

Dominion Churchman.

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AGENTS.

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THE WEEK.

ONE of the principal subjects now agitating Europe is that of the plague. Italy appears to be more panic-stricken by reports of the plague than countries near Russia. The Rubbattino line of steamers, between Italy and Egypt, have been discontinued, and the importation of Egyptian cotton prohibited. At Palermo a Greek corn-laden vessel was warned off by a cannon shot. In the House of Lords the Duke of Richmond, Lord President of the Council, stated that England had asked the permission of Russia to send physicians to investigate the plague. The Privy Council had, he said, ample powers to enforce quarantine at a minute's notice, but he did not believe England was endangered. It is reported the plague has appeared in Bessarabia. The medical authorities recommend the fumigation of letters and papers at the Russian frontier. The latest reports of the plague are re-assuring. The French Government has despatched a physician to investigate. The reports that the plague had appeared in Turkey are unfounded. The Minister of Commerce has ordered a quarantine of two days at French ports on the Mediterranean and in Algeria, including arrivals from the Black Sea and Sea of Azov.

The new French President Grevy was waited upon on the 14th by a deputation from various French trades, and in reply to an address said, the Government will consider the wants of the country and will not sacrifice national industry. This reply is favourably received by the trade and industrial and mercantile public. It is construed as a promise that the Republic will not be less solicitous for the welfare of the working classes than the Empire was, and that such measures as are necessary for furnishing work to all who need it and for the developing of the natural and artificial resources of the country will be promoted.

Preparations in England for the despatch of troops to South Africa are progressing rapidly, and it is expected some of the vessels will be ready for departure early next week. The Government has decided upon a vigorous campaign against the Zulus and the troops are anxious to be in the field.

The Dominion Parliament was formally opened at Ottawa with the usual ceremonies. In the Senate the Governor General delivered the speech from the Throne, in which he expressed his gratification at having been selected by the Queen for the important office he now fills. His Excellency stated that he was commanded by the Queen to convey to the people of Canada her thanks for the loyal, generous, and kindly manner in which they have welcomed her daughter. He said the Canadian contribution at the Paris Exhibition attract-

ed much attention; and that the amount awarded for the fisheries had been paid. He stated that he had caused an order to be issued prohibiting the importation of United States Cattle. Negotiations have been commenced for developing the trade of cattle with France and Spain. The Pacific Railway is to be pressed forward. An Act relating to stamps and one for weights and measures are to be introduced. The census is to be taken in 1881. Dominion lands are to be surveyed, mounted police to be arranged, and the Post Office Department to be attended to, as well as some alteration made in the Indian Department. Regret is expressed that the receipts into the Treasury from ordinary sources are inadequate to meet the charges against the consolidated revenue. It is also suggested that it may be practicable to give a Government security to persons who may desire by an insurance upon their lives to make provision for those dependent upon them, as Parliament has recognized the importance of providing for the safe deposit of the surplus earnings of the people by arranging for their being placed with the Government at a fair rate of interest.

A frightful picture is given of the drought, famine and pestilence which have been ravaging the northern portion of Brazil for more than a year. It is said to be the greatest calamity in two hundred years. Half a million people have been swept away by starvation and disease. Small-pox and black plague have carried off victims in appalling numbers and thousands of bodies are rotting in open trenches at Lagra Funda. Thousands of other corpses are torn and devoured by wild animals. The starving peasants eat their own offspring. Some places, including the city of Ceara, have been depopulated. There have been terrible struggles for life. Children have been abandoned, and young souls sold for bread. Thousands of living skeletons were to be seen. The Government aid was tardy. The letter presents a picture of woe such as can scarcely be paralleled in history except by the siege of Jerusalem and the Black Death which desolated Europe in the fourteenth century.

The *Times*, in a leading article of January 8, spoke of the Hebrew as a language which possesses but a single volume of literature. The library of the British Museum, however, contains not less than 10,000 books printed in Hebrew. Steinschneider's catalogue of Hebrew books and manuscripts in the Bodleian library is a quarto volume eight inches thick. It is suggested that the *Times* being edited by a Professor of Arabic may be the reason why the literature of the Jews is thus ignored.

Such is the purity of elections in the United States: The repeal of the Federal election laws is advocated on the ground that if the law is not repealed the Republicans may convict enough men of fraud to secure a majority in the next House.

Great excitement prevails in California and Kentucky in consequence of the extensive strikes continually taking place.

In Europe the winter thus far has been of unusual severity. Many rivers are completely closed with ice, railroads are blockaded with snow,

and in Scotland many of the roads are impassable, the snow among the Highlands seldom having been so deep.

The late Prince Henry of Holland, left an estate of \$41,000,000, and it is understood that the stipulations of the marriage settlement were very favorable for the interests of his young widow.

Sir William Jenner, one of the most celebrated if not the very foremost medical professor in England, has intimated his intention of retiring from the Professorship of Morbid Anatomy at University College. By this resignation, the teaching power of the London Medical School is reduced as much as was that of Edinburgh, when Sir James Simpson passed away, or when Mr. Syme presided in his lecture-room for the last time. In a profession, the leaders of which are not always dowered with those natural gifts and graces that make men popular instructors of youth, Sir William Jenner stood in the fore-front of the general body of medical lecturers. As a clinical teacher he had no superior; and his method was so simple, yet so precise and searching, his sifting of evidence so thorough, patient, and painstaking, that a young man learned more about the practice of medicine by merely listening to his remarks on a single case than he could acquire by a month's close study of elaborate and sympathetic treatises.

The Pope has summoned all his Cardinals to meet on the 20th inst. His Holiness will then state his intentions with regard to elections and other matters in full congregation.

A discussion took place a few evenings ago in the House of Commons on the importation of American cattle. The statement was made that the Privy Council had for some time received intimation of the disease among cattle in the United States, but did not forbid the importation until it was shown there was actual danger of infection. The order did not apply to Canada because the disease does not exist in the Dominion. Every accommodation is to be provided at Birkenhead and Liverpool for the slaughter of animals.

Nearly seven hundred laborers embarked at Plymouth on the 16th inst. for New Zealand.

O'Kelly, the last of the Fenian prisoners at Queenstown, was discharged from prison on the 14th, and sailed at once for New York.

The strikes in Great Britain are extending. At a meeting of the Engineers' Strike Committee on the 14th it was announced that the engineers of Leeds, Plymouth, Devon, and a number of other places, intend to strike immediately. Three hundred and seventy employees in the Aberdeen Jute Works have struck against a small reduction.

The 57th Regiment, at Ceylon, has been ordered to proceed to the Cape of Good Hope. It is hoped that the regiment will reach there in less than a fortnight. It is reported at Cape Town that subsequently to the Zulu disaster the forces under Dartnell and Lonsdale had a victorious engagement with the enemy at Rorke's Drift. Pearson's column is safely established at Ekaye. There are no hostile Zulus in Natal.

Some intelligence has been received of Nord-

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