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The Month.

THE MOTOR CARS.

THE year 1896 will perhaps be famous, like the year 1830, in the history of the means of locomotion in this country. In the earlier year the Liverpool and Manchester Railway was opened, the first of that long series of similar enterprises which has covered every county with a network of iron roads. On Saturday, November 14, of last year, motor cars of various types were to be seen on the road from London to Brighton. Hitherto an Act of Parliament had prevented such machines from being used freely on the public ways, but that was now removed. All the official cars seem to have made the entire journey, and this in at least an hour less than the fastest four-in-hand coach, and with reasonable comfort to the passengers, in spite of the extremely bad weather. Doubtless the mechanism is only in its infancy, but there is every reason to expect rapid and surprising improvement.

Every additional means of communication is a mighty formative power. The railway, the national post, the telegraph, the telephone, have completely changed the character of English life. The country population has crowded into the towns. The facilities afforded to the rich of managing their financial concerns from a distance have led to their separation from the working classes in more ways than mere places of residence. Together with all the advantages gained many such evils have ensued which are not only apparent, but deep and grievous. Yet it does not seem to us altogether visionary to state that here and there indications are not wanting of a new movement back to the country. Lord Winchelsea, who was on the box-seat of one of the motor cars on November 14, has done something to bring this about by the admirable British Supply Association just started, which will bring the ordinary agricultural producer into close, and therefore profitable, contact with the best markets of consumers. It is hopeful to see some of the railway companies at last making this a possibility. Townspeople, also, are beginning to find out what the doctors have so long warned us of—that a third generation born and bred in cities is a sorry sort of humanity. So all along our coasts villa-residences are springing up, and on healthy hill-slopes within nearer reach of the great cities; while people of slightly larger, yet quite moderate, means find it possible to have a small house in both town and country. All this is giving a certain impetus to country producers. It is pleasant, too, to see how the old inns, which have languished into fewness and feebleness since the last stage-coach turned the road-corner never to return, are beginning to brighten with fresh paint and new red blinds at the coming of the cycles. And who shall say that this genesis of the motor car along our ancient roads may not be an additional reign of a new era of rural prosperity on the best because the most natural of lines?

CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY.

The present financial position of the society is as follows : From April 1 to November 30 of the current year £18,834 have been received, as against £26,546 for the same period last year, showing a deficit of some £7,712. This decrease is mainly owing to £5,611 less income from legacies compared with last year. Auxiliaries have sent in £1,536 less, but this does not necessarily mean that there is any falling off in subscriptions and other regular sources of income, as these returns are not strictly due until March. A letter has, however, been sent to local treasurers, requesting them not to bank their moneys, but to forward them at once to the central office, thus saving the borrowing of money at interest by the society.

The society is now making its sixty-first Christmas appeal. Very few of its original supporters are now living. A new generation must come to its help if the society is to meet the widely-increased needs of the day. At the present time a staff of 896 workers is maintained, consisting of 685 curates, 146 lay-agents, and 65 women-workers—labouring in parishes containing over five millions of our poorest population. To meet these liabilities an income is needed of £200 for each working day, or £1,200 each week. There are still, however, on the society's books no less than 114 parishes sorely needing help, whose aggregate population is upwards of a million souls. To give to each of these £80 a year would need an additional income of £9,000. Besides these urgent claims there are the various Training Homes and other branches of the work to be maintained. The Training Home for Ladies at Blackheath is quite full at the present time, and is doing admirable work.

We trust that the Churchpeople of England will more and more help us in our earnest effort to increase the income of this society. If the Forward Movement is to be something more than a name there must be greater response than is evident at present. No better expenditure of money for Christian work, and no wiser outlay for the benefit of posterity, can be found than this society affords. We hope that in the coming year many new subscriptions will be added to the ones already existing. The society's income ought not to be less than £100,000 a year, whereas its average for the past five years has been only £60,000.

The meeting in the Hope Hall, Liverpool, seems to have been of a remarkable character. After the manner of the now extremely popular Exeter Hall gatherings, five curates were among the speakers, coming from parishes containing an aggregate of 65,059 souls. The Bishop, who was in the chair, has since written a letter to the London committee, in which he says : "I have seen no such meeting for years in Liverpool. I never heard your good society's work so ably explained, and with such effect on the audience. I am certain that this kind of meeting does more good than a dozen with a great deputation."

ST. MARY ABBOTS, KENSINGTON.

