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The Month.

THE FINANCIAL POSITION OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY.

IN February of this year, a meeting attended by all the principal officers of Cambridge University, as well as by representatives of the several colleges, was held at Trinity College to consider the financial condition and requirements of the University. The outcome of this meeting was the formation of a committee to draw up a statement and to circulate it. This statement has now been issued, together with a covering letter from the Duke of Devonshire, the Chancellor of the University. The document gives a complete and succinct account of the whole position. It states at the outset that the University, far from possessing amply sufficient means to meet all its requirements, has reached a point at which its efficiency as a national seat of learning is seriously endangered, unless new endowments to a very considerable amount are forthcoming.

The sources of revenue available to the University are, broadly speaking, of a threefold character. In the first place there are the capitation taxes, matriculation, examination, and degree fees. The sum obtainable from these is necessarily fluctuating. It amounted in 1896 to £39,366. The fees can hardly be made to yield a larger return, because only lately they have been raised to a limit beyond which it is inadvisable to go without endangering the total receipts. The second source of income is that of contributions levied by statute on the corporate income, internal trust-funds, and the tuition fees of the seventeen colleges. But, instead of this being a steadily increasing augmentation to the University chest, during the past fifteen years the divisible revenue of the colleges has fallen off by 34 per cent. Last year these contributions amounted to £16,577. Very little additional income, at any rate in the immediate future, can be expected from this source. Thirdly, there are the endowments derived mainly from tithe and agricultural rents. In consequence of the depreciation of agricultural values, which has continued now for so many years, the income from endowments has seriously diminished, and is still falling. The last year's instalment amounted only to £6,694.

The University provides the main part of the stipends for a staff of professors, readers, lecturers, demonstrators, and other educational officers numbering some 120 persons. It also maintains the University Library, certain special libraries, the schools for divinity, for literary subjects, eight museums, eight laboratories, the Botanical Gardens, and the Observatory. In all these directions there is great need for addition and expansion. Within the last generation the number of students has doubled, and is at present about 3,000; while the advance of learning, especially in the field of natural science, demands a greater number of teachers, together with ample accommodation and equipment. The stipends of many of the existing professorships are quite inadequate, while at least fifteen new readerships are urgently needed. Additional buildings, enlargements, and fresh appliances are requisite in many departments. Two new sites have been already secured, but there is no money available for building. The University Library, the school of law, the departments of classics, history, philosophy, modern and mediæval languages, Oriental languages, and music, all need new or extended accommodation. The foundation of several special libraries is urgently required. The executive officers need rooms for board and syndicate meetings. In nearly every department of natural science there is immediate necessity

for reconstruction or enlargement. The schools of botany, zoology, pathology, physics, engineering, physiology, medicine and surgery, are all overcrowded, and in many cases require considerable additions to their equipment as well. There is no suitable museum for the valuable antiquarian and ethnological collections belonging to the University.

Such is a brief re-statement of this important circular, which, although it does not emanate from the Senate, is of unquestionable authority. The facts should create a solid impression. During late years benefactions for the general work of the University have practically ceased. Although this circular does not make what would be called a direct appeal, it is much to be desired that it will prepare the way for a considerable inflow of generous gifts from the wealthy friends of education, worthy alike of the example of the past, of the object to be aided, and of the greatness of the need.

THE MAY MEETINGS.

It would be difficult to over-estimate the value of these annual gatherings of the great religious societies. It is not that their good effects are immediately and unmistakably apparent. The sums of money collected at them are generally not large, while the results of the speeches in accurate and remembered information would possibly look meagre if submitted to the prosaic test of formal examination. But the sense of unity realized in the coming together of large numbers of those interested in a common object is a permanent force, which remains with each individual, intensifying and deepening interest long after the actual occasion has been forgotten. Such gatherings also serve as an excellent advertisement, leading to the addition of new members and fresh supporters. Further than this, the impression made upon the general public of the dimensions and earnestness of Christian work cannot fail to have an influence more useful perhaps than many sermons.

