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full of generous ideals, which must submit to the test of experience. This volume shows how wide may be the influence of the pulpit when used with sympathy and vigour.

We have also received the following magazines: *Good Words*, *Sunday Magazine*, *The Leisure Hour*, *The Critical Review*, *The Anglican Church Magazine*, *The Church Missionary Intelligencer*, *The Evangelical Churchman*, *The Church Sunday-School Magazine*, *The Fireside*, *Sunday at Home*, *The Girl's Own Paper*, *The Boy's Own Paper*, *Sunday Hours*, *The Church Worker*, *The Church Monthly*, *The Church Missionary Gleaner*, *Light in the Home*, *Awake*, *India's Women*, *The Cottager and Artisan*, *Friendly Greetings*, *Golden Sunbeams*, *Little Folks*, *Our Little Dots*, *The Child's Companion*, *Boy's and Girl's Companion*, *The Children's World*, *Daybreak*, *Day of Days*, *Dawn of Day*, *Home Words*, *Hand and Heart*, and *Church and People*.



## The Month.

THE event that has most closely touched the heart of the English Nation this month is, of course, the death of Mr. Gladstone. Differences of political thought and every touch of old rancour have long since been laid aside; and, now that he is gone, we see how truly great he was, and how tenderly he was cherished by the entire English people.

The See of Victoria (Hong Kong), vacant by the resignation of Bishop Burdon, has been offered to and accepted by the Rev. Joseph Charles Hoare. The Bishop-designate, who is a son of the late Canon Hoare, has been a member of the Mid-China Mission of the C.M.S. since 1876. Mr. Hoare was one of the speakers at the C.M.S. anniversary celebrations early in May.

The Bishop of London has given the Prebendal Stall in St. Paul's Cathedral, vacant by the death of Bishop Billing, to the Rev. Dr. Barlow, Vicar of Islington.

An interesting experiment has just been made in her Majesty's prison, Exeter. The chaplain, the Rev. J. Pitkin, obtained the sanction of the Commissioners of Prisons for a ten days' mission, with the object of influencing those especially who are classed, for various reasons, as "habitual criminals." The mission was arranged by Canon Atherton, and the missioner was the Rev. W. Bryan Brown. A similar mission has just been held by the Church Army at Wormwood Scrubbs Prison, at the request of the authorities.

The speeches recently made in the Upper House of Convocation on services not authorized by the Prayer-Book use, together with those speeches made in the House of Laymen on the same subject, deserve attention. The debate in the Upper House was raised by the Bishop of London presenting a petition from Mr. Kensit with regard to "illegal services." In the course of a very important and striking speech, the Bishop made use of these words, which surely are not untimely in the lesson they inculcate and in the warning they imply: "I think that your lordships will agree with me in regard to this, that the Church of England, as a National Church, is bound to be the guardian of all that our experience in the past has shown to be the highest and the strongest qualities in the English race, and that those should be in no way frittered away by sensuous forms of worship, by mere appeals to the emotions, and the substituting of outward ceremonies for that serious mode of reflection, that sobriety and earnestness in seeking communion with God upon which, as a basis, the services of the Prayer-Book are undoubtedly founded. The substitution for those great principles of anything which seems to be founded on a mere temporary appeal to the emotions is, I think, a real national danger, and is justly felt by the laity to be such." The Archbishop of Canterbury, before closing his presidential address on the same subject, thus summed up his own position: "I cannot sit down without expressing the hope that the leading laity will support the bishops in what they are endeavouring to do—viz., to maintain the sobriety, and the simplicity, and the regularity and general uniformity of the ritual of the Church."

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#### MAY MEETINGS.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The annual meeting of the C.M.S. is in many respects a unique gathering. Nowhere is enthusiasm, tempered with resolute decision, so forcibly displayed as at the gathering which year by year takes place within the historic precincts of Exeter Hall. This year was no exception to the rule. The C.M.S. celebrated its ninety-ninth anniversary on Tuesday, May 3; and on the Monday evening, at St. Bride's, the annual sermon was preached by Principal Moule. At the great meeting held next day at Exeter Hall, the chair was taken by the president, Sir John Kennaway, M.P., and there were present the Archbishop of Rupert's Land, the Bishops of London, Exeter, Southwell, Derry, and Ossory, Bishop Hellmuth, the Deans of Norwich, St. David's, and Windsor, Archdeacons Martin, Hamilton, and Wilkinson. The hon. secretary (the Rev. H. E. Fox) read the committee's general review of the year—a comprehensive and most interesting report. The revenue in the financial year, which ended on March 31, was £331,598, including £25,973 for famine relief and other special funds. Legacies paid direct to the parent society amounted to £25,290, and receipts in the mission-field were £2,563. The sum available for general work, £305,625, was £7,000 more

