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Church of England Sunday-School Notes : The Life of Our Lord. Fifty-two Lessons for Teachers. By a CLERGYMAN. Published by Albert Gait, Grimsby. Pp. 52. Price 2s. net.

These lessons seem well arranged. The outline of each lesson is printed on one side of a single sheet; and in this small space a large amount of useful teaching is ingeniously accommodated.

The Month.

ON February 1 the remains of Her Majesty, the late Queen Victoria, were escorted from Cowes across the Solent by a flotilla of torpedo-destroyers, after having been brought from Osborne House by a party of Her Majesty's Highland servants and of blue-jackets. The track of the funeral procession from Cowes lay through a double line of warships, fifteen of them being battleships, and two first-class cruisers. These vessels, which were all British, composed the northern line. The southern line was made up of torpedo-boats, ocean liners, and foreign men-of-war. The sight was a singularly impressive one, and the majesty of the whole thing was enhanced by the beauty of the day, which was like a piece of summer weather.

On February 2 London witnessed, for the last time, the passage of the Queen through its midst. The coffin lay, as the Queen had willed, on a gun-carriage, and was followed by the royal mourners from Victoria to Paddington. Some 33,000 troops lined the route, and everywhere the crowds were enormous. For the most part, the people behaved with admirable decorum.

From Paddington the coffin was taken to Windsor by train; and in procession from Windsor all the Ambassadors and Envoys of foreign States took part, walking after the Princes. At St. George's Chapel the procession was met by the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Winchester and Oxford, and the Dean of Windsor.

After the funeral service in the Chapel the coffin was taken to the Albert Memorial Chapel, where it rested till Monday. On Sunday, however, the King and Queen, with their guests, attended service in St. George's Chapel; the sermon was preached by the Bishop of Oxford.

On Monday, February 4, the actual burial took place at the Mausoleum; this ceremony was a private one, and only an official account is forthcoming, so far.

Such was "the passing of Victoria," the best and most beloved Sovereign that has ever occupied the English throne. The whole world is the poorer since her presence has been removed from it; and though other Kings and Queens will wield the Imperial sceptre over the mightiest world-empire known in history, and we firmly trust, will wield that sceptre well, ages may pass before such another rises

"So sweet, so great, so true."

It was a happy decision that the King made when he declared his intention to be known as Edward VII. Judging by the tributes of the press and the tone of the people, the King will have no need to complain of any lack of heartfelt loyalty in these his realms. The King's own messages to his peoples, both here and over seas, and his speech at his first Privy Council, are excellent examples of that fine tact for which, as Prince of Wales, he has been long famous.

On February 14 the King opened Parliament in person, and the state function was a noteworthy one in every way. Not only was it impressive

in itself ; not only was the pageant at Westminster extremely interesting from the point of view of a lover of quaint medieval ceremonies and that massing of colours for which the Middle Ages were unrivalled ; but the scene was interesting both from a historic and a religious aspect—historically, because a full state opening of Parliament has not been known for forty years ; religiously, because of the oath taken by the King on the question of Transubstantiation, worship of the Virgin, and the Mass. While thoroughly agreeing with the spirit of this declaration, we cannot but think that an alteration in its wording is desirable ; why employ language likely to cause needless pain to a large section of Englishmen who, Romanists though they be, are just as loyal subjects of the Crown as Protestants ?

The sympathy shown by the German Emperor to the Royal Family, and therefore to the nation, in its recent bereavement has touched a chord in all hearts. We are sorry that in some quarters in Germany a political interpretation has been put upon simple acts of kindness and sympathy done by a monarch who, if often impulsive, is always warm-hearted. The "critical" spirit in Germany has been evincing itself by its angry criticism of the Emperor for conferring the Order of the Black Eagle on Earl Roberts.