This year was the ninety-eighth anniversary of the C.M.S., and its various services and meetings were as largely attended and as interesting as ever. The Bishop of Ripon preached an admirable sermon from the text, "Behold, all souls are Mine." It would be impossible to sum up the excellent speeches, so rich with the experience, the toils, the successes, and the disappointments of work in the foreign missionary field. The Archbishop of Canterbury made a most sympathetic chairman. In the general review which was read by the secretary it was stated that the year began with a deficit of £17,000, that the expenditure of the year has been £297,261, that a total of £314,329 was required to be met, while the net sum available was £219,271, leaving an adverse balance on the year of £23,058. This deficit is to be reduced from certain reserve funds to the extent of £14,000, leaving about £9,000 still required from the society's friends in the country.

The annual meeting of the C.P.A.S., a society which may be said to occupy in the home field a place corresponding to the C.M.S. in the foreign field, was this year of an exceedingly useful character, and should do much towards strengthening the Society's influence among evangelical churchpeople throughout the country. The large attendance of clergy was particularly noticeable. In the abstract of the report which was read, the secretary stated that during the sixty-two years of its existence the Society had expended some £2,630,100 upon missionary work in poor parishes in this country. The income of the past year was £58,456, which was £4,725 less than the previous year; but the decrease was mainly due to the falling off of legacies, these being £4,326 less than the former year. The Legacy Adjustment Fund would meet this deficit, but the Society could not take up fresh work without an increased income. No less than

sixty new grants had been made during the past twelve months, while the total number of grants was 897 as against 867 of the previous year. The expansion represented by Auxiliaries, the Ladies' Home Mission Union, the Volunteers, and the Recruits was very cheering. The Bishop of Newcastle gave a characteristic address, in which, as an avowedly non-party Bishop, he welcomed the distinctively Evangelical constructive mission work of the Society. The clergymen who followed told with vivid truthfulness the stories of their terrible needy parishes, and the invaluable help given by the Society. The Bishop of London preached the annual sermon.

Among other meetings may be mentioned that of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which seeks to send the Scriptures throughout the world in every language and to every people. Very remarkable was the attendance, representing all sections of Protestant Christianity in the land, gathered together under the chairmanship of the Earl of Harrowby. We have room here for only one notable point culled from the many excellent speeches. Since 1804 the Society has issued 151,000,000 copies of the Holy Scriptures. Yet there is still great scope for its labours, since the population of the British Empire alone is estimated at not less than 311,000,000 souls. At the meeting of the Colonial and Continental Church Society the secretary had the pleasant intelligence to give that the income had exceeded that of the former year by upwards of £1,900. The ninety-eighth annual meeting of the R.T.S. teemed with instruction, and both the report and the speeches showed what numerous and invaluable publications upon every useful and interesting subject were issued by its means. The total expenditure of the year was £148,449. The report of the Jews' Society manifests an advance of over £1,000 from its auxiliaries, but there is a net deficit of £5,055 on the total receipts of the year. The South American Missionary Society has made steady progress. Last year the receipts of the Missions to Seamen Society were the largest it has ever received, amounting in all to £38,291. The Lord's Day Observance Society has maintained its valuable and much-needed work, in spite of opposition in some quarters and neglect in others. The forty-eighth anniversary of the Irish Church Missions Society was well attended; the financial statement, however, disclosed a deficit of £6,077, caused largely by the failure of legacies.

The Ecclesiastical Insurance Office (Limited) held its tenth annual meeting at the offices, 11, Norfolk Street, Strand, on May 14, Mr. G. A. Spottiswoode in the chair. The income from premiums amounted to £24,786, an increase of £3,435; the investments were £58,602, showing an increase of £3,785 in the year, and being more than double the paid-up capital; while the total expenditure was again a moderate percentage of the income. In consequence of this general prosperity, £3,735 was added to the Reserve Fund, bringing it up to £26,142, or more than a full year's premium income, and £3,500 was distributed as grants. Of this sum, £1,500 was divided among the Clergy Pensions Institution, the National Society, and the Incorporated Church Building Society, £1,500 was allotted to the dioceses, and £500 to the Queen Victoria Clergy Sustentation Fund. This makes a total of £17,000 allotted in grants from surplus profits, including £500 to the Clergy Distress Fund.

LA SOCIÉTÉ ÉVANGÉLIQUE DE FRANCE.

