

of State, War, and Interior, have finally decided that he is a British subject. The Secretary of State is to notify the British Government of the conclusion at which they have arrived, as well as that they will hold the aforesaid Government responsible for his future conduct. General Ruger, who has gone to north Dakota, four miles south of Sitting Bull's camp, with the Eighteenth Infantry, will govern himself accordingly.

#### THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

WE are now taught that the presence of Christ is the source of the Christian's joy, and that the fellowship with Him in His Religion furnishes spiritual ability for all Christians. The mystical presence of Christ is the Fountain of the power by which those who are admitted into the Christian body are able to eschew evil and follow good; and it was this Mystical Presence of which Christ spoke in the words of the Gospel. His re-appearance after His resurrection was the cause of a return of their rejoicing in heart; and this being the case, His promise that no man should take their joy from them, necessarily involves a perpetual continuance of that Presence which he had shown to be so essential to their joy.

The Lord Jesus was seen again by the Disciples during the season we are now commemorating. They knew, however, that His natural Body was soon to be taken away, to be spiritualized and glorified, and to be presented in the Courts of Heaven before the Throne of the Almighty Father. As their faith grew with the resurrection of their Lord, the words He had formerly spoken to them must have recurred to their minds as words which had already been in part fulfilled, and of which a still more glorious fulfilment was in prospect. Because He was going to the Father to present His glorified Body as an everlasting intercession, He could not be seen with the bodily eyes of His little flock; but because He was going to the Father to be continual Mediator and Intercessor the benefits of His Presence would be given to His Church, even as if the eyes of all the faithful rested upon His visible Person. And that Presence must be a real Presence. It may be spiritual and it may be mystical, but there can be no Presence of Christ with His Church which is an unreal one.

As, therefore, the Good Shepherd comforted His flock before His death, so, in the Divine service of His Church, He is ever at this season speaking to us, and bidding us look to Him as a Saviour present in His Church, and to be beheld by those who will look for Him in faith.

#### BRETHRENISM.—A NEW DEPARTURE.

A STRANGE movement is reported among the Irish Plymouth Brethren. A tract has just been issued by a leading member and authority in this sect which sets forth in the strongest way *Household Baptism*, including the children of Christian parents. The arguments of the writer are a reproduction of the usual arguments from the Scriptures in support of *Infant Baptism*, the matter of all others which the so-called "Brethren" and "Exclusive Brethren" have up to this most firmly rejected. This tract is marked "private," and the author asks his brethren to exercise patience and to look for more light. It will certainly be a strange and suggestive thing for these teachers who have openly and bitterly assailed infant baptism to turn round in

the end and tell their misguided followers that, after all, they had in their sectarian pride and folly been assailing a practice instituted by our Lord and followed by His Apostles and by the Christian Church for ages.

In illustrating the principle we hear so often alluded to, that *extremes are very apt to meet*, we may mention that Ireland was peculiarly honored by the presence of a royal visitor during March last, the Empress of Austria, who went thither to enjoy, in the County Meath, famous for sporting, the pleasures of the chase. Her Majesty was attended by a distinguished suite, and is described as of an agreeable disposition and queenly bearing. Her Majesty is a bold rider, and keenly enjoys the excitement of the hunting field. Maynooth College seems to have had considerable attractions for the Empress. Being herself a devout Roman Catholic, "she brought with her from Vienna," says the *Freeman's Journal*, "an altar of great beauty and value," and had it set up in her residence at Summerhill. One day she drove over to Maynooth College, "desiring," says the same journal, "to assist at the Sacrifice of the Mass!" and "was at once conducted within the rails of the altar by the Vice-President, and Mass was begun, the Rev. Dr. Murray, Professor of Theology, officiating." So much for the two extremes.

#### THE IRISH CHURCH SYNOD.

THE approaching Session of the General Synod of the Irish Church promises to be a very stirring one. In addition to the periodical excitement contributed by the Revisionists, there are several burning questions to come up for discussion. The controversy which has been raging about the screen in Christ Church Cathedral, and the representation of the Crucifixion in the east window, is to be transferred to the floor of the Synod. Petitions to the Synod against these objects are being circulated for signature. Their removal is prayed for on the ground that they are "Contrary to the spirit of the 36th Canon; that they give great pain to the consciences of very many attached Churchmen, and that their removal is essential to the peace and unity of the Church." In connection with this question a Bill will be introduced relating to the interior or fitting-up and decking of Churches in general.

