

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 1878.

THE WEEK.

MANY of our readers who take an interest in matters relating to music, and who have not lost their interest in the Mother Country, will be glad to learn that the Bishop of Worcester has given his decision, as to the revival of the festival in the cathedral there in its former shape. His Lordship decides that Oratorios shall be given in the cathedral as heretofore, and he also decides that they shall be preceded and followed by a form of religious service. One of the most important points about which there has been a great deal of controversy—the admission of the public to the cathedral—the bishop decides that it shall be by cards obtainable from the secretaries or agents of the Festival Committee, who will issue them to subscribers to the fund for defraying the expenses of the festival. The list of subscriptions to this fund is to be kept open until the time fixed for the commencement of the service. If the Dean and Chapter contribute £500 to the fund, as they proposed, they are to have a corresponding number of cards of admission. The whole available space in the nave, nave aisles and transepts, is to be reserved for the use of subscribers, the choir and its aisles are to be placed at the disposal of the Dean and Chapter. His Lordship, in concluding his judgment, expresses “a hope that it will insure harmonious action, and that a festival may be provided which shall promote the great objects which both alike desire—the cultivation of sacred music, the enjoyment and edification of man, and the honor and glory of Almighty God.”

However effete the Turkish power may be in the East, considered either with reference to statesmanship, diplomacy, or ability to utilize the resources of the country in time of war, we must not suppose it altogether stripped of vitality. Nor may we be much surprised if some curious and even startling developments of natural character, hitherto unexpected, should manifest themselves among a people who can sometimes be aroused to an extraordinary degree of activity. When the idea of a Turkish Parliament at Constantinople was first spoken of, every one imagined it was going to be the most perfect mockery ever seen of constitutional government, and the most shadowy attempt ever heard of, to reproduce and transplant into their country the liberty enjoyed by some other States. It appears, however, to have turned out to be anything but the subservient engine of State policy which was so generally expected. The present perilous state of affairs in that unhappy country has recently given occasion to a succession of energetic and unsparing debates in that novel assembly. The whole blame of the failure of the war has been thrown upon the Administration. An address to the Throne was proposed in the interest of the present Govern-

ment: but the opposition to the recent action of the Porte was so strong that an amendment to the Address was carried in the face of a large opposing influence; and both the Grand Vizier and Mohamed Damad Pasha, the Sultan's favorite brother-in-law, were driven to tender their resignation. The Ministers of War, Marine, and Foreign Affairs, were called upon to explain the faults of their Administration. Server Pasha also made a statement to the Chamber of Deputies, announcing that every effort had been made by the Government to interest European powers in behalf of Turkey, but in vain; and that it was idle to entertain any hope of an alliance. Turkey was completely isolated, and therefore it became necessary for her to determine alone how she could best bring the present war to a close.

It might, on a first consideration, be supposed that a language with scarcely any literature at all would be entirely forgotten by everybody when it had ceased to be spoken for a hundred years or more. This, however, is not the case. The influence of a dialect used in a particular neighborhood not only gives names to the various localities, the rivers, hills, and towns of the district, but it leaves for a long time afterwards its distinct and unmistakable impress upon the spoken language which has succeeded it. A meeting has recently been held at St. Paul's, near Penzance, to commemorate the centenary of the death of Dolly Pentreath, who is described as the last person who spoke the Cornish dialect of the Keltic language, other dialects of which are the Gaelic in Scotland, the Manx in the Isle of Man, the Erse in Ireland, the Breton in France, and, some add, the Basque in Spain, as well as that spoken at the mouth of the Elbe in Germany. No relics of Cornish are known to be older than the thirteenth century, and now, with the exception of some local names and some words of ordinary intercourse, it is extinct. At the centenary meeting an explanation was given of the position of Cornish in the Aryan family of languages, and of its closest relationship to the Breton and Welsh. The relics of Cornish literature are not numerous. The principal of those still remaining are Beunan's Meriasek, a drama describing the life of St. Meriasee, of Camborne, and the final struggle between heathenism and Christianity in West Cornwall; some miracle plays on the origin of the world, the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Christ, the general Resurrection, and a few others.

The probabilities are that, by this time, peace in Europe has been almost secured. Turkey is most likely convinced that, single handed, she cannot at present cope with Russia. And when a nation has made a brave resistance to an enemy, sufficient to shield it from the charge of pusillanimity, it can honorably submit itself to the inevitable. It appears to be certain that, the other day,

the British fleet sailed to the mouth of the Dardanelles, which was not a very long trip; but it is equally certain that the fleet immediately sailed back again to Bersika Bay. Austria and Russia seem to be in accord with each other, the latter power having assured the former that Austrian “interests” shall sustain no loss; and Prussia, or we should say Germany, has indicated that the terms of peace will have to be submitted to European supervision; which is pretty much what England has contended for. Some false news appears to be occasionally circulated in Constantinople, apparently for the purpose of inflating the ardor of the war party in England. It is said that the story of the Russians advancing past Adrianople while peace negotiations were going on is an instance of this kind. It is rumored, although one can scarcely believe it to be true, that the British Government became alarmed by these reports, that consequently the orders were given to fleet to enter the Dardanelles, and that of it was to proceed to the Golden Horn. Arriving there, marines, etc., were to land; but that finding the rumors to be false, the order was countermanded, just as the fleet approached Gallipoli. Whether Russia will consider the entrance into the Dardanelles as a breach of the Treaty of Paris remains to be seen. The Porte is said to have protested against it, but that protest was disregarded by Great Britain. Sir Stafford Northcote stated, in the House of Commons, on Monday evening, that the order to the fleet to return to Besika Bay was issued because it had come to the knowledge of the British Government that it was understood the question of the passage of the Dardanelles was to be submitted to a European congress.

A curious incident in Central African history has just been reported on pretty reliable authority. The latest news from the Lake Regions is that King Mtesa, soon after the arrival in Uganda of the first Christian Missionaries from England, hoisted what his Majesty was pleased to designate “the Christian flag.” This step which it is remarked may either have meant his conversion to Christianity or only a change in his political alliances, appears to have displeased the Egyptians, who ordered the flag to be taken down. The order, up to the date of the latest advices, was however disregarded. Should further steps be taken by the Khedive to compel the King of Uganda to renounce the Cross for the Crescent, surely a remonstrance from the English Government, though rather an unusual thing perhaps of late years, would scarcely be considered to clash with any “British interests.”

The Pan-Anglican Synod has been fixed to meet at Lambeth Palace on the 2nd of July, and is to continue its sitting for nearly a month, so that we trust a decided conclusion will be arrived at in reference to some important practical questions which are of general

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