The Protestants of France are a comparatively small body to-day; the terrible persecutions under Louis XIV. were so fatally successful that at the present time, after more than a hundred years of toleration, they only number a little over half a million of the forty millions of France. But though they are so few, they are active in good works; their foreign

missions on the Zambesi, the Congo, and the Senegal, some of the deadliest posts held by the great missionary army, prove their zeal. At home, four or five different societies are at work combating Romanism on the one hand and Infidelity on the other. Of these La Société Évangélique de France, founded in 1833, is the oldest. During the sixty-four years of its existence it has laboured steadily at the work of evangelization, founding fresh pastorates, establishing Sunday-schools, sending evangelists and colporteurs through the length and breadth of the land, to instruct the people and to carry the Scriptures to them.

Its labours have been abundantly blessed; whole communities have renounced Popery and begged for further instruction. Proofs of love to Christ, and desire to serve Him, have been manifest in individuals, and have again and again gladdened the hearts of the workers.

The following instance may give some idea of the Society's work, and its results. An evangelist was stationed in a town in central France, in which there was not a single Protestant, nor any Protestant agency for many miles round. His first meetings were enlivened by stone-throwing, letting off crackers, and so on. When order was established, the audience frequently consisted of his wife alone, "Auditoire," as he said, "naturellement très sympathique, mais un peu restraint." In God's good time, however, a poor drunkard's heart was reached; he believed, and has been a pillar of the little church which gradually grew up in the place. He brought in his brother-in-law and family, his wife and three of his children. When his wife died, he placed over her grave a monument surmounted by an open Bible, on the pages of which he has engraved Ps. xxiii. and xxiv. In front he has contrived a little case, in which he places a written text, which he changes from time to time; and at the back of the tombstone he has placed a box, containing an open large-type New Testament, the leaves of which he regularly turns. One day on this mission of faith and love he saw a woman weeping beside a grave, and learned that she was a mother who had lost her only son. "But," she said, "I go often to read in that book;" and she expressed a wish to have this "book," a wish most readily gratified by the colporteur.

But the Société Évangélique has been weakened by the very zeal which has led to the formation of other societies; its funds have been lessened, the committee have been obliged reluctantly to close some of their stations and discharge some workers; and yet they are oppressed by a debt which threatens the very existence of the Society. Will not the Christians of England send speedy help to avert such a calamity? "Thou shalt love *thy neighbour*" is the Master's command; and our French Protestant brethren are our nearest neighbours, and in sore need of our help. Shall we not help them?

SLAVERY IN EAST AFRICA.

Bishop Tucker has written a searching criticism on the Parliamentary paper recently issued respecting slavery in Zanzibar and Pemba. He styles it altogether disappointing and inadequate. In the first place, it affords no legal necessity for the liberation of women. A Mohammedan may have as many concubines as he likes according to the Sheria. He may claim all his women slaves as concubines, and under the new measure not one of these could be liberated unless their master so willed. At the present time nine-tenths of the women of Zanzibar are slaves. In the second place, the freedom accorded to male slaves is limited in a manner which must lead to serious abuses. Measures are to be taken to prohibit the liberated slave community from leaving the islands. This is to prevent a labour famine, and the consequent ruin of Arab owners. So these owners are not only to receive compensation, they are to be empowered to create that semi-servile class which, as all experience shows,

has ever proved the absolute impediment to the growth of a class of free labour. Thirdly, the area covered by the Parliamentary paper has reference only to the islands of Zanzibar and Pemba, and leaves untouched the remaining half of the Sultanate of Zanzibar, namely, the Mombasa portion and the mainland. Not only is abolitionist legislation even more urgent in the latter part of the Sultanate than in the former, but the responsibility of Great Britain there is also much greater. In the islands we are only the protecting Power. In Mombasa and on the mainland we are the executive Power, and farm this territory irrespective of the Sultan. It is painful to find, after the numberless pledges given in the House of Commons, that British officers will still be obliged to seize runaway slaves in the latter district and compel them to return to the tender mercies of their owners; and this, not in the name of the Sultan of Zanzibar, but in the name of Queen Victoria. Doubtless there are still many difficulties to be met before this old and deep-seated disease can be effectually cured. But the nature of the case is such that humanity demands something more than good intentions on the part of Her Majesty's Government. The sore will not be healed by surface dealing and partial prescription. It must be cut out.