than the corresponding figure in 1896-97, and £44,000 more than that of 1895-96. In ten years the increase had been £100,000. The Bishop of London, in moving a resolution for the adoption of the report, thanking the preacher, and dealing with other matters, delivered a stirring speech. He said the subject of missions was one of imperishable importance; it was ever old, and it was ever new. It was ever old, because it called us back to the primary function of the Christian Church, which was to go forth and convert the world. It was ever new, because it called our attention to the fresh opportunities which God's providence was ever bringing before us; it carried us into scenes of fascinating interest, and raised us to a consideration of our own inevitable duty. The resolution was seconded by Mr. J. R. Mott. The second resolution was moved by Dr. Wace, whose manly speech will not soon be forgotten by those who heard him; while the third (and last) resolution was moved by the Rev. C. H. Gill, who described himself as "one of those Ridley Hall runaways, who carry the Ridley Gospel to the utmost parts of the earth." Exeter Hall was again crowded in the evening. The Dean of Norwich took the chair; and Lord Kinnaird gave an interesting account of his recent tour in India.

LONDON CITY MISSION.—A thoroughly representative meeting, presided over by Mr. F. A. Bevan, took place at Exeter Hall, in connection with the work of the L.C.M., on May 5. We are sorry to see by the report which the secretary (Rev. T. S. Hutchinson) presented on that occasion, that during the past year the expenditure has exceeded the receipts by rather over £4,000. Mr. Bevan made a very earnest appeal for funds to carry on the work of this excellent society, and justly pointed out that the retrenchment in that work, which this diminution of funds now necessitated, was little short of a national calamity. The spiritual condition of many parts of the Metropolis is sad enough; and never were greater efforts needed to spread Christian teaching abroad in the purlieus of this vast overgrown city than at the present time.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—Under the presidency of Lord Harrowby, a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of the supporters of the grand old Bible Society took place on May 11. The adoption of the annual report—a highly encouraging one—was moved by the Bishop of London in a speech which was full of interest. One noteworthy point was touched on by the Bishop in the course of that speech, and that was the remarkable fact that, as distinct from the habitual practice of the Roman Church, the Eastern Church never opposed, but always welcomed, the circulation of the Sacred Scriptures. Another point of interest—mentioned by Lord Harrowby—is to be found in the fact that during the past year no less than 180,000 more copies of the Bible had been circulated by the British and Foreign Bible Society than had ever been circulated before. Such a fact must be somewhat galling to the various atheistic and other anti-Christian guilds of these times; for are not they

for ever prophesying the swift disappearance of the Bible from the lives and counsels of the people ?

**THE CHURCH ARMY.**—The annual meeting was held in St. James's Hall, the Hon. W. F. D. Smith, M.P., presiding. The hall was filled. We are pleased to notice that, according to the official report, notwithstanding the endless claims made on the public purse during the Jubilee year, there has been a decided advance in every branch of the society's work. The gross income is estimated at £98,000, an increase of £5,000 over 1896.

**MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.**—The annual meeting took place on May 4, and was distinctly satisfactory from every point of view. Portions of the report were read by Commander Dawson, R.N., from which it appears that the society's staff is now very considerable, consisting, as it does, of forty-five chaplains and seventy lay workers. The income of the society for 1897 amounted to £36,597, but the expenditure (the largest in any single year) amounted to over £40,000. At the close of the meeting an earnest appeal was made for funds. Certainly such a work as this has an important claim on the British public. We owe a vast debt of gratitude to the seamen who man the ships of England ; and to support zealously such a work as that of carrying the Word of Life to the souls of these men is no unfitting way of showing that Englishmen are not, in the main, ungrateful.

**RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.**—This society is now in its hundredth year, and we note two interesting points in connection therewith : (1) that the Queen has consented to become the patron of the society ; (2) that £34,000 has already been subscribed as a thankoffering for what, under God's care, has been accomplished during the past century. The chair at the annual meeting on May 6 was taken by Archdeacon Sinclair, and among the speakers were Mr. Welldon (of Harrow), who made a telling speech ; Rev. C. H. E. Macgregor, who spoke of the work of the society from the evangelistic standpoint, and Dr. Green, who gave some very interesting extracts from the annual report.