The Vicarage of Kensington has been offered to, and accepted by, the Rev. Somerset Edward Pennefather, Vicar of St. George's, Jesmond, and Hon. Canon of Newcastle-on-Tyne. Canon Pennefather graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1871, and was ordained deacon the same year to the parish of East Claydon, in the diocese of Oxford. He was Vicar of Christ Church, Wakefield, from 1874-75; Vicar of Kenilworth, 1875-82; Vicar of Jesmond, 1882-88; and of St. George's, Jesmond, from 1888 to the present time. It is a matter for satisfaction that so experienced a parochial clergyman, and one of similar views, should be appointed to succeed to the post so admirably filled by Mr. Carr Glyn. Mr. Pennefather is reported to be an earnest educationist. He is the nephew of the late William Pennefather, so well known among the Evangelicals.

THE MICHAELMAS ORDINATIONS.

The ordinations at Michaelmas, for whatever reason, are becoming more and more for deacons only. This year 131 deacons and 38 priests were ordained, making a total of 169, an increase of 13 over the 159 ordained at the same season last year. The large percentage of graduates from Oxford and Cambridge is noticeable, no less than 104 having degrees from these universities. Of the remainder, 40 had other degrees, and thus 86·2 per cent. were graduates. This is in the right direction. An educated laity renders the fullest possible mental equipment of the clergy a more and more imperative necessity.

BRITISH SUPPORT OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

According to Canon Scott Robertson's figures, the total amount of British contributions to Foreign Missions for the year 1895 was £1,387,665. The appended table gives the chief sources of this sum :

Church of England Societies	£544,232
Nonconformist Societies in England and Wales	445,847
Scotch and Irish Presbyterian Societies	200,455
Joint Protestant Societies	184,219
Roman Catholic Societies	12,912

When these figures are compared with those of ten years ago, the increase on any side is by no means striking. The Nonconformist societies owe their augmentation mainly to the London Missionary Society's centenary fund. The Church of England has added only about £50,000 to her former gifts; Presbyterians only about £15,000. Joint societies have made no advance, but perhaps this is to be accounted for by other than missionary reasons. Roman Catholics, on the other hand, have nearly doubled their subscriptions.

VACANT PROCTORSHIP IN CONVOCATION.

By the removal of Mr. Carr Glyn from Kensington to the Bishopric of Peterborough, the Proctorship in Convocation for the diocese of London will become vacant. Two names are before the clergy—Prebendary J. Fenwick Kitto, Vicar of St. Martin's, Charing Cross, and Prebendary H. Montagu Villiers, Vicar of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge. Both are men of much parochial experience; but Mr. Kitto has, in our opinion, a greater claim to the suffrages of the clergy of the Metropolis from the fact that he has laboured in London since 1862, whereas Mr. Villiers came to London for the first time in 1881. Prebendary Kitto is thoroughly identified with every good movement in the city, and he has wide knowledge of, and sympathy with, the London clergy and their work.

ST. MICHAEL'S, CORNHILL.

This ancient and valuable rectory has been offered by the Drapers' Company to the Rev. Prebendary Henry Wace, D.D., Principal of King's College, London. His acceptance involves the resignation of the principalship, which he has held since Dr. Barry became Bishop of Sydney in 1883. The college has passed through troubled waters during the years of his guidance, but Dr. Wace has the satisfaction of knowing that to his efforts the restoration of the Government grant is mainly due, and that the loss of his wise counsel and capable leadership will be greatly felt. Since his first degree from Brasenose, in 1860 (second-class Math. and Cl.), Dr. Wace has been a constant student and writer. His Boyle Lectures on "Christianity and Morality," Bampton Lectures on "Foundations of Faith," and the joint editorship with Dr. W. Smith of the "Dictionary of Christian Biography" are among the chief of his literary works. St. Michael's dates from A.D. 1055; the present building is from the designs of Sir Christopher Wren.

CAMBRIDGE MISSION FOR SOUTH LONDON.

Cambridge University has decided to follow the lead of Oxford by placing a Settlement for Christian and philanthropic purposes in a poor part of London, on the lines of the Oxford House. Oxford is at work in East London; but Cambridge has long ago chosen South London for its field of labour, no less than six colleges—Trinity, St. John's, Corpus, Caius, Clare, and Pembroke—having Missions there. But the need has been felt of a new settlement to occupy a central position to the various college missions, and an offer from the committee of Trinity Court makes it possible to reorganize that institution as a nucleus for a Cambridge House. At a meeting in the Cambridge Guildhall, under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor, the scheme of such a Cambridge House was supported by the Bishops of Durham and Rochester, the Right Hon. A. J. Balfour, and Mr. Alfred Lyttleton, M.P., and the matter was taken up by the undergraduates with the greatest enthusiasm.

It seems now to be fairly certain that the Education Bill of next session, which must pass into law before March 31, will be on the lines of State Aid, strictly confined to immediate necessities. Parliament meets on January 19.

