

Dominion Churchman.

THE WEEK.

THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 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 Castle of Terouerin, Belgium, was recently destroyed by fire. The ex-Empress Carlotta, who has been insane for years, resided in this castle; but she was safely removed to the royal palace at Lackeur, near Brussels.

On the trial of the Glasgow Bank directors it was shown that in one case an advance of £80,000 was made to a friend on the security of four live elephants!

The remains of Bayard Taylor, late United States minister to Germany, arrived at New York, on the steamship *Gellert*. A vast audience had gathered in the park to do honor to the memory of the dead poet. An impressive funeral dirge was then sung, after which the Hon. Algeron S. Sullivan delivered an oration on the poet's life and work. The remains lay in state in the Governor's Room all night, and the next morning were conveyed to Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, where they were buried on Saturday.

Sir Austin Layard has been directed to resume the duties of British Ambassador at Constantinople on the 1st of May.

In the entire district near Szegedin submerged by the overflow of the Theiss about 120,000 persons were flooded out and fully 1,900 persons drowned.

During the coming summer 8,000 Italians will leave Taranto for the southern coast of New Guinea to establish a colony to be called Italia.

In the German Parliament, Bismarck is said to be sure of a majority in favor of protection. He has gained over a number of deputies by private conference.

Sir Alex. Malet presented his credentials to the Porte as Minister Plenipotentiary of Great Britain on the 11th. The Sultan declared he wished publicly to recognize the services rendered him by the Queen, the British Government, and the British fleet during the hour of his trial and misfortunes. The Sultan, to publicly recognize the services rendered to him by the British Government in his hour of need, gave the Admiral and officers of the British fleet a grand banquet last week, prior to their leaving Gallipoli.

The United States President's Message is short. He says the failure of the last Congress to make the requisite appropriations for legislative and judicial purposes, for the expenses of several executive departments of the Government, and

for the support of the army made it necessary to call a special session of the 46th Congress. "Regretting the existence of the emergency which requires a special session of Congress at a time when it is the general judgment of the country that the public welfare will be best promoted by permanency in our legislation, and by peace and rest, I commend these few necessary measures to your considerate attention." Accompanying are estimates from the Secretary-Treasurer of the money needed for the army and the legislative, executive, and judicial branches. When the President's Message was read in the House its brevity and terseness appeared to create equal surprise and commendation. Its reading was applauded by a few members on the Republican side.

The origin of the trouble between the Burmese and the British Resident at Mandalay is that the latter protects and refuses to deliver up to slaughter two Royal Princes and their families. The King of Burmah, said to be mad with drink, and urged by fanatics and reactionary parties, threatens to force the Residency. Such measures, it is believed, would cause a general massacre of Europeans.

In the fiscal year 1877-8, say the Trade returns, 2,079,884 bushels of American oats, valued at \$620,628, entered Ontario duty free for consumption here. This brought the Ontario farmers' oats down; but the price has gone up ten cents a bushel since the new tariff came in force.

Information has reached Paris that the French floating battery *Arrogante*, stationed off Hyeres Island, in the Mediterranean, foundered in a storm on Wednesday last during firing practice. She went down about a mile from shore. Forty of those on board were drowned. The *Arrogante* was a vessel carrying six guns and having a crew of 200 men. She was one of fifteen similar ships and belonged to the L'Orient maritime division of the navy. She had been stationed for some time in the roadstead, opposite the town of Hyeres, in the Department of Var, not far from Toulon.

A letter from Lord Chelmsford is published, dated Feb. 9, recommending that a Major-General be sent to South Africa, as prolonged anxiety and exertion are telling on him. The Colonial Secretary has written to Sir Bartle Frere, censuring the latter for taking the course, without the sanction of the Government, which resulted in the Zulu war. The Secretary says the Government is indisposed to sanction annexation or any further interference with the internal affairs of the Zulus than is necessary for the safety of the colonies.

In Northern Persia shocks of an earthquake were experienced on Saturday and Sunday. Minach was much damaged and the adjacent villages of Tark and Mannan were totally destroyed. Of eleven hundred inhabitants only a few escaped death.

Yakoob Khan has determined to make a desperate resistance to the further advance of British troops towards Cabul. In the region of Candahar all is quiet, but the Viceroy evidently anticipates no little trouble in the immediate future.

The Pope has sent a letter to the Bishops in Spain urging them to avoid everything like partizanship in the coming elections.

An interesting art legend has been stripped of its mythical accessories by the ruthless modern archaeologist. It was on the 14th September, 1599, that Beatrice Cenci and her stepmother were beheaded. Two days before she had been put to the torture, but she had been allowed to deed away her property, and the codicils to her will, brought to light now, after a lapse of 278 years, reveal many facts will take much of the sympathy out of her story. An Italian antiquarian has done the mischief by ransacking old archives and bringing the will to light. Everyone has supposed, moreover, that Guido Reni painted his celebrated portrait (a copy of which is in the Normal School, Toronto), the night before the Roman maiden was led out to execution. But here again the Italian antiquarian interposes between a credulous public and a romantic fiction. Guido never saw Beatrice Cenci. He never painted in Rome till years after her death. It was not till 1608 that he received his first payment in Roman money.

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

FROM very early times this has been called *Passion Sunday*, and the week of which it is the commencement, *Passion Week*, because the Gospel for the day narrates the beginning of the Lord's passion in the awful rejection of Him by the Israelitish people, as on this day he began to make distinct predictions, on His way to Jerusalem, of His approaching sufferings. The Epistle for the day also refers to the Lord's passion.

The Divine nature of Christ is set forth in the most remarkable manner possible in His self-assertion, in the presence of the unbelieving Jews, "Before Abraham was I am." The mind is instinctively recalled to the passage in the Book of Exodus, where Almighty God declares His name to be "I AM THAT I AM." The Jews shewed that they regarded the declaration of Christ as an assumption of the incommunicable Name, and in that assumption they recognized a proclamation that He is God. It is remarkable that this unlimited proclamation of the Divinity of Christ is brought forward as introductory to the sufferings of the cross, just as various manifestations of His glory are made in the services before Christmas, in order, most probably, that through the humiliation of the cross as through those of the manger and the stable of Bethlehem, we may behold the eternal Son of God, and see rays of Divinity shed from his crucified body. And the Gospel according to St. John is throughout admirably adapted, as it was doubtless intended, to show forth the Divinity of Messiah. The other Evangelists lay their main stress upon Christ's *manhood*, although they all say a great deal which would be simply unmeaning unless Christ is God. St. John lays the main stress upon the literal truth of Christ's Godhead, although he says much which necessarily implies that Christ is truly man. Although then St. John agrees in substance with the other three Evangelists, he differs from them in the prominence he gives to the truth which they also recognize—the truth that Jesus Christ is God; and this general difference, running as it does through the entire representation of the life of Jesus, naturally and very remarkably culminates