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THE MONTH.

THE Charge of the Bishop of Durham contains some welcome passages commending Mission labours. The work of the Canon Missioner, the Bishop says, is a fresh illustration of the real importance to the Church of endowed canonries. "I could never consent to regard the canonries at Durham as appendages to some parochial or other ecclesiastical charge, or as a mere place of dignified ease." On "Lay Readers and Evangelists" the Bishop says:

The parish which most needs such lay agents ["Readers"] to supplement the spiritual work of the clergy is often least able to supply them. It is necessary, therefore, to look outside the parish. This necessity has led during the present year to a new departure in this diocese—the creation of the office of lay evangelist. The unit here is not the parish, but the rural deanery. Nearly a year ago I was consulted as to the practicability of instituting an order of itinerant lay preachers, who should go about and take services in neglected parts of our great towns and outlying hamlets, either in Mission-rooms or in the open air. The movement arose simultaneously in two separate rural deaneries—Auckland and Wearmouth. It was further commended to me by the fact that the initiative was taken by the laymen themselves, who were in some cases working men.

Referring to the very practical proposal of the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, Dr. Lightfoot says:

He [Bishop Ellicott] proposes that the Episcopal incomes shall be taxed, and that the money thus raised shall be devoted to the founding of six additional sees. I trust that this proposal will receive the consideration which it deserves.

The memorial stone of the Henry Martyn Memorial Hall, at Cambridge, has been laid by the Rev. Alfred Peache.¹

The Bishop of Bath and Wells has written:

You ask my opinion whether, in the present state of agriculture, a rector ought to make any abatement in respect of tithe rent-charge. I think there can be no question that he ought not. The tithes are not a rent; they are a fixed charge upon the land, and a first charge, and are really paid by the landlord. It would introduce an intolerable uncertainty among the clergy as to their narrow incomes if they were liable to be called upon to make reductions. The main point, however, is that it is unjust in principle. Tithe is a fixed payment (varying only according to the averages), due by the land to the clergy, and all the calculations of the farmer in agreeing with his landlord as to rent are based upon the fact that the tithe rent-charge is a fixed payment.

St. Andrew's Day was very generally observed as a day of intercession for Foreign Missionary work.

At a great Conference of the Liberal Unionist Association, under the presidency of the Marquis of Hartington, Mr. Goschen said:

We must see to it that the Liberal Party—the great historical, traditional Liberal Party—should not be identified with the party of anarchy (loud cheering). We began by defending the bonds which hold these islands together, and we now defend the bonds which hold together the structure of our social fabric.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in a letter to the clergy of his diocese, commends the Church of England Temperance Society.²

¹ A very interesting report of the proceedings appeared in the *Record*, December 3.

² In many "Jubilee" articles, the progress of the Temperance Cause has had special mention. The *Standard*, referring to an edition of "Pickwick" just issued, to mark the period of fifty years, says: "It was remarked by Dean Stanley in his funeral sermon on Dickens that one of the most curious features in 'Pickwick' is the intolerable quantity of brandy-and-water that is distributed over its pages. All the Pickwickians are respectable; there is not one among them resembling Dick Swiveller or Lord Frederick Verisopht; yet they all take to intoxication as naturally as ducks to water, and Mr. Pickwick at the head of them. This is, perhaps, the most instructive of all the contrasts suggested by the volume now before us."