

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1876

A MEETING of persons favorable to the formation of a society for promoting Foreign Missions, with a view especially to Algoma and other destitute portions of the north-west, and of British North America in general, will be held in the Synod rooms, Toronto, on Monday the 17th of January at 8.30 p.m. All who are interested in the object of the meeting are earnestly requested to attend.

THE TORONTO WEEKLY GLOBE comes out at the beginning of this year in a new form and style, and we must say there is a striking improvement in its appearance. The direction of the change has been the same as our own, namely, smaller pages and more of them. We note with pleasure this evidence of progress in our big contemporary, although we are unable to agree with its radical ideas of church or state politics.

ST MARY'S CHURCH, Denbigh, has at last been consecrated by the Bishop of St. Asaph. Our readers will remember that for the last two years there has been considerable dispute about the reredos—the Bishop having objected to its ornamentation, which included something approaching a crucifix. Such alterations having been made as have met the Bishop's wishes, he finally consented to consecrate. The new church supersedes a venerable and ancient structure on the Castle Hill; and its cost has been £11,000 sterling.

OUR readers have probably admired "Jane Eyre," written by the justly celebrated Charlotte Brontë. Her talented sisters, Ellis and Acton Bell, have contributed their share in the polite literature of the day. It is with much regret we learn the destitution of Mrs. Collins, the only surviving sister of their father, the late Rev. Patrick Brontë, of Haworth, Yorkshire. She is a widow, nearly blind, over eighty years old, bed-ridden for many months, and in great destitution, without any means of support but the wages of a grandson earning five shillings a week, and the contributions of a few benevolent persons.

THE British Admiralty has thought fit to issue new orders relative to fugitive slaves. They state that "Any slave received on board a British man-

of-war on the high seas will be retained until he can be landed in a country or transferred to a vessel where his liberty will be secured. Fugitive slaves, asking admission to a British war vessel when in territorial waters of a foreign state will only be admitted if their lives are endangered, and only till danger is past, but no demand for the surrender of a slave is to be entertained by British officers." These orders are decidedly an improvement upon the former, which bid fair to overthrow a ministry already declining in public estimation. These which are substituted for the former do not, however give entire satisfaction.

THE LATEST accounts from England represent the irritation as considerably on the increase in reference to the *Mistletoe* case, and the charge of Mr. Baron Bramwell at Winchester assizes. "Profound astonishment and regret" are expressed at the very extraordinary suggestion of the learned judge that "a verdict against Captain Welch would give great pain to the Queen." The British public say they cannot see that that was a matter which concerned either judge or jury; and the very fact that such an observation was made in a place where justice and truth, pure and simple, were supposed to have furnished the sole motives in all the proceedings, has had the very natural effect of increasing the unpleasant feeling caused by what official accounts call an accident, but which common honesty terms a reckless sacrifice of human life, and an ungrateful return for expressions of loyalty.

THE MOBILIZATION of the British army has sounded another note of alarm over Europe by showing that England is certainly not to be caught napping, whatever other mistakes may be made. Lord Cardwell had dealt with the subject in a way which might avail for getting up regiments, but it does not pretend to make regiments into an army. Its principle is localization—assigning to every regiment a depot centre, in which to gather recruits, to train and exercise the Reserves, Military, and Volunteers of its district. But Mr. Hardy has gone further, and has presented a scheme of army organization which has distinct reference to the conversion of the military material of the country into an army at any moment when it may be required for action. And this is what modern military science, in France

especially, has been accustomed to call mobilization. In this arrangement there must be troops ready for foreign service, others for defensive operations in the field, and some for garrison duty. Eight army corps are to be formed, as centres, for the purpose of organization, with a view to immediate readiness for action whenever the service of the corps may be required, the facility of assemblage being the main consideration. The army corps when complete will consist of 36,000 men, 10,000 horses, 1400 carriages, and 90 guns. By competent authorities, it is considered something to have a view of a system presenting an approach to order and symmetry, and such a system as looks forward to army organization, and not merely getting together soldiers and regiments.

A SERIES of services has just been held in London, in order to give the friends of the Bloemfontein mission in South Africa, an opportunity of bidding farewell in a Christian manner to the Bishop and his newly gathered band of workers before they leave England for the South. Considerable interest is felt in this mission, in part because it is one of the largest and poorest in the world, and is at present the most inland mission in South Africa. It comprises the Orange River Free State, itself as large as England and Wales together—Basuto-land with its hundred thousand natives, the Crown colony of Grigua-land West, with the Diamond fields, and other independent and native territory of vast extent. The Rev. Allan Beecher Webb was consecrated Bishop of the See in 1870; and feeling that a colonial bishop should immediately repair to his diocese, he at once departed to his distant home, spent two or three years there, made himself acquainted with the needs of the place, sketched out his plans for the future, and then returned to England to plead his cause, and gather up funds and workers. In this country, we have been warned that England is not the place to which we have the same right as formerly to look for aid in the support of our missionary dioceses, for the simple reason that we are ourselves very well able to attend to the exceedingly moderate attempts of a really missionary character, that we have had the magnanimity and the fortitude as well as the Christian courage to sketch out. When shall we wake up to a sense of our responsibility in this respect?