

for the misdeeds of the Turks. The fact is patent that Turkey has at least the moral support of England. Whether the Earl of Beaconsfield meant it or not, the Turk understood that the presence of the English fleet in Besika Bay meant the support of Turkey; Dr. Dollinger so understood it; the English people so understood it; all Europe understood nothing else; and the Bulgarian outrages were committed on the part of the Turks, with the feeling that they would have English support. Canon Liddon's companion, a Croation, who lives in the very sight of some of these outrages, says:—"But for England, these countries would be free long before this; the Turk knows that, do what he may, he can depend upon English aid." The Bosnian peasants, and Bulgarian recruits actually believe, from what they see and hear, that the Turkish army is in the pay of England; and Canon Liddon remarks that, "so long as Sir H. Elliot remains at Constantinople and the fleet at Besika Bay, foreigners have difficulty in believing that the English people is sincere in its abhorrence of Turkish brutalities. Some outward and visible sign of our repentance for our long support of their barbarous and inhuman power is due to the conscience of Europe."

From the communications of Canon Liddon and Mr. McColl, we see no reason to join those journalists who are half repentant at the stand they made sometime ago in behalf of humanity, and who speak of the outburst of honest indignation in England as a merely sentimental effusion.

THE PLYMOUTH CHURCH CONGRESS.

From the accounts we have received of the Congress which has been sitting at Plymouth, we gather that a very considerable amount of one of the benefits originally expected to result from the inauguration of such an institution, has been realized.

It is confidently asserted that there has been an "absolute disappearance of all overt signs of difference." If positive unanimity of sentiment has not been universally manifested, as indeed could not have been expected, there has nevertheless been shown a very large amount of cordiality, toleration, and fairness. Canon Miller, one of the great lights of the Evangelical School, has had the good feeling to lay aside party prejudice against the use of a white vestment, the emblem of Gospel light and purity, and like Canon Ryle, has preached in a surplice. In every body of men, whether ecclesiastical or otherwise, the human element will crop out sufficiently to produce those whose interest it appears to be to stir up strife; but here, by God's blessing, the spirit of peace and godly unity appears to have prevailed.

There has been rather a scarcity of members at this Congress compared with others in former years; and therefore it would seem to have been an un-

fortunate circumstance that so out-of-the-way a place as Plymouth is, should have been selected for such a purpose. In regard to the number of the regular members of the Congress, it appears that this will rank but low among the sixteen that have been held. It is said however that it was as well attended by those within easy reach as any former meeting. There was a lack of dignitaries there, and of many persons and speakers accustomed to attend in former years. The Bishop of Winchester alone appeared among the English prelates to support the Bishop of Exeter. Bishop Perry, late of Melbourne, appears to have been the only Colonial Bishop present and active, and the church of the United States did not send on a single Bishop. Nor did the Deans and Archdeacons muster in their usual numbers. A great many new writers and speakers however were appointed, and among those who offered themselves, a large proportion were men who had not addressed former meetings. When meetings of this kind fall entirely into the hands of the same men year after year, there is danger of limited and failing interest, and of ultimate decay and dissolution.

In looking over the papers read and the speeches delivered at the Congress, as reported in the *Guardian*, we cannot but be struck with the great attention paid to the subjects which especially bear upon the quickening and nourishing of the spiritual life in individual Christians as well as in the Church. The Church has been endowed with spiritual life in its corporate capacity as an ecclesiastical organization; but without the cultivation of the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit in the heart of the individual Christian, all the grandeur and beauty of the endowments bestowed upon the church will be entirely useless. The object of the Church's existence would be rendered nugatory, the church would reflect none of Messiah's glory, and none of her members could pass from the church militant to the triumphant church in the realms of bliss, the subject of the ministrations of the church to the sick and dying, received, as it ought, considerable and anxious attention. The work of the church in the Army and Navy, also received marked consideration during the Plymouth Congress.

The value of a Church Congress as carried on in England and the United States, says the *Guardian*, "consists very largely in its effects upon the church in the district in which it is held. There has been we believe, no Congress that has not left behind it, as distinctly traceable to its visit, a quickened church life in the whole neighborhood, a greater disposition amongst churchmen to draw together and act together, a juster appreciation of the work which the church is called upon to do, and an enlarged acquaintance with the best methods of doing it." We hope to see the institution begun in Canada.

The next Congress will be held at Croydon, and the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside.

ARCTIC PROSPECTS.

We have been told by Arctic voyagers that when the temperature rises to 30 degrees below zero, they feel quite warm and comfortable. Supposing that this statement conveys a correct idea of the case, it is evident that Captain Nares, however high he may be up in the Arctic regions, is tolerably free from the prospect of being frozen up. It is said that in those abodes of desolation the summer of 1875 was the most open on record, and that during the later part of that year, no real cold occurred before the last half of December, when the thermometer at Upernivick (a place well known, at least by name, to candidates for school certificates in Ontario) in lat. 72 degrees 45 minutes sank only to 15.25 degrees, Fah., and at Fasnissak, the most northern outpost beyond Upernivick, to 24.25 degrees Fah. Ice fit for sledging did not form at Upernivick until the end of December. It then remained pretty firm until it was broken up by southern and south-eastern gales, with mild weather from the 16th to the 30th of March, and the summer of 1876 is believed to have been particularly mild. So that comparing these facts with ordinary experiences in high latitude, we may imagine the Arctic Expedition from England—the first she has sent for the last twenty years—has had peculiarly pleasant times in those icy regions. This expedition is under Captain Nares, in the *Alert* and *Discovery*. The *Pandora* is Captain Allen Young's private yacht, which has been despatched, under the command of that gentleman, during the last summer, to deposit letters and parcels for Captain Nares, at one of his deposits near the mouth of Smith's Sound, and to bring home any documents Captain Nares may have left there.

It is at present impossible to say or conjecture what Captain Nares has been doing. Perhaps before the winter sets in we shall have some tidings on the subject. He is supposed to have reached a tolerably high latitude, at least as high as Hall did, a little more than 82 degrees. But we are reminded that the ice in the Arctic regions is most capricious. The latest news from the North testifies that twelve vessels, belonging to the whaling fleet, have been lost this summer. It is supposed that fifty or sixty men were left with the ships, and that a loss of five hundred thousand dollars has been sustained.

It is suggested that Captain Nares may have reached the North Pole—he may have doubled the northern end of Greenland, and explored the islands supposed to be in that direction. In fact the discoveries he may have made in that remote region, may possibly add materially to our physical knowledge and to the scientific history of those unknown fields hitherto beyond the reach of human ken.

Since writing the above, we learn that the *Alert* and *Discovery* have returned home, with the news that