THE FIRE IN PARIS.

On the afternoon of May 4 a disaster of the most terrible description occurred in Paris. A charity bazaar was in progress in the Rue Jean Goujon. The *élite* of Parisian Roman Catholic Society, native and cosmopolitan, was present, actively engaged in buying and selling for the benefit of the poor and needy. Suddenly, when the bazaar, which was a picturesque representation in timber and painted canvas of a street in mediæval Paris, was at its height, a fearful rumour of fire was whispered among the gay and fashionable throng. Through some defect in a cinematograph, flame had leaped from it, and had kindled some draperies near. In a moment a dreadful stampede commenced through the solitary means of exit, in which many were crushed to death. Some broke through the thin boarding at the rear of the building, and were pulled up through a small window into an adjoining house. The fire spread with the rapidity of lightning. In a few minutes the slight fabric fell in a blazing mass upon the unhappy victims. More than one hundred and twenty persons, many of them being ladies of rank and distinction belonging to the old French nobility, perished in this appalling catastrophe. The work of identification was in most cases extremely difficult, so charred and mangled were the bodies. Among the victims was her Royal Highness the Duchesse d'Alençon, youngest sister of the Empress of Austria, the Baronne de St. Didier, the Marquise Costa de Beauregard, the Comtesses de Greffulhe, Nicolay, Saint Ange, and other titled persons. Since the destruction of the Opéra Comique in 1887, Paris has not had so grievous a tragedy. The whole city has been thrown into gloom, and messages of sincere condolence have been forwarded from all parts of the world. Nor can the consequences of the disaster be said to have ended. Among the victims of the fire must be counted the brilliant Duc d'Aumale, who has died at Zucco, in Sicily, from shock caused by the news of the death of his relative, the Duchesse d'Alençon. The Duc was the fourth son of Louis Philippe, and was the most accomplished and popular member of the House of Orleans.

THE WAR.

Towards the end of April the strained relations between Greece and Turkey respecting Crete, which had so long continued resulted, in an outbreak of war on the Thessalian frontier. The Turks entered Greek territory from Ellassona, a town situated on the Xerias, which is a tribu-

tary of the river Teneios. Slowly but surely the Turks, under Edhem Pasha, forced their way through the Meluna Pass, beating back the Greeks from point to point. Meluna, Nezeros, Reveni, Mati, Turnavo, Larissa, Velestino, Pharsala, Domoko, in turn marked the victorious progress of the Turkish forces. The opposition which Greece was able to give was but fragmentary and uncertain. She has thus learned by bitter experience the worthlessness of the advice given by those who have lately flattered her unbounded vanity, and stimulated her visionary cupidity. Knowing now her utter weakness, she may perhaps be induced to heed the sober counsels of those who, while having no mind to allow the Turk to oppress or misrule, yet are not willing to permit Greece to set Eastern Europe in a blaze in order to gratify her quixotic dreams of annexation and conquest. Accordingly, Greece has at length promised to withdraw her troops from Crete, and has placed herself in the hands of the Powers, with the request that they will take charge of her interests. The Porte has now been requested to cease from hostilities, and terms of peace are being discussed.

THE JUBILEE SERVICES.

A special "Form of Prayer with Thanksgiving to Almighty God, to be used in all Churches and Chapels in England and Wales, and in the town of Berwick-on-Tweed, upon Sunday, the 20th day of June, 1897," has been issued by authority, and published by Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, Printers to the Queen. It commences with a sentence from 1 Tim. ii. 1, 2, 3. The Proper Psalms are xx., ci., cxxi. The Proper Lessons are Josh. i. to v. 10, or Prov. viii. to v. 17; and Rom. xiii. to v. 11, or Rev. xxi. 22 to xxii. 4. There are some special Suffrages, a special Collect to be used after the Collect for the Day both in Morning and Evening Prayer, and in the Communion Service, while two more are given to be used instead of the Prayers for the Queen and for the Royal Family, or in the Litany after the Prayer "We humbly beseech Thee." The Epistle is 1 St. Peter ii. 11, ff., and the Gospel St. Matt. xxii. 16, ff. After the General Thanksgiving a Special Thanksgiving will be said in acknowledgment of the Divine blessing during Her Majesty's reign of sixty years.