**MORAVIAN MISSIONS.**—The annual meeting of the London association in aid of the Moravian Missions was held at Exeter Hall on Thursday afternoon, May 5. There was a large attendance. Mr. Thos. Fowell Buxton took the chair at 4 o'clock, amongst those present being Prebendary Webb-Peploe, the Hon. and Rev. Talbot Rice, Dr. Wilfred Grenfell (of the Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen), and the Rev. W. Wetton Cox (the secretary). The secretary read an abstract of the report for the past year, which testified to the steady maintenance and continued growth of the work.

**COLONIAL AND CONTINENTAL CHURCH SOCIETY.**—The two chief speakers who had been announced to speak at the annual meeting of the C.C.C.S.—the Archbishop of Rupert's Land and the Dean of Norwich—

were unable, the latter to be present, and the former to speak. We are glad to see from the secretary's report that not only is the state of the finances satisfactory, but that the Society's work, both on the Continent and in the colonies, is making headway. The first resolution (the adoption of the report) was moved by the Bishop of Goulbourn, and seconded in a very vigorous speech by Captain W. Blakeney, R.N.

SONS OF THE CLERGY CORPORATION.—The 244th festival of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy was celebrated on May 11 in St. Paul's Cathedral. The sermon on this occasion was preached by the Bishop of Stepney. In the evening of the same day a large company dined at the Merchant Taylors' Hall, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor. It appears that, during the past year, a sum of nearly £25,000 had been spent in making grants to necessitous clergy, widows, aged single daughters of clergymen, and the children of clergymen, the number of such persons assisted being 1,726.

CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY.—The sixty-third annual meeting of this society, held on May 5 at Exeter Hall, is described as "the best C.P.A. meeting ever held." The unostentatious but entirely serviceable work this society is rendering to the Church of England—whose loyal handmaid the society has ever striven to be—makes us all the more regret to have to report that last year the funds had fallen to £53,984, while the expenditure had just exceeded £61,000. Both the Bishop of Exeter and the Bishop of Ripon warmly advocated the society's work in their addresses at the annual meeting.

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#### BEQUESTS.

Probate has been granted of the will and codicil of Mr. Waldegrave Rock Thompson, of 9, Riverscourt Road, Hammersmith, who died on January 28 last, the value of whose estate has been sworn at £56,864 by Mrs. Emma Maria Thompson, the widow. He bequeaths £1,000 to the Irish Church Missions, and the money at his bankers, and an annuity of £2,000 to his wife. Subject thereto, he leaves all his property to the Church Missionary Society.

The Misses March, of Leeds, have given £1,000 to complete the tower of Wortley Parish Church.

The Committee of the Incorporated Church Building Society have received from the late Mr. E. B. Wheatley Balme a legacy, which encourages them to offer thirteen grants of £1,000 each with a view to promote the building of additional new churches before the close of the nineteenth century. These churches will thus be associated with the name of a magnificent and large-hearted lay Churchman.

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## SELECTED NEW BOOKS.

- Novum Testamentum Græce.* Præsertim in usum studiosorum. Recognovit et brevibus adnotationibus instruxit J. M. S. BALJON. Vol. i. (containing the four Gospels). Groningen: J. B. Wolters. 8vo., pp. xxiii, 320. Price 5 marks.
- Eras of the Christian Church.* (1) The Anglican Reformation. By W. R. CLARK, D.C.L. (2) The Age of Charlemagne. By Prof. C. L. WELLS. Edinburgh: T. and T. Clark. Price 6s. each vol.
- Philology of the Gospels.* By Dr. FRIEDRICH BLASS (of Halle). Macmillan. Price 4s. 6d. net.
- Advent Sermons on Church Reform,* with preface by the Bishop of Stepney. Longmans. Price 4s. 6d.
- Marcus Aurelius Antoninus to Himself.* Englished and annotated by G. H. RENDALL, M.A., Litt.D., Headmaster of Charterhouse School. Macmillan. Price 6s.

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 Obituary.
 

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THE death of the Rev. George W. Gent, Principal of St. David's College, Lampeter, took place somewhat unexpectedly on May 9 in London. He had been indisposed for some time, and had travelled to London to consult a physician. On Saturday a telegram was received at Lampeter to the effect that his condition was extremely critical, but few were prepared for the fatal termination of his illness. Mr. Gent was only appointed Principal of St. David's College on June 2 last.

We regret to have to chronicle the death of the Rev. Henry Powell, late Rector of Eaglescliffe, at the age of eighty-four. He was engaged from 1837 to 1851 on C.M.S. work in Ceylon, from 1851 to 1857 he was Vicar of Bispham, and from that date till 1886 Vicar of the important parish church of Bolton-le-Moors. In 1867 he was appointed Honorary Canon in Manchester Cathedral. From 1886 till his resignation last July he was Rector of Eaglescliffe, Durham.

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