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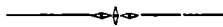
Pius IV. and the Immaculate Conception ; (3) some questions of the day connected with Modern Romanism ; (4) some popular Roman Fallacies. In all, fifty-seven subjects of the highest importance are discussed, and the treatment is so charitable and judicious that the ordinary objections to controversial writing find no warrant here. The standpoint is that of the great English Reformers of the sixteenth century. A careful study of this interesting and fair-minded treatise would have prevented many from submitting to Roman claims and errors. Perversions still take place from time to time: some Romans assert that they are very frequent. It would be wise for all concerned in the matter to have this admirable treatise on hand, so as to know the points of difference, to meet assertion with fact, and to protect the ignorant from entanglement.

Fishers of Men ; or, How to Win the Men. By Rev. J. E. WATTS-DITCHFIELD. "Home Words" Office, 7, Paternoster Square, E.C. Pp. 148.

It may be hoped that this deeply interesting and important little work will have a broad and lasting effect in the Church of England. Mr. Watts-Ditchfield's name has long and widely been known as a pioneer in London of work amongst working men. His success has been phenomenal, both as curate of St. Peter, Upper Holloway, and as Vicar of St. James-the-Less, Bethnal Green. He has often been asked to give an account of his methods at Cambridge, in the provinces, and in the pages of the CHURCHMAN. In this volume he has given the fullest details, giving tables of suggested subjects, club rules, etc., at the end. The beauty of Mr. Watts-Ditchfield's work is that, though abundance of social results spring from it, it is primarily religious. This is the true order: out of merely social work conversion, repentance and faith will very rarely spring. Every curate on his ordination should be possessed of this generous outpouring of the writer's own very happy and successful experiences. It will help him to put aside academical stiffness, primness, nervousness and shyness, and show him the secret of sympathy with those working men who form the great mass of the people. For, after all, even if the best methods be adopted and most carefully followed, the results can only follow from that true Christian affection of man to man, which is the result of the writer's own entire consecration to God.

Fairy Stories from the Little Mountain. By JOHN FINNEMORE. London: Andrew Melrose. Pp. 152. Price 2s. 6d.

Six delightful stories woven from ancient Welsh legends. A really charming addition to fairy lore for children.



The Month.

THE news from the seat of war during the month has been noteworthy for the very fierce and determined attack on Ladysmith by the Boers. They were beaten back, at the point of the bayonet, by our men, after many long hours of fighting; their loss must have been considerable—at least a thousand killed and wounded; our losses, though heavy, were nothing like as severe. This repulsed attack took place on January 6. On the 10th General Buller moved out of Frere and Chieveley in force; shortly afterwards the Tugela was crossed by a considerable body of troops, and the Engineers had thrown pontoons across the river in several places. The curious feature of the business is that the Boers made no serious opposition to the passage of the river. Their well-known cunning, and equally well-known mobility, make one suspicious as to their apparent

(for it is only apparent) slackness. In the rest of the theatre of war the Boers and the British are still watching each other, and there is no change. Lords Roberts and Kitchener arrived early in the year at the Cape, but comparatively few particulars have since transpired as to their doings. The press censorship is very strict indeed.

No doubt, in view of the persistent importation of war material into the Transvaal by way of Delagoa Bay, and the various creeks and inlets north of that port, the Government would be perfectly justified in seizing Delagoa Bay until such time as peace was made. A less timid Ministry would probably have done so, and mobilized the fleet at once, so as to intimate to the Continent that no interference would be tolerated. Unfortunately, it is only too clear that the Government generally, and the War Office in particular, have quite failed to appreciate the full gravity of the situation—or, what is worse, have neglected to make use of every precaution to avoid prolonging the war; and the only way to avoid so doing is to be prepared for every possible emergency.

Death has claimed at length one of the greatest personalities of this generation. At the ripe age of ninety-five Dr. James Martineau has gone to his rest. Alike as thinker, teacher, and writer, his work has been singularly noble. The Unitarians have often ere this produced remarkable men, but none so richly endowed with moral and intellectual gifts as Dr. Martineau. His greatest works, written after he had reached the age of seventy-eight, were "Types of Ethical Theory," and "A Study of Religion." The latter book is admittedly one of the most striking contributions ever made in our country to the subject of which it treats.

The Islington Clerical Conference, held under the presidency of the Vicar of Islington, Dr. Barlow, on January 9, was better attended than ever. This year an innovation has been made, by asking men of various shades of thought to address the meeting. The Islington meeting has hitherto been regarded as prominently "Evangelical." The policy of an "open door" in matters religious we cordially approve; but whether such an innovation as Dr. Barlow has started will not result in a split in the ranks of those who have hitherto staunchly supported this annual gathering is another matter. Such a result would be most unfortunate; "union is strength." Anyhow, we are rather sorry to find the *Church Times* (among other papers) crowing over this novelty, and contrasting it with the "antiquated" procedure of former years. The *Record* approves of the innovation; the *St. James's Gazette*, on the other hand, is disposed to regret it. During the meeting a resolution was read recommending that a letter (drafted, we understand, by Dr. H. C. G. Moule) be sent to Bishop Ryle, on his approaching retirement from Liverpool. To this letter, couched in warmly affectionate language, the Bishop has replied.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's message to his diocese for 1900 is as follows: "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice; and be ye kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; and walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us."—Ephes. iv. 31; v. 1.

