

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1878.

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THE WEEK.

FROM all parts of the Anglican communion satisfaction is expressed at the results of the Lambeth Conference. It is felt to add considerably to the elements of strength when the leading officials of an organization, having a definite purpose in the world, meet together for the purpose of consultation as to the best means of promoting the interests of the body which is designed to be one in heart, in sentiment, in object, as well as one in authority. And notwithstanding the croakings of a few and the restless efforts to make mischief of a few more, it is everywhere felt that a large amount of practical benefit will result from so friendly and so varied a gathering. The puerile objections of a man like Bishop Alford, who has deserted his post among a people so interesting and so important as the Chinese, are not likely to have the slightest weight, except among minds as narrow and as fond of strife as his own. Surely, after wantonly throwing aside his commission, this gentleman could scarcely expect to be recognized by the Church as he would have been had he been faithful and true enough to attend to the duties of his responsible office. The ignorance which dictated his "Protest" against unity (for such it is) is perhaps most remarkable in the paragraph which states: "We" (he writes in the plural number—we) "think we cannot be in error in regarding the idea of Catholicity as presenting an influential motive for inviting the presence of foreign bishops at the Lambeth Conference. We deprecate all apparent appeal to Catholicity, in the usual acceptation of the term, as a test of right or wrong. We believe the written and inspired word of God to be the one and only standard of Christian faith and duty." Just as if the inspired word of God and Catholicity were two separate, distinct, antagonistic things! Whereas Catholicity testifies to the word of God and the word of God is the authority for Catholicity. And even Bishop Alford can scarcely be ignorant of the fact that he himself receives the Old

and New Testaments as "the inspired word of God," and "the one and only standard of faith and duty" simply because the Catholic Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has told him to do so.

Sir John A. Macdonald was elected by acclamation for Marquette. His defeat at Kingston was said to have been expected by himself, but it is stated that he would not acknowledge himself beaten without a contest in a constituency which he had represented for thirty-four years, and which for reasons which have been given is supposed to have been tampered with to an extraordinary extent. His friends, however, feel that the verdict of this entire Dominion is in his favor, that it is in favor of his policy, and also, it is added, of his leadership. The majority, although not yet quite settled, will be so large, that whoever may be the future Premier, he will have an opportunity of cleansing the Augean stable, of sweeping away corruptions which had begun to accumulate long before the Pacific Scandal, the Big Push, or the Steel Rails were heard of, and of inaugurating a new party—the party of purity. It is stated on authority that Mr. Mackenzie fully realizes the sweeping character of the electoral vote, and intends to act upon it without unnecessary delay. He will wait, however, for the announcement of the complete returns of the elections before resigning the leadership of the Government.

The Southern pestilence is not yet over, although hopes are entertained that as the cool weather sets in, the disease will gradually disappear. But Yellow Fever is like no other known disease. It will often confine itself to one part of a town, then hibernate, and resume its work the next season, and so it may keep on from year to year. After the great epidemic of 1793 in Philadelphia, cases continued to occur for fifteen years. So slow is its march, and so strictly defined are its limits, that no disease is more easily avoided. The poison of yellow fever is not contagious; it is not inoculable; it is not carried by the air. It is generated outside the human system; it is portable; it spreads slowly, surely, and irresistibly from place to place by virtue of its own power of diffusion. It is the most active near the surface of the ground—families often escaping it by living at the top of the house. It is more active by night than by day; and it is destroyed for a given season by a freezing temperature. The "germs theory" seems best to account for these phenomena; at least, no other explanation accounts so well for this as well as the other zymotic diseases—typhus, typhoid, and scarlet fever; measles, small-pox, diphtheria, the malarial fevers and others. And in one only, small-pox, has a certain preventive been given to the world in the most important discovery of medical science—that of vaccination.

The danger is supposed to be over at Cairo. At Memphis, the rain last week is said to

have been unfavorable. At Greenville, Miss., there were eighteen deaths in twenty-four hours. There they are out of medicine and ice, not having been able to get a message sent by telegraph for nine days. A remarkable feature of the disease generally is the number of men of mark who have lost their lives by it. About six thousand deaths have already taken place.

The result of the elections throughout the Dominion has astonished everybody. That so decided a manifestation of the public feeling would have been shown was not expected by any one. The general expectation appears to have been pretty much as we expressed it last week, namely, that the Mackenzie Administration would be sustained, although by a majority so small that no statesman could work satisfactorily with it. But the condemnation of that government has been as nearly a universal one as could have been possible. The question of protection, doubtless, has had much to do with the result. Drowning men are proverbial for catching at straws; and the *bad times* have been so bad and have lasted so long that any change is expected to be beneficial. And the very idea of protection is one which commends itself to every one when applied to himself. But whether the expected benefit will be realized is questioned by some, who think that the community will be injured in exact proportion as protection is extended to interests which are necessarily limited. But the question is by no means the only one which has overtured the Mackenzie Government. The whole Dominion was taught to be shocked at a number of the details of the "Pacific Scandal;" but the all but universal conviction of the entire community is that the Government which succeeded that of Sir John A. Macdonald's was at least as corrupt as that of its predecessor. We cannot say that we have paid sufficient attention to the subject positively to endorse this belief, but that it is the firm conviction of the whole Dominion is a fact patent to all the world; and from this fact as well as from the question of protection has arisen the total overthrow of the Administration.

It appears from the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* that the views expressed in Canon Ferrar's sermons on "Eternal Hope" are making great progress in the Church in Ireland since disestablishment, and the belief is expressed that this progress will be unimpeded. If this should turn out to be the case, their bungling attempts at Revision of the Prayer Book will not be the only calamity happening to that branch of the Church. The attempts at Revision were so many attacks on the Reformation of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; the reception of Canon Ferrar's notions will be so much advance on the road to positive infidelity; and so another illustration will be furnished of

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