

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1877.

THE WEEK.

THE report about English attempts at mediation between Russia and Turkey, are, as might be expected, denied. It must be evident that such attempts at present could be attended with no good result. Should the Russians gain a decisive victory at Plevna, the case would be different; and the statement that the other European powers are waiting for such an event, and will then advance proposals for mediation is not very unlikely. Osman Pasha appears to be hemmed in at Plevna with little chance of retreat, while Chefket Pasha, the guiltiest of all the culprits in the Bulgarian massacre, on whom he chiefly depended for maintaining his communications with Sofia is said himself to be running away as fast as possible leaving an important position in the hands of Russia, although another account says he occupies positions commanding important roads. It is also a significant fact that Prince Milan has been notified by the Government of the Czar that his assistance will not be needed. The Prince appears to have taken no notice of the notification, and has been sending his forces to the frontier, perhaps determined if possible to be "in at the death." Considerable uncertainty exists about the progress of the war in Asia during the past week. The Turks claim that the Russian advance upon Erzeroum has been stopped by an overwhelming snow storm, while the Russians claim to be rapidly advancing upon that city, to have recommenced the bombardment of Kars, and upon the whole to be going on very satisfactorily. A peace ministry is reported to be forming in Constantinople. At the same time it is said that a quarter of a million of men are to be called out for active service. Probably in a few days, we shall have some more decisive intelligence.

Some further news has come in reference to the Expedition of the lamented Sir John Franklin. It states that one of the crew of a whaler, lost in 1876, in Hudson's Bay, has arrived in New York, with a silver spoon bearing Sir John's crest. He obtained it from an Esquimaux Indian, who said that the ship from which the spoon was taken was crushed by the ice at an island near Cape Hallowell, and that the natives took the crew to near Englefield, where one by one they perished. They said Franklin was with them as leader, and they added that this crew left a quantity of books with writing in them, which were buried at Englefield, about 900 miles inland, a place which has not been reached by any exploring party. Some proposals have been made to fit out an expedition in the Spring to secure the records.

Severe shocks of an earthquake are reported as having taken place over a great part of

Canada, and in the New England States, on the morning of the 4th inst., at about two or three o'clock. It was felt in various parts of the Province of Quebec, in the County of Peel in Ontario, as well as in New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts and other places: the time, so generally devoted to repose, probably prevented its being more generally noticed. At Hartford, the waves appeared to move with the parallels of Latitude. At Ogdensburg and Cape Vincent, the shock is described as a severe one; at Rigaud, Que., it lasted many seconds. At Cornwall, it is said to have lasted ten seconds, and to have been preceded by a low rumbling noise, the course appearing to be from west to east. At Montreal it is reported to have lasted twenty seconds, and to have begun with slight vibrations, which gradually increased. Moveable articles were scattered about the rooms and various articles of furniture upset; but the accounts state that no other damage has been heard of.

Our new friends, Sitting Bull and his followers, are causing a little uneasiness from an unexpected source—at least, so says a "special" report on the subject. It is said that a difficulty exists about providing a future home for the new denizens of the Dominion, in consequence of the jealousy of the Canadian Indians about the Reserves. It was quite enough for the white settlers to appropriate their lands for a "consideration," and confine them within limited reservations, without having their new territories shared by other tribes, whose quarrels with the government of the United States have necessitated a departure from their homes. Attempts are also made to lay all the blame of the constant troubles with the Indians in the United States, on the malpractices of agents instead of on the Indian policy of the Government. The Indians however know all about that; and have no more confidence in that government than in their agents. The petty tyrannies and outrages of agents are no more palpable and undeniable facts than are the broken treaties of the government. The fact is that administrations, officials, and the people—the whole nationality are all equally implicated. We would ask, since these strangers have appeared among us, what efforts have so-called Christians in Canada made towards the evangelization of these savages? Or is it no business of ours? shall we be asked, Am I my brother's keeper; and reminded that in Toronto, Montreal and Quebec there are still to be found men on whom the influences of the Gospel have not yet produced the effects we could desire?

The death of the late Chief Justice Draper, on Friday last, will not have taken his friends by surprise, as it was pretty generally known that he was suffering from a painful malady which must sooner or later terminate fatally. He was born in Surrey, England, March 11,

1801, and at the time of his death would therefore be in his seventy-seventh year. His father was rector of South Brent, Devonshire. He was educated at Clapham, and entered the East India Company's service in 1817. At the age of nineteen he came out to Canada and engaged as a tutor in Port Hope, and in 1823 began the study of law; and from this period the remainder of his life was spent in devotion to politics and law. In June 1828 he took charge of the business of the Hon. J. B. Robinson, who was then Attorney-General. In 1842 he was created a Queen's Counsel. In politics he was always understood to be identified with the Conservative party, and was created a Companion of the Bath by the Disraeli Government. He appears to have first taken an active interest in the public affairs of the country on the arrival of Sir Francis Bond Head, who in reply to some strictures in Lord Durham's report, spoke of him as a "well-educated English gentleman, of amiable and irreproachable character, highly respected, and a prominent member of the Law Society of Upper Canada—in point of talent one of the leading members of the Bar." We have not space to detail the peculiar nature of his connection with the government of the country; but we may mention that in 1836 he was one of the Committee of the Assembly to draft a measure for the secularization of King's College, which had been established in 1827. His bill provided that none of the members of the governing body of the University, nor any of its scholars or graduates, should of necessity belong to any particular denomination, except that they should be Trinitarians. The measure passed both Houses. As Solicitor-General of the Government of Upper Canada, he prepared in 1840 a measure for the settlement of the Clergy Reserves, which passed the Assembly, but was thrown out of the Legislative Council. After the Act of Union came into force, he became the first Attorney-General of United Canada, Mr. Robert Baldwin being the first Solicitor-General. The secularization of King's College was not fully brought about till Mr. Baldwin's Act, introduced in 1848, was passed six years afterwards. It is noticed as a remarkable fact that when this measure was first introduced, Mr. Draper appeared at the Bar of the Legislative Assembly as Counsel for the late Bishop Strachan, then President of the University. Mr. Draper accepted the position of Puisne Judgeship of the Court of Queen's Bench in 1847, and retained it till 1856, when he became Chief Justice of the Common Pleas, and afterwards succeeded to the Chief Justiceship of the Queen's Bench and of Upper Canada. In 1869 he became Chief Justice of the Court of Error and Appeal. His duties was discharged with great diligence and ability; and he earned for himself in all his engagements connected with the legal profession, the respect and esteem of his fellow citizens.