It is officially announced that the Rev. Dr. J. C. Edghill, Chaplain-General to the Forces, who was due to retire on the 2nd inst., having reached the age of sixty-five, has been retained in office. This is at the request of the Secretary of State for War, and is owing to the fact that there are so many chaplains at the Cape.

A strong protest from the Bishop of Peterborough against insistence on confession as a necessary preliminary to confirmation, the Rev. W. Allen Whitworth's resignation of his E.C.U. membership, and the hearing of the Brighton ritual case, are the chief events in the progress of the Church crisis.

There will, it is stated, appear shortly a new Saturday newspaper, to be conducted by Mr. Lathbury, the former editor of the *Guardian*. The name of the new venture will be the *Tribune*. The new paper will be Unionist in politics, and will, of course, be High Church.

THE CAPUCHIN MONASTERY AT AMALFI.—The Capuchin Monastery at Amalfi, which was lately destroyed by a landslip, was of great historical interest. Built for the Cistercians early in the thirteenth century, it contained some remarkably fine cloisters and arcades. Having fallen into ruin through a landslip in 1498, it remained uninhabited until 1583, when it was handed over to the Capuchin Friars, who retained it until 1869, when the present Government converted it into a normal school. The monastery has often been made the subject of well-known pictures, which show what superb views were commanded from the beautiful Gothic ambulatory of Amalfi and the neighbouring coast.

A discovery of considerable interest to antiquaries has just been made at Canterbury Cathedral, definite evidence being now forthcoming that the recess in the north ambulatory of the presbytery, in which the chained Bible lies, was the site where, in pre-Reformation times, the Easter sepulchre was deposited during Holy Week. The alteration was doubtless the work of Archbishop Cranmer.

Mr. A. A. Macdonell has been elected Boden Professor of Sanskrit in the University of Oxford, in succession to the late Sir M. Monier Williams.

DONATIONS, ETC.

THE CHURCH IN EGYPT.—The Queen has signified her intention to present a font to the new church at Assuan, Upper Egypt, which is to be consecrated on January 28. A marble floor for the chancel and a lectern have also been promised. It is hoped that visitors in Egypt this winter, as well as those in this country who are interested in Egypt, will contribute the sum of £500, which is required to clear the church of all debt, and thus obtain the grant promised by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. A special mission fund, which aims at establishing, in connection with the chaplaincy, a school for native girls, has been opened, and a sum of £260 has been received or promised towards it. A sum of £2,000 in all will be required to place the school on a permanent basis.

The Church Missionary Society has received a legacy of £5,000 under the will of the late Mr. Thomas Cox, of Longfleet.

A third contribution of £1,000 has been received from an anonymous donor in London towards the Truro Cathedral Building Fund. On each occasion the money has been sent in ten £100 banknotes from "A Cornishman."

Miss Helen Gladstone and Mrs. Drew propose to give the sum of £1,000 to build a chancel in St. Matthew's Church, Buckley, Flintshire, of which the Rev. Harry Drew is vicar, as a memorial of their father, the late Mr. Gladstone.

IN MEMORY OF
JOHN RUSKIN,

Who died January 20, 1900, in the 81st year of his age.

THY voice is still: the voice long lifted up
In scorn of sloth, oppression, sinful greed,
The voice that pealed in silver tune and chime
Proclaiming Truth and Right—the hand that held
The torch of Beauty high 'mid dusky ways
Of human life and passion—these are still,
Hushed in the twilight of eternal calm,
And but the memory of thy presence left.
Yet this shall haunt us; this thy presence, pure
And strong as morning risen above the crest
Of some great mountain lonely in its pride,
Shall cheer us thro' the stormy hour of doubt
And imminent eclipse. For while we tread
With tired feet the dark world's thoroughfare,
Our hearts, made nobler by thy work, shall pause
To bless thy honoured name, nor vainly seek
Sweet solace in the message that was thine.

E. H. BLAKENEY.

SANDWICH, KENT, *January 23.*

Obituary.

THE death took place last week of the Rev. George Buckle, Precentor and Canon Residentiary of Wells, and father of the editor of the *Times*. He was educated at Christ's Hospital and Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he took a First Class in Mathematics, and subsequently won a Fellowship at Oriol. He remained at Oriol as Fellow and tutor. He was ordained deacon in 1846 and priest two years later by Bishop Samuel Wilberforce. For fifty years he laboured as parish priest and canon in the diocese of Bath and Wells, where his name was a household word, and he was greatly beloved. He was a contributor to the *Times*, and a regular writer in the *Guardian* from its first number. He was Examining Chaplain to Lord Arthur Hervey, and was a member of Convocation.

We much regret to note the death of Dr. Cheetham, formerly Bishop of Sierra Leone, which took place at Bournemouth on Friday. He resigned his see in 1881, and returned to England, since which time he has rendered the cause of evangelical missions valuable assistance by his public advocacy.

Canon Henry John Ellison, the founder of the Church of England Temperance Society, died at Canterbury early on Christmas morning, in his eighty-seventh year. In 1861 he seriously took in hand the work of temperance organization, and the following year the society which developed into the Church of England Temperance Society was formed.

The death is announced of the Rev. Whitwell Elwin, a Norfolk rector for fifty years, who for many years edited the *Quarterly Review*. He was born in 1816, and was the friend of Lord Brougham and many other celebrities of the past. He had a remarkable knowledge of eighteenth-century literature.