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## The Month.

THE withdrawal of Sir John Gorst's Education Bill and the substitution of a small measure for dealing with the results of the Cocker-ton judgment rather increased than lessened interest in the education question. The July sessions of Convocation furnished new evidence of the belief that drastic changes are needed in regard to elementary as well as secondary education. The Upper House of Canterbury Convocation gave its view of the situation in the terms of what are known as the Salisbury Resolutions. They are as follows :

"That a national system of elementary education, working in accordance with the resolutions following, should take the place of the present system, and should be administered by authorities representing and acting over large areas, embracing one or more administrative counties.

"That all Government grants should be paid to this authority, who shall have power to levy an educational rate over the whole area towards the maintenance of all elementary schools in that area.

"That the funds needed for capital expenditure on the school buildings belonging to any religious body, as well as for necessary extensions and structural alterations, be provided by the body to which the school belongs, but that the managers be not liable for any other expenditure.

"That power of borrowing on the security of the buildings be secured by statute.

"That all schools be financed by this authority, and that in the future certified efficient schools should receive pecuniary assistance.

"That in the management of schools belonging to religious bodies, one-third of the managing committee be representatives of the educational authority of the area and of the parish, and the remaining two-thirds to be appointed as at present.

"That the appointment and dismissal of teachers be in the hands of the managers, subject to confirmation by the local authority.

"That opportunity should be given for opening new schools by means of a provision (similar to that accorded in Scotland) whereby, in considering the claims of any new school for a Parliamentary grant, the Board of Education shall have regard to the religious belief of the parents of the children.

"That opportunity of denominational religious instruction should be secured by statute in all elementary schools when desired by a reasonable number of parents, provided this can be done without expense to the managers.

"That elementary education, being a national concern, should be mainly provided for from Imperial sources."

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With this statement it may be interesting to compare the resolutions passed by the Council of the National Society, embodying its view of what the Church should seek in the interests of her schools :

"1. In all Voluntary schools the cost of the religious teaching should be paid by the denomination to which the school belongs, and the cost of secular teaching by the State.

"2. All religious bodies should, subject to reasonable regulations, be allowed by statute to provide in all public elementary schools, whether Voluntary or Board, for the religious teaching of the children of their own people at their own expense and on their own systems.

"3. The appointment and dismissal of teachers in Church schools should remain as provided by the existing trust deeds."

We are, beyond doubt, on the eve of very serious changes, and the treatment of the Voluntary schools must greatly depend upon the vigour of their supporters in Parliament and the country.

The proposal to amend the Sovereign's declaration against Transubstantiation continues to be warmly discussed. The Committee appointed by the Lords brought up a new form, which for convenience is here presented side by side with the old :

#### THE OLD DECLARATION.

I do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do believe that in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any Transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever ; and that the invocation or adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other Saint, and the sacrifice of the Mass as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are superstitious and idolatrous. And I do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do make this Declaration and every part thereof in the plain and ordinary sense of the words read unto me as they are commonly understood by English Protestants, without any evasion, equivocation, or mental reservation whatsoever, and without any dispensation already granted me for this purpose by the Pope or any other authority or person whatsoever, or without any hope of any such dispensation from any person or authority whatsoever, or without thinking that I am or can be acquitted before God or man, or absolved of this Declaration or any part thereof, although the Pope or any other person or persons or power whatsoever should dispense with or annul the same, or declare that it was null or void from the beginning.

#### THE PROPOSED DECLARATION.

I, A B, by the Grace of God, King (or Queen) of Great Britain and Ireland, Defender of the Faith, do solemnly and sincerely, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do believe that in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper there is not any Transubstantiation of the elements of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ at or after the consecration thereof by any person whatsoever. And I do believe that the invocation or adoration of the Virgin Mary or any other Saint, and the sacrifice of the Mass as they are now used in the Church of Rome, are contrary to the Protestant religion. And I do solemnly, in the presence of God, profess, testify, and declare that I do make this Declaration and every part thereof unreservedly.

The subject was debated with some feeling in the House of Lords on July 8, when the Archbishop of Canterbury moved that the report should be referred back to the Committee, whose forces should be strengthened by the addition of some Bishops. Lord Salisbury objected very strongly to the proposal, and the Archbishop did not carry it to a division. Lord Halifax spoke in favour, not of the revision of the form, but of its

abolition ; but both the Premier and the Lord Chancellor expressed their belief that the country was not prepared for the step so eagerly desired by Rome and by a few extreme Anglicans.

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Quite the most interesting part of the July proceedings of Canterbury Convocation were those of its Lay House. The discussion of the lay franchise showed real spirit. Lord Hugh Cecil's proposal, which, in effect, laid down Confirmation as a condition of the franchise, was rejected by twenty-six to sixteen ; and the amendment of Colonel Robert Williams, M.P., giving the franchise to every person eligible for a seat on the vestry, was lost by thirty-four to eight. The consideration of the subject is to be resumed at the next group of sessions.