Another question to come up before the Synod is the future support of the Divinity School of Trinity College, Dublin, whether it shall be endowed from the College or from the Church funds. It is feared that if Lord Beaconsfield consent to grant an endowment for this school out of the Church surplus, the Romish University in Ireland will claim to be provided for similarly out of another slice of it. There is too, a loud talk of "Rationalist professors and Ritualistic lecturers" as belonging to this School. This question of the Divinity School will pave the way for a general discussion upon religious education and providing a training school for teachers, which the Right Hon. W. Brooke intends to open up. Some attempt will also be made to alter the mode of selecting diocesan nominators, and to effect other fundamental changes such as the abolition of "Select" Vestries, and the formation of a central Board in Dublin for administering all the funds of the Church in every department. With all these questions before it, the prospects of a quiet and peaceable Session of the General Synod are not very encouraging.

#### THE RECENT DISCOVERIES ON THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE.

AS our readers have already been informed the books of the royal library of Nineveh were of a very enduring character. Nowhere save in picture-storied Egypt has the patient toil of the explorer met with such a rich reward. The books were closely written, octagon and decagon cylinders of terra cotta, with their surfaces closely inscribed with minute cuneiform characters. They were the folios, quartos and even diamond volumes of the great historic library of Assur. In them were found the details of mighty wars waged by Assyrian kings, carefully epitomized, and in a style so clear and concise that they might well stand as models to the historian of the present day.

A book has just appeared in England which will be welcome to the student of history and the archæologist. It is the work of that eminent Assyrian scholar, the late George Smith, and is edited by his able follower and assistant, Rev. A. H. Sayce, Professor of Comparative Philology at Oxford. The work is entitled "History of Sennacherib," and is translated from the cuneiform inscriptions. We find in the hundreds of small and finely written tablets, from the record chambers of the Royal Palace, the reports, dispatches and letters, which form the Blue Books of the Foreign Office of the Court of Nineveh; and it is from these records that the royal scribe compiled the histories which Mr. Smith translated, and which add so largely to our historic knowledge. From them we learn that court intrigue and diplomatic fence were as thoroughly understood and practised as they are at the present day in the courts of Europe. We learn that Sennacherib was one of the mightiest rulers of antiquity, and worthy to stand in the foremost rank of the statesmen and warriors of the earth. He was the eldest son of Sargon, the founder of the Sargonides, the last of the Assyrian dynasties, and from the Eponyme Canon we learn that he ascended the throne of the "House of Assur" on the 12th day Ab (July 16) 705, B.C. Sargon, the father of Sennacherib, was a court official and general of high rank. In 721, B.C., during the disturbance which followed the end of the reign of Shalmaneser, he seized the throne and declared himself the ruler of Assyria. At that time for more than two centuries Nineveh had been the mistress of Western Asia. It was a military despotism; the army had placed the king upon the throne, and he was the chief warrior and leader to battle. The glory of Babylon had been humbled before the arms of Nineveh, but it was the more ancient city and the centre of learning and philosophy of the East at that period. It was a priest ruled city, and the hierarchy of the temples of Babylon was a hot bed of sedition and rebellion, and a native prince of ancient Chaldean descent, named Merodach-Baladin, was installed upon the throne of Babylon by the priesthood of Bel, as the rightful ruler of the city, and one of the first enterprises of Sennacherib, after his accession to the throne of Nineveh, was an expedition to subdue the rebels of Babylon. Their army was encountered in the plains around the city, the rebel hosts were routed, and the proud capital of Chaldean was given over to the horrors of a conquering army. The rebel prince fled to the marshes of the Delta, and escaped capture, although the Assyrian record says the soldiers of Nineveh searched for him for five days. It was after Sennacherib's return from his victorious Babylon campaign that we hear the first echo of that mighty empire that was to over-