertained by many, of the "quiescence" of the Divine nature during His tabernacle on earth, and that it was the impartation of the Spirit, by which He performed His wondrous works. Perhaps the most remarkable circumstance connected with the temptation is the very fact of the Prince of fallen angels making any attempt whatever to allure the Son of God to his own purposes. But we must remember that the devil is not omniscient; his knowledge must be limited. And therefore while he may have had some doubts on the matter, he might be expected to make every effort within his power or opportunity to accomplish his hateful designs. Both his doubts and his suspicions are contained in the expression, "If thou be the Son of God;" which leads to the belief that he had some suspicion of the high character of the Redeemer, but was still uncertain about it.

From the temptation we learn something of the intense malice of the enemy with which we have to contend, and the consequent necessity of unremitting watchfulness on our part. We see also several of the principal modes by which we are liable to be assailed by our wily foe. One of the chief of these and one from which we stand most in danger in the present day is by persuading us that we can extend the kingdom of Messiah by worldly policy, by watering down the high teaching of the Christian Church, and adapting it to the notions of men—the spirit of the age, as some people term it. But this human policy is not of heavenly origin, and Almighty God can never sanction it, or bless any unholy means that are employed to secure a good end. We should work steadily on, in God's own appointed way, with the instrumentalities and the means instituted by Christ Himself; and then, however dark and unpromising present appearances may be, the end will be the glory of Messiah's kingdom, and the spread of the Gospel over the world.

## EVENING COMMUNIONS.

A WANT of exactness in the use of words is one of the most fruitful causes of error in theology as well as in every other science. The