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# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1878.

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## THE WEEK.

WHILE we write the elections for the House of Commons are going on throughout the Dominion. Into the arena of party politics we have no wish to enter. The Church and State knowing nothing, or next to nothing, of each other on this godless continent (godless, we mean, as far as a national recognition of religion is concerned); it can be of comparatively little consequence to a Christian what may be the result of a general election for the Legislature. That result will have a very indirect bearing upon any religious question whatever; and therefore to ourselves it must be of very little importance. Of course both parties mean to win—if they can. Each party stigmatizes the other as corrupt. One thing appears to have been pretty clearly established, however, and that is—neither party can stand before the country as absolutely pure—the party of purity is yet in the dim and perhaps far distant future. In fact, political purity seems to have been abandoned, as if by common consent; and the main question now before the constituencies is that of protection or free-trade. We have already said all we have to advance on this subject. The Conservatives in this country, as far as we can learn, are protectionists, while the Reformers appear to be a little divided—most of them being in favour of free-trade, while some go in for protection. Before these lines, however, reach our readers the immediate result of the elections will be known. It would appear that the general impression is that the present government will be sustained by a small majority. But if such should be the case it by no means follows that the other party will not soon come into office. For as certain animals are said to forsake the sinking ship, so there are always some members of parliament, especially on this continent, who are willing to leave their friends when they are evidently on the wane, and with equal readiness to address themselves to the worship of the rising sun.

One of the most remarkable features of the

week has been the widely-spread freshet and flood, causing a large amount of devastation from the Upper Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, from a succession of heavy rains for three days. The unusually wet season we have already experienced had soaked the ground so completely that scarcely another drop of water could penetrate the soil; and consequently the whole was poured into the creeks, rivulets, and rivers, sweeping away bridges, with vast piles of brick and stone forming their abutments, and washing away roads and railway tracks to an enormous extent, so as to render thousands of them absolutely impassable, and impeding travel to an unprecedented extent. The great rain storms, and the last especially, of 1878, will be memorable for many a year; and indications in the atmosphere are not wanting to show that the whole, perhaps the worst, has not yet come. Millions and millions of dollars' worth of property have everywhere been destroyed. As far as we have been able to learn, the loss of life does not appear to have been extensive. To attempt anything like a detailed account of damage done, bridges and railway viaducts swept away would be absolutely impossible. Travel appears to have been universally suspended on Friday and Saturday; and some idea of the results which might be expected in some parts of the continent, may be formed from the fact that the Ohio River at Steubenville rose about sixteen feet in about the same number of hours. Several railway trains were wrecked in different parts of the States from plunging into the floods they met with.

"The deposition of Bishop McCoskry, of the diocese of Michigan, was effected without a trial of the charges against him. His departure from the United States, while grave allegations touching his moral character existed, thereby preventing any proper investigation, was deemed in itself a sufficiently grave offence against the Church to warrant a sentence of deposition. He is the first prelate of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country against whom such an extreme course has been taken. The Bishops of Pennsylvania and New Jersey were suspended, but not dismissed."

Thus we read in an exchange. Surely nothing but familiarity with the tyranny inseparable from republican institutions could ever reconcile our brethren in the States to the deposition of a bishop without a trial. In this Canada of ours, the freest country in the world, the official condemnation of a man whether holding a high position or otherwise, either in Church or state, could never take place without a regular trial. And further, it would appear from statements made on authority, that the truth of the charges brought against the Bishop has been declared to be impossible; and moreover, that the charges made against him were the result of a conspiracy to black-mail him to the extent of several thousand dollars.

We learn from *The Rock* that Dr. Alford, late Bishop of Victoria, has been ventilating the subjects contained in the letter issued by the Lambeth Conference. This worthy prelate is one of those technically termed "returned empties;" that is, he is a Bishop of the Church who has deserted his post. He was consecrated to the Episcopate for the purpose of ministering to the sheep in Victoria, thus acquiring a position in the Church not attainable without undertaking responsibilities, from which nothing but death or absolute inability should have separated him. He has, however, thrown his episcopal commission, at present, to the winds, and returned to the mother country, perhaps to settle down in some snug rectory, still retaining the exalted position with which the Church has invested him, but without an episcopal charge. The utterances of such a man are not likely to be listened to by any members of the Church who believe that responsibilities such as his cannot be lightly cast aside. The returned Bishop, in a memorial he has drawn up, lectures the Conference pretty sharply on the questions of Unity, Catholicity and Episcopal authority. His notions on these subjects are of the crudest possible—which may be gathered from the fact that "royal letters patent" appear to him to be absolutely essential to regular and complete ecclesiastical authority. Of course, to him, any Church without these "letters" would be nowhere; and, although he does not refer to Colenso, we may presume that, having the said "royal letters patent," he believes him to have all the authority that could be desired and infinitely more than the whole Church of the United States. The fact is that having no Episcopal charge, the Primate did not invite him to attend the Conference. Being thus left out in the cold, he concocted the Memorial in question, which our contemporary is glad to publish, but does not think it would be numerously signed.

The result of the German elections shows as finally determined, that the Ultramontanes have gained six seats; the Conservatives forty. The National Liberals have lost twenty-nine; the Progressists thirteen; and the Social Democrats four. The latter have now eight members. The other parties remain as before.

We observe with much satisfaction that the Rev. R. B. Girdlestone, Principal of Wycliffe Hall, Oxford, will take Dean Perowne's place at the forthcoming Church Congress, as one of the speakers on the subject of the training of the clergy. It is also stated that Sir Herbert Oakley will not read a paper on Church music, and the subject may not be introduced.

The Eastern horizon is not yet absolutely free from appearances of approaching complications. The Berlin Treaty is not being carried out so heartily as was intended and apparently expected. And Turkey is said