The Synodsmen of Dublin, Glendalough, and Kildare, to the number of some six hundred, both clerical and lay, have met to elect an Archbishop of Dublin. It was found upon scrutiny that no name would receive the requisite two-thirds majority. Accordingly, the names of the Bishop of Meath and of Archdeacon Scott, Vicar of Bray, were sent to the bench of Bishops for their final decision. On Wednesday, May 19, nine Bishops met at St. Stephen's Green, and by common consent elected Dr. Peacocke, Lord Bishop of Meath, to the vacant Archbishopric. The new Archbishop graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1857. His university career was very distinguished. He was Senior Moderator in History and English Literature, Political Economy Prizeman and Senior Prizeman in Divinity. In 1858 he was ordained to the curacy of Kilkenny. He became subsequently Rector of St. George's, Dublin, Rector of Monkstown, Prebendary and Canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral, member of the General Synod and Diocesan Council, and Examining Chaplain to the Archbishop of Dublin. At one time he was Secretary of the Hibernian Association of the C.M.S. In 1894 he became Professor of Pastoral Theology at Trinity College, Dublin.

The Church Parliamentary Committee has appointed a sub-committee to collect evidence respecting the local taxations of the clergy, with a view to bringing it under the notice of the Royal Commission on Local Taxation. Exact returns are asked concerning the amount and nature of

all assets, deductions, and necessary outgoings, together with full particulars of local taxation.

In the Archdeaconry of Middlesex Prebendary Villiers gained 162 votes for the vacant proctorship in Convocation, while Prebendary Kitto polled 95. In the Archdeaconry of London the voting was: Prebendary Villiers 99, Prebendary Kitto 91. Prebendary Villiers accordingly secured a majority of 75 votes.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has expressed in Convocation his belief that the Diocese forms the best area for the formation of Associations to distribute the aid under the Voluntary Schools Act.

The Bishops of the Northern Province have appointed a committee to inquire into the question of Fasting Communion, in the light of Church discipline and Church custom.

Upon the motion of Major Rasch, the House of Commons has agreed, by 85 votes to 24, to limit the duration of ordinary members' speeches to a quarter of an hour, and of Front Bench men to an hour.

On Sunday, April 25, a third child was born to their Royal Highnesses the Duke and Duchess of York. This is the first girl in the family of the Duke of York, which now consists of two sons and a daughter.

The opposition to the Necessitous Board Schools Bills has completely collapsed. The second reading was carried by 122 votes to 41.

Mr. Athelstan Riley has decided to retire from the London School Board.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS.

Under the will of the Rev. Rowland Muckleston £10,000 for the poor clergy of the Archdeaconry of Hereford; £2,000 for the Hereford Infirmary; £1,000 for the Eye and Ear Hospital; £1,000 for the Parish Schools, and £1,000 for the poor of the parish of Dynedor.

A gift of £1,000 towards the restoration of Gedney Parish Church, by the Rev. J. W. Bellamy, D.D.

Obituary.

THE Very Rev. Edward Meyrick Goulburn, formerly Dean of Norwich, died at Tunbridge Wells on May 3, from syncope. He was born in 1818, and was the son of Serjeant Goulburn, Q.C. Educated at Eton and Balliol, he took a First in Classics in 1839, and was elected to a Fellowship at Merton in 1841. He was ordained in 1842, and for some time was Vicar of Holywell, Oxford, until 1850. He then became Headmaster of Rugby, in succession to the Dean of Carlisle, afterwards Archbishop Tait, where he remained seven years. He was then appointed Incumbent of Quebec Chapel, and soon afterwards went to St. John's, Paddington. In 1866 he became Dean of Norwich, retiring in 1889 to Tunbridge Wells. He was the author of numerous widely-read books of devotion. Among them may be mentioned "Thoughts on Personal Religion," "The Collects of the Day," "Three Counsels of the Divine Master," etc.