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by J. J. Van

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# Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1879.

## AGENTS.

A few more good, energetic and reliable agents wanted to canvass unoccupied territory. Apply immediately, with references. Terms very liberal.

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## THE WEEK.

NOT much change appears to have occurred during the week in the Afghanistan campaign. Confusion is reported to exist between the Commissariat and the transport department. One Sikh regiment is reported as withdrawn from the field on account of fever. Half the men were sick and sixty-four had died. One English regiment has also been withdrawn from Ali Musjid on account of sickness.

One account states that the Khyber Pass was closed except to strongly escorted convoys on account of the turbulence of the mountaineers, while a more recent statement is that the difficulty there, is very trifling. News from Cabul states that Yakob Khan required his officers and soldiers to swear on the Koran that they would stand by him to the last. He ultimately withheld their pay, however, because their general declined to guarantee their fidelity. The British troops have arrived at Bukk and the Afghan governor has submitted to them.

The Afghans have flooded the country around Candahar and non-combatants are leaving the city. General Roberts with a large force has entered the district of Khost, where he intends to overawe the Mountaineers. No opposition of any consequence is expected.

During the past year the failures in Great Britain and Ireland are reported to have been over fifteen thousand, against nearly eleven thousand the year before.

Nine hundred and seventeen failures are reported in the city of New York during the past year, the largest number for any year since the panic. The liabilities amount to about fifty-four million dollars.

The nobles of Bulgaria will assemble on the 18th inst. at Tirnova for the purpose of electing a prince. The election will be made by 124 Presidents of the Councils; 120 members elected by the people, each representing ten thousand inhabitants; nine Bulgarian bishops; and about a dozen Turks selected from nominations by Prince Don-donkoff-Korsakoff.

The senatorial elections in France have resulted in a great Republican majority. Of the forty-seven Conservative senators, whose terms had expired, only thirteen were re-elected. The general result shows the election of fifteen Conservatives and sixty-four Republicans. The Republican majority in the Senate will now be about fifty-seven.

Another failure causing a vast amount of distress in England is announced. The Cornish

Bank at Truro was closed on the 4th inst. with liabilities amounting to a hundred and five thousand pounds sterling. The mines of Western Cornwall alone owe the bank a hundred thousand pounds, and the calling in of this would have a disastrous effect on the whole of West Cornwall.

In almost all parts of the country snow storms have prevailed during the past week, causing a general blockade of the railways and stoppage of traffic. At Halifax on Saturday the barometer was lower than ever recorded before. At New York on Friday the weather was colder than it has been for the last ten years. For the first time within twenty years the Hudson River has been firmly frozen over. A large number of ocean steamships are delayed by the ice, many steamers in the North River being actually frozen in. The loss by the delay of a European vessel is one thousand dollars per day.

## THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY.

WE have now a succession of incidents in the Saviour's life, all of which were intended as so many illustrations of His character as IMMANUEL—the Second Person of the ever blessed Trinity manifested in the nature of man. The manifestation, or Epiphany, of Christ, in the full meaning of the expression, includes very far more than the circumstances of His infancy at Bethlehem in their exhibition to the sages of the Eastern Gentile world. His Epiphany as the God-man commenced with the song of the angels; and His manifestation to the shepherds and to the Wise Men of the East means His manifestation to the entire human race, Gentile as well as Jew; and this thought would naturally lead to the question, what it was that was manifested to the human race. To the Shepherds and the Magi all that presented itself to the senses was a human infant. Their faith might apprehend with more or less distinctness what was hidden beneath the infant form. Now, what was really manifested to the human race of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Church brings out on the first and second Sundays after the Epiphany. In the Gospel for this Sunday the gradual increase of wisdom and knowledge, as far as these usually depend upon experience, in our Lord's human soul, is set forth in St. Luke's narration of His dispute with the Jewish Doctors in the Temple, when He came up with Joseph and Mary at the age of twelve years.

A great many lessons are taught by the most touching and interesting Gospel, selected by the Church for this Sunday's communion office. One most important and most practical lesson which concerns the Church in our time is this: If the age of twelve years was that selected by and for the Blessed Jesus for the purpose of a public dedication of Himself to the service of His Father, analogy would suggest that age as being the most appropriate and most Scriptural for the Apostolic rite of laying on of hands or sealing, usually called confirmation, when not only is the Baptism confirmed by the Chief Pastor of the Church, according to the practice of the Church from New Testament times to the present; but previous to the application of the rite itself, the candidate personally and for himself assumes the obligations of the Christian religion, and he seeks the communication of the Holy Spirit in that means of

grace, to enable him to fulfil those obligations. It is true that the Church fixes no age nor does she authorize any Bishop to fix an age; but if one is to be fixed at all, there can be no doubt that the age of twelve is at least more Scriptural than any other.

The expansiveness of the Christian religion in man's spirit is also another thing suggested by the account here given us. Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man, in His human nature, to teach us how expansive, how growing our Christianity should be, and how well-pleasing to God and attractive to man it should become. God has revealed Himself in His blessed Son, whom the prophets saluted before His Incarnation as fairer than the children of men, whose lips were full of grace, because God had blessed Him for ever. Jesus Christ is revealed to us as an object of love, who never will and never can disappoint us; so that a personal love of the Lord Jesus Christ is the central element of the Christian character. Without that personal love a living Christianity cannot exist. A love of Jesus, as He is revealed to us in the Gospel, in His humiliation in the manger, in His witness for the truth, in His life of suffering, in His agony and death, in the triumphs of His resurrection and ascension, in His intercessional life of near nineteen centuries, in His presence with the Church and in the Sacraments—the perfect love of Jesus Christ our Lord in every form and mode of His manifestation, is the highest attainment of the Christian man, and leads him infallibly to a continued growth in heavenly wisdom, as well as an increase of the favor of God, and sometimes of the favor of menal—though the last particular is not always realized. Even Christ Himself, spotless, pure, benevolent, merciful and perfect as He was, ultimately became an object of scorn and hatred to those on whom He had bestowed the most generous tokens of His loving-kindness. Nor does the Christian man, and especially the Christian minister sometimes meet with any better treatment at the hands of those to whom he most affectionately and most faithfully ministers.

## CUDDESDON COLLEGE.

CONSIDERABLE pains having been taken by persons who appear to have known scarcely anything of the matter, to asperse the teaching of this College, and certain other parties, who seem to have been born for mischief and for nothing else, having attempted to make capital out of the misrepresentations of the first traducers, the Rev. C. W. Furse, the Principal of the College, has issued, under the authority of the Lord Bishop of Oxford, a report of the entire operations of the College during the last five years. The Bishop has written a preface to it in which he says:—"As to the perversion of ex-students from the Church of England, of which a statement has been circulated, I think it well to quote the account given me by the first Principal of the College: 'I observe,' he says, 'seven names of men who were at college in my time. Of these, two took orders from the college and worked for as much as twelve years in the English Church, and then seceded, under what influences I know not. One never proceeded beyond deacon's orders; the other four were men whom we judged unfit for ordination, and who never