The following extract from a recent leader in the *London Guardian* is interesting :

"There are a good many indications that we are approaching a "home-reunion" period, or perhaps it would be more accurate to call it an "approximation" period. We have lately reported several conferences, of more or less weight, between Churchmen and Nonconformists. Canon Armitage Robinson devoted a large part of his sermon at the Bishop of Exeter's consecration to the topic, a good deal of combined action in social matters has taken place here and there, while on the Nonconformist side the marked activity of the Free Church Council, taking shape just now in the great united Mission, is a fact the importance of which ought not to be overlooked, though its bearings are not quite easily discerned. It is possible that the failure of the well-meant attempt some years ago to draw England and Rome more closely together may have turned men's thoughts in the other direction, and led them to look to Nonconformity ; but, whatever the cause, it is a fact that many minds are inclining that way. We do not, it is well to say at the outset, anticipate any great or definite results from the movement at this moment, nor from the next effort of the same kind, nor from the next after that ; but each makes a certain impression, shakes down some part of the barrier that separates the two bodies, and is worthy of attention, if only on that account.

"A distinction has to be drawn between definite proposals for corporate reunion, with actual measures for carrying them into effect, and efforts to promote greater sympathy between Churchmen and Nonconformists, with co-operation and intercourse among individuals. For a long time past Churchmen, and especially the clergy, have been urged to take every opportunity of coming into friendly contact with Nonconformists, and to act with them, so far as it is possible to do so, without prejudice to the truth and to the traditional claims of the Church. We believe that this process is and has been going on to an extent which is not generally recognised. Among the clergy, especially, perhaps, in towns, intercourse and co-operation with the ministers of other denominations is by no means uncommon. The laity are very often under great misapprehension on this subject. They are apt to assume—and the assumption has some justification in the tone and traditions of former days—that the clergy

will, as a matter of course, hold aloof from the Dissenters among their parishioners, and will object to meet or co-operate with the ministers. So far as our knowledge goes, though there must, of course, be many exceptions, this assumption has little or no foundation in fact. In all well-worked parishes the Nonconformists are regularly visited by the clergy, except in cases in which the visits are definitely rejected, or when the parish is too large for any regular visitation at all. Further, the various organizations for purely social work, in which representatives of religious bodies are expected, as such, to take part, have grown so numerous of late years that there are abundant opportunities for intercourse and co-operation between the clergy of the Church and other ministers. No sensible or instructed Churchman, so far as we know, regards this with anything but approval and sympathy, and we believe that the tendencies which we have indicated are likely to increase rather than diminish in force, and to act as powerful influences in promoting the things that make for peace."

On February 13, the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Archbishop of York received at Lambeth Palace a deputation, organized by the Church Reform League, which will request them to give their assistance to the Convocations Bill. The deputation was introduced by the Bishop of Rochester, and Bishop Barry, Canon Gore, Sir John Kennaway, and Sir Richard Jebb spoke. A list of the members of the deputation, as issued by the League, shows that it comprised 21 suffragan or assistant Bishops, 17 Deans, including those of Canterbury and St. Paul's, 51 Archdeacons, and 79 Proctors in Convocation, including the Prolocutor of the Lower House of York Province. The laity were represented on the list by 13 peers, 42 Members of Parliament, and 59 members of the Houses of Laymen.

The "Convocations Bill," though spoken of in some quarters as a panacea for our troubles, is meeting with considerable criticism. The ablest criticism we have yet seen comes from the Bishop of Sodor and Man, who dealt with the Bill at some length in his address to his Diocesan Conference at Douglas. The Archbishop of Canterbury's reply to the deputation was characteristically clear and to the point.

According to the last returns, the sum of £38,141 3s. 6d. has been subscribed to the diocesan fund which is being raised for the maintenance of the new see of Southwark. An appeal for funds towards the restoration of the collegiate church of St. Saviour—the cathedral-designate of the future diocese—as well as towards the cost of erecting a collegiate house, has been circulated. For the former purpose a sum of £6,000 is urgently required. £300 of this is for the repair of the tower, and other exterior and interior work is equally needed. For the purchase of a site and the erection of a choir vestry the sum of £3,000 is required. At present the choir have to vest and keep their robes in one of the side chapels. The sum of £4,000 will be required for the erection of the collegiate house. All these works are described as urgent.

