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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1880.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

AS a good many subscriptions will become due this month, we wish to remind our subscribers of our liberal terms. The price of the paper is two dollars a year. This rule will be positively adhered to. But those who pay promptly in advance will get it for One Dollar.

ENTERPRISE AND PROGRESS.

OUR subscribers may observe some delay in the arrival of their papers this week; but they will be pleased to hear that it is due to an advantageous change in our method of printing. We have purchased type, and fitted up an office of our own—as the better plan in the long run. The expense at starting, however, makes it necessary for us to urge those who are in arrears to PAY UP THEIR DUES.

IN connection with the special Anniversary Services at Oswestry Parish Church, an anonymous donor sent the Vicar, Canon Howell Evans the sum of £600 Stg., for a new recedes, which was put up in time for the occasion. During the octave the collection for various objects amounted to £127 Stg.

On the 16th inst., the "Lion Sermon" was preached by the Rev. W. M. Whittemore, rector of St. Katharine Cree. It is said that 250 years ago Sir John Gager, (aft rwards Lord Mayor) when in the Deserts of Arabia, became detached from his Caravan, and, alone and unarmed, saw a lion approach him. He fell upon his knees and prayed God to deliver him. The lion looked at him savagely and walked away. Upon reaching England the merchant in gratitude bestowed a sum of money to provide for this sermon every year, in addition to a bequest to his Parish Church of his native town, Plymouth.

On the 20th, the Harvest Festival was held in Bangor Cathedral. There was a Choral Communion, the Dean being celebrant. At eleven the choir was reinforced by a large voluntary choir from Caernarvon. At half past six, the service was in Welsh, and was sung by choirs from near forty neighbouring parishes, and which numbered more than twelve hundred voices. These had been so carefully trained by the Rev. T. Lewis Jones, that although they had never practised together, they rendered the music from beginning to end with a precision that never once failed. The vast body of voices was literally "as one, to make one sound to be heard in thanking and praising the Lord." The frequency of Eisteddfod competitions has made the youth of Anglesey and Caernarvonshire skilful in Choral Singing. The Dean preached on Nehemiah 12: 44, 45.

The Roman Catholics still appear to be the principal gainers by the Burial Act in England. Among a number of instances we find chronicled in the English papers, it is stated that at the Parish Church yard in Stoke-on-Trent, the body of a Roman Catholic named Hannah Steel has been entered according to the ritual of her Church. The deceased had not been a parishioner of Stoke, but her husband who was not a Romanist was buried in the Parish Church yard some years before, and permission for her burial was granted by the rector, Archdeacon Sir Lovelace Stamer. These incidents suggest curious reflections. The Burial Act was presumably intended to remove some of the "disabilities" of Dissenters. For attempting similar things, King James the Second lost his throne, and the Dissenters of England, whose disabilities he pretended to be anxious to remove, were as much opposed to him as any one. But the non-conformists of two centuries ago were different men from those in the present day.

The New Testament revisers have held their 102nd session, at which they sat for seven hours. They were engaged in considering suggestions from the United States Committee. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol presided. There were also present the Deans of Rochester, Lincoln and Lichfield, Archdeacons Lee and Palmer, Canon Westcott, Principal Brown, Professors Smith and Mr. Troutbeck, the Secretary.

The Bishop of Manchester at a recent meeting alluded to the Bishop Watson's work published in the last century, entitled "An Apology for the Bible," and King George the Third's innocent remark upon it; "Bless my Soul; I didn't know the Bible required any apology!" The Bishop said however that things had now come to such a pass that the Bible again required an apology, that is to say, a defence. He remarked that Frederic Harrison might say that if upon what he called the synthesis of minds, he selected from the writings of Hume, Confucius, Voltaire, as well as from King David, St. Paul, St. John, or even Christ, he should get a sort of conglomerate of the best thoughts that ever passed through the human mind, which would be much more effective for the purposes of civilization and human development than that old Book which we call the word of God. But, said the Bishop, what we know as a fact is that the present civilized state of the world—civilization is the highest sense of the word—has been built upon an acceptance of the Bible. Sweep away the Bible, and all the human race has learned from it, and what do they leave men to guide their steps through this difficult world? He said he had no patience with people who would rob them of what had proved a source of strength and comfort, and who were giving them nothing to supply its place.

The Parish Church of Hungerford has been reopened by the Bishop of Oxford. The original building had considerable architectural pretensions. In 1816 it was re-placed at an expense of £30,000 Stg., by another of the vandalic style of the period, which was not at all equal in character to the amount expended. At the opening the Bishop stated that there would have been no Burials Act had there no Dissenters, and that it therefore behoved the Clergy

to use their personal influence to gain the goodwill of those outside the Church. It is proposed to place a brass plate under one of the stained glass windows with an inscription stating that the window was placed there by twelve former curates of the Parish, as a testimonial of respect for their vicar.

It is estimated that the number of Jews in the world slightly exceeds seven millions. Russia, is supposed to have two millions and a half; Austria, one million and a half; Germany, half a million; Turkey, a hundred thousand; the Netherlands, seventy thousand; Great Britain, sixty thousand; Italy, thirty-five thousand; Spain and Portugal, four thousand; Sweden and Norway, four thousand. There are half a million in the United States, of whom seventy thousand live in New York. In Asia there are about two hundred thousand, of whom twenty thousand are in India and twenty-five thousand in Palestine. About a hundred thousand are supposed to live in Africa most of whom are in Algiers.

An eruption of Mount Vesuvius is now going on. Two large streams of lava are flowing from the crater to the base of the mountain.

It is stated that the Ontario Legislature is to meet on the 13th of January.

The Earthquake in South Agram appears to have been of unprecedented violence. Three separate shocks were felt in Agram. Two hundred private houses were irreparably damaged, two churches will have to be pulled down, a portion of the cathedral will have to be re-constructed, the palace and country seat of the Cardinal Archbishop, the military school, and a government manufactory have been destroyed. The damage in Croatia extends over a diameter of at least thirty miles.

The New-York Times assures Mr. Parnell that he is mistaken if he calculates upon getting any assistance from Americans. Irishmen are respectfully informed that the inhabitants of the United States have a strong inclination to mind their own business.

The condition of the working classes in England has much improved of late.

Very recently, a Dissenting Minister at Brynamman, in the Parish of Cwmmamman, South Wales, and about two hundred of his congregation left the trammels of Dissent and joined the church of their fathers—an event unheard of before in the history of the Church in Wales. The Minister after passing a very satisfactory examination before the Bishop of St. Davids and his examining chaplains, was ordained Deacon and then duly licensed to the curacy. About two hundred persons received the rite of confirmation from the Bishop, and continue faithful members of the Church. Brynamman, is an outlying village of the Parish Cwmmamman, with a population of three thousand, distant three miles from the Parish Church and twelve from the original mother Church of Llangadoc. The event has created a great sensation in the Principality. A new church is to be erected there at an expense of £1500 Stg.