Dr. Temple has assured the Ealing clergy that Parts I. and II. of the Benefices Bill will, in substance, be introduced into Parliament next session.

At a meeting of the Clergy Pensions Institution it was found that the funds have so far advanced that pension grants can now be augmented to £36, whereas last year the increase was £32.

A Court of Assistants of the Sons of the Clergy has voted £1,075 towards the education at school or college, or towards a first start in life, of the children of clergymen.

The guarantors of the Shrewsbury Church Congress have been called upon to meet a deficit of 5s. in the £, owing to the unusual expense caused by the necessity of building a Congress Hall.

The Bishop of Stepney requires £6,000 before the end of this year if the average income of the East London Church Fund is to be maintained. The whole income is spent on living agents.

Sir John Gorst has put it in writing that in his opinion the following five things must be borne in mind in any education solution that may be proposed: the aid to Voluntary Schools must be common to them all, adequate, elastic, permanent, and the schools must submit to increased public control.

Balliol College has appointed a Roman Catholic tutorial Fellow, said to be the first since the days of Oakley and Ward.

A letter signed by the Archbishop-Designate and others has been addressed to Lord Salisbury begging for the dispersal of the Royal Buckhounds, or their conversion into a national drag-hunt.

Canon W. Wilkinson, who has held the Rectory of St. Martin's, Birmingham, since 1866, has announced his impending resignation. He is in his eighty-first year.

The restored and magnificent church of St. Saviour's, Southwark, will be re-opened in February next. It is proposed to establish a collegiate body consisting of a Dean, a Sub-Dean, a Chancellor, a Precentor, a

Canon Missioner, and possibly some others, to maintain its services and develop its work as a great central church for South London.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS.

Among recent gifts and bequests for Church work the following may be named : £500 donation to the C.P.A.S. from Mr. T. H. Davies ; £100 bequest to the Sheffield Church Missionary Society ; £100 bequest to the London Clerical Education Society ; £100 bequest to the Sheffield Church of England Scripture Readers' Society, under the will of the late Archdeacon Favell ; £20,000 in South Metropolitan Gas Co.'s 5 per cent. stock, the interest to go to the C.M.S. in perpetuity, the gift of "A Friend" ; £300 from Lord Penrhyn towards the enlargement of Bangor Cathedral organ ; £300 from the Dean of Llandaff towards the enlargement of the parish church of Canton, Cardiff ; £10,000 from an anonymous donor to the Bishop of Wakefield, for the formation of a new parish in a populous part of his diocese ; £500 anonymously for the Wakefield Diocesan Spiritual Aid Fund ; £500 anonymously for increasing the patronage of the See of Wakefield ; £300 promised by Mr. Gladstone to the St. Asaph Diocesan Clergy Relief Fund as soon as it shall become affiliated with the central fund in London.

The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral have accepted a munificent offer from Mr. Ernest T. Hooley, of Risley Hall, Derby, of a gold communion-service, in commemoration of the sixtieth anniversary of Her Majesty's accession, in June next. The plate will consist of two flagons, four chalices, and four patens of pure gold, designed after a classical model, and containing more than 250 ounces of pure gold. They are not yet finished, and will be first used at the service in celebration of the Queen's accession. Mr. Hooley is greatly interested in Church work, having himself considerably augmented the endowments of at least three poor livings.

Obituary.

THE medical profession has lost a leading member, the literary world an interesting writer, and temperance advocates a principal pillar by the death of Sir BENJAMIN WARD RICHARDSON on Saturday, November 28. He was seized by an attack of apoplexy on the preceding Wednesday, and never recovered consciousness. Born at Somerby, in Leicestershire, in 1828, he graduated M.D. at St. Andrews in 1854. His more noteworthy literary contributions to medical science are an essay on the coagulation of blood, a paper on fibrinous deposition in the heart, papers on sanitary subjects, especially one on an imaginary city of health styled "Hygeia," which attracted a good deal of public notice. He edited at different times the *Journal of Public Health*, the *Social Science Review*, and *Asclepiad*, writing largely in each. He became F.R.S. in 1867, and was knighted in 1893. He was a man of wide reading, brimful of information, an admirable *raconteur*, and pleasant companion. In general literature he wrote a romance entitled "The Son of a Star," and the Lives of Thomas Sopwith and Sir Edwin Chadwick. He was the first to suggest the local application of ether spray in surgical operations. Another valuable piece of work was the device of the lethal chamber for the painless extinction of animal life. But it is as a temperance reformer that Sir Benjamin Richardson will perhaps be longest remembered. His ardent labours in that cause are too many to chronicle ; but he certainly overthrew the popular misconception that alcoholic drinks are either necessary or decidedly advantageous to healthy human life.