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The Upper House of Canterbury Convocation arrived, at its July sessions, at certain conclusions in regard to the reform of the Ecclesiastical Courts. It may be as well, if only for purposes of future reference, to give in full the resolutions. They will, of course, be heard of again :

"1. That it is desirable (*a*) to strengthen the constitution of the Diocesan and Provincial Courts ; (*b*) that complaints concerning ritual or doctrine should, if the promotion of the suit be approved by the Bishop, be tried by the Diocesan Court in the first instance ; (*c*) that if an appeal be carried to the Provincial Court, it should there be heard before a Court constituted as hereinafter proposed.

"2. That the Bishop sit in the Diocesan Court, accompanied by two theological assessors, one nominated by the Bishop, the other elected by the beneficed clergy of the diocese, and two legal assessors, of whom one shall be the Chancellor or his deputy, and the other a layman member of the Church of England learned in the law, chosen by the chairman or chairman of the Court of Quarter Sessions within the area of the diocese.

"3. That an appeal to the Provincial Court shall be heard and determined by the Archbishop, accompanied by not less than two episcopal assessors, being Bishops of the province nominated by himself and approved by the Upper House of the Convocation of the province, and by two legal assessors, of whom one shall be the Archbishop's official principal or his deputy, and the other appointed by the Lord Chancellor, and by not less than two theological assessors, nominated by the Lower House of the Convocation of the province and approved by the Archbishop.

"4. That in all cases arising in the diocese of the Archbishop, the Archbishop of the other province shall take his place in the Court of Appeal.

"5. That all the non-official assessors specified in the foregoing resolutions shall be appointed for a term of years."

That is the Convocation plan ; but it may be doubted whether at present the subject interests anybody save a few experts.

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The Bishop of Salisbury, in a letter to his clergy, has announced that he will not repress the carrying of the consecrated elements, immediately after the Communion service, to a sick person. He thus disregards the Lambeth opinion, and, it is to be feared, opens up a new difficulty of which much will be heard.

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The appointment of Sir Robert Leighton, Bart., to the secretaryship of the National Protestant Church Union is an excellent omen for the future

of that agency. Sir Robert is a Churchman whose Protestantism, if inherited, is also a matter of deep personal conviction. He has always shown the warmest personal interest in the work of the Union, and under his direction its progress in numbers and in influence should be greatly accelerated. The choice of the Rev. A. J. Tait to succeed the Rev. E. Elmer Harding as Principal of St. Aidan's College signalizes the return of St. Aidan's to its old happy traditions. It will now once more become a college to which men of Evangelical sympathies may with confidence be directed. The Bishop of Liverpool's hostel for graduate candidates is to be opened at the end of September, with the Rev. T. W. Ketchlee as Vice-Principal under the Bishop. Bishop's College, Ripon, is already a success under Dr. Henry Gee.

Churchmen familiar with the Gray's Inn Road must often have wondered how the Home and Colonial School Society contrived to carry on with so much success the work of its Training College for Women Teachers in the old and grimy-looking buildings there belonging to it. The success of the College has, indeed, been striking; but the Education Department has at last compelled the society to find another home. It is accordingly arranging to move to Wood Green, where its accommodation will be very much increased. A sum of about £30,000 is needed for the purpose. The Evangelical control of the society makes its appeal for help one that should be generously answered.

The British and Foreign Sailors' Society has been laying the stone of its new headquarters, a building which is happily called the "Passmore Edwards' Sailors' Palace." That well-known philanthropist has promised £6,000 towards the cost of the new premises, for which, however, a total sum of about £24,000 is needed. The palace will be situated at the junction of four main highways—East and West India, Commercial and Burdett Roads—with trams and trains constantly passing, surrounded by large Scandinavian, Asiatic, and German Homes, which make it the very centre of sailor town. There will be ample accommodation for sailors, and the institute work will be provided for in the fullest way. Of the excellent services rendered by the society in the past, and of the urgent need of all such endeavours, it must be unnecessary here to speak. It is proposed, to endow a bed in the New Palace in the name of the Archbishop of Canterbury, and to call it the "Temperance Bed." A sum of £50 will be needed for this purpose, and help will be welcomed.

The Rev. Dr. Sinker writes to us to point out a misprint in his article in our last number (p. 544, l. 9), which he much regrets that he failed to detect. The word "weeks" should be "verses."

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## Reviews.

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### GENERAL LITERATURE.

*A History of the English Church: From the Norman Conquest to the Accession of Edward I.* By W. R. W. STEPHENS, Dean of Winchester. London: Macmillan and Co.

**T**HIS volume is the second in the series, which, under the editorship of the Dean of Winchester and the Rev. W. Hunt, will survey the entire history of the English Church from its foundation to the close of the