Londoners sometimes forget that there is a Greater London, and that beyond the Greater London there is still a "London over the Border." But Lord Cross has been pointing out the great growth and urgent demands of this outer London, and showing how far the Church has lagged behind in coping with a population which in the last generation has grown from 75,000 to 700,000, and is still growing at the rate of 40,000 a year. An immediate demand for twenty new churches and as many mission buildings is now made, and an appeal is being circulated widely.

We note with satisfaction the appointment of Dr. F. Chase to the Presidency of Queens' College, Cambridge, in succession to Dr. Ryle, the newly appointed Bishop of Exeter. Dr. Chase is a learned and thoughtful scholar, and we hope his new post will allow him the necessary leisure to continue his theological studies, which have proved so fruitful hitherto.

At the invitation of Canon Christopher, about three hundred members of the University, representatives of the corporation, and local clergy, attended the twenty-fifth annual Church missionary breakfast in the municipal buildings on February 9. Among those present were the Vice-Chancellor, the Mayor of Oxford (Mr. G. Claridge Druce), Bishop Mitchinson (Master of Pembroke), the Provost of Queen's, the Rector of Exeter, the Provost of Oriol, the Principal of Brasenose, Dr. Ince, Professor Cheyne, and Dr. Sanday. An interesting address was delivered by the Bishop of Mombasa, East Africa, who was for nearly twenty years a missionary of the C.M.S. in India. He said it was useless for them to think that by European blood alone they would evangelise the world; the people of the soil must be the people to bring the Gospel to their fellow-countrymen. He pointed out the great openings there were at the present time in India and East Africa, and appealed to the Universities to furnish young men qualified for the work. Dr. Ince, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Bishop, said that these missionary breakfasts had now become one of the institutions of the University.

News from the seat of war is rather more encouraging. Lord Kitchener's plans for sweeping the enemies out of the Orange State, and for settling the guerilla bands in the Transvaal, are being carried, slowly but surely, into effect. What is done will, one may reasonably expect, be done once for all. Kitchener's task is a very difficult one indeed, and it is satisfactory to know that his appeal for more troops has been duly attended to. 30,000 men are being despatched forthwith.

NEW BOOKS, ETC.

- Modern Criticism and the Teaching of the Old Testament.* By Prof. G. A. SMITH, D.D. Hodder and Stoughton. Price 6s.
- The Neo-Platonists; a Study in the History of Hellenism.* By THOMAS WHITTAKER. Cambridge University Press. Price 7s. 6d.
- The Greek Thinkers.* By Professor THEO. GOMPERZ. London: Murray. Price 14s.
- [An English translation of Professor Gomperz's work.]
- Counsels for Churchpeople.* From the writings of the late Bishop CREIGHTON. Stock. Price 5s.
- The Life of Archbishop Benson.* By his SON. (Abridged edition.) Macmillan. Price 8s. 6d. net.
- Encyclopædia Biblica.* Edited by Professor T. K. CHEYNE and J. S. BLACK, LL.D. Vol. ii. A. and C. Black. Price 20s. net.
- [The second instalment (E—K) of this remarkable work.]
- Scriptural and Catholic Truth and Worship.* By the Rev. Canon MEYRICK. Skeffington. Price 5s.
- A Commentary on the Greek Text of the Ephesians.* By the Rev. H. G. MILLER, M.A. Skeffington. Price 12s.

Among literary items, one of the most interesting (theologically) is the announcement that the Rev. H. B. Swete, D.D., Regius Professor of Divinity, Cambridge, is preparing an elaborate commentary on the Apocalypse, on the lines of his edition of St. Mark's Gospel. Messrs. Macmillan, we understand, will probably publish the work.