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THE CHURCHMAN

January, 1936.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

“The Churchman.”

THE opening of another year gives us an opportunity once again of thanking our readers for their support in the past. We value the kind messages which are sent to us from time to time indicating that our efforts on behalf of Evangelicalism in the Church of England are appreciated. We are encouraged to ask for the continuance of that support, and to request the further favour of the assistance of our readers in making THE CHURCHMAN more generally known, and in securing for us an increase in the number of subscribers. THE CHURCHMAN fills an important place in our Church literature. Every section of the Church has some special organs through which its point of view is set out, and for many years THE CHURCHMAN has represented Evangelical opinion. It has maintained the Evangelical outlook, and sought to express the Evangelical attitude towards the various problems of the day as they arise. It is important that there should be such an organ as THE CHURCHMAN, in order that the Evangelical position may be strongly maintained with all the aid that the latest scholarship can give. During the coming year many problems of great importance to the welfare of the Church will have to be considered, and we are arranging that these will be dealt with in a way that will guide thought and action. The principles of the Reformation require as full a measure of support as ever, in view of the constant attacks to which they are subjected.

The South Indian Church Union Scheme.

The Scheme for the union of the Churches in South India has met throughout with the most virulent opposition from the Anglo-Catholic party. They seem determined to frustrate by every means in their power the desire of the Christian peoples of that region to bring to an end the existing divisions, and to form a united Church which will be able in the fullest measure to advance missionary work among the vast non-Christian population. The latest attack on the Scheme is in a leaflet issued by an advanced Churchman, whose aim is to prejudice the Diocesan Councils in India when the Scheme comes before them. The Bishop of Dornakal, who is one

of the warmest supporters of the Scheme, and is in a special position to know the advantages that will be gained from unity when it is accomplished, has met the challenge in a very effective manner. He trusts that the method of propaganda adopted by the extremists will be denounced by all fair-minded people, as degrading the character of the sacred assemblies of the Church. One point of the attack is based on the assumption that the Church of England is committed to a particular theory of episcopacy and that the members of other churches must be compelled to accept this theory before there can be any union. The writer must know very little about the Church even in this land or he would recognise that there are thousands of Evangelical Churchpeople who do not accept the Anglo-Catholic view of episcopacy, and no one dares with any hope of success to question their right to their place in the Church. Evangelicals are convinced that they hold the true view of episcopacy, and look forward to the time when it will be generally accepted.

Other Points of Objection.

Every point that could be urged in objection to the Scheme has been raked up, and the bitterness of the opposition is seen in the nature of some of the points that are raised. For instance, it is objected that the word "Priest" does not occur in the Scheme but only "Presbyter." The Bishop's answer is that in the Scottish Liturgy authorised in 1912 the word "Priest" does not occur. "Presbyter" is used throughout. No one who knows the character of the Episcopal Church in Scotland will regard this as "suggesting a compromise of essential principles," yet this is the accusation that is brought against the supporters of the South Indian Scheme. Dr. Azariah points out the support that has been given to the Scheme by the Lambeth Conference and says that their lead is to be followed rather than that of any individual with no responsibility for his statements. The Bishop closes with an appeal which should touch the hearts of all who are interested in the future of Christianity among the Indians. He says: "We appeal to all men of good will not to lend themselves to acts and words which will drive the infant Anglican Christians of India to doubt all ecclesiastical authority, and specially the authority and guidance of successive Lambeth Conferences and of our own Indian Episcopate, and to lead us into worse evils than those from which they wish to save us." Evangelical Churchpeople may soon be driven to some drastic action to show that they are not and will not be held bound by any Anglo-Catholic theories of the episcopate.

The Church of England in South Africa.

Our readers are probably aware from many sources of the events that have been taking place in connection with the Church of England in South Africa. The Church of the Province of South Africa is distinctly Anglo-Catholic in character. The members of the Church of England in South Africa are strongly Evangelical, and

cannot submit to the jurisdiction of the episcopate of the Province. Actions are pending in regard to a number of points mainly concerned with the financial claims that are in dispute. A short time ago it was hoped that a happy solution had been reached in the proposal that a Bishop should be appointed to afford episcopal ministrations for the Church of England congregations. For some unknown reason this scheme, which had been regarded with favour by the highest authorities, was dropped, and nothing more was heard of it. It seemed the best method of solving the difficulties of the situation, and there is much speculation as to the reasons why it was suddenly rejected. The suspicion naturally is that the Anglo-Catholics have been at work again, and have so far succeeded in postponing so desirable a settlement. It has come to light that the names of the clergy who are working in connection with the Church of England in South Africa have been removed from *Crockford's Clerical Directory*. We are glad to know that through the action of members of our Home Church, this omission is to be remedied and that the names will be restored in the next issue of the *Directory*.

The Church Struggle in Germany.

The conflict between the rulers of the Totalitarian State and the Confessional Church in Germany continues without intermission, and in the last few weeks has become more acute. Herr Kerrl, who has been appointed the Minister for Church Affairs, has evidently been stirred up to take some decisive action in order to bring the Confessionals into subjection. The position is somewhat complicated, but the leaders of the Confessional Church have taken a firm stand and have announced their determination that they will not accept any pronouncement on the part of the State which is in the nature of an interpretation of the Gospel. In order to limit as far as possible the influence of his opponents Herr Kerrl has confiscated some of their funds, has threatened to dissolve their organisations and has forbidden the publication of any of their literature. By an edict he has forbidden any Church group "to exercise administrative functions such as the appointment of pastors and other spiritual office holders, the examination and ordination of theological students, the levy and administration of Church taxes and other moneys, the issue of instructions for collections in connection with parish gatherings and the summoning of synods." The sympathy of Evangelical Churchpeople will be whole-heartedly extended to their brethren in Germany who are making so vigorous a struggle for the freedom of the Gospel. Their needs will be remembered in prayer.

Italy and Abyssinia.

Christendom has been shocked by the invasion of Abyssinia by Italy. As a member of the League of Nations, Italy was pledged to have no recourse to war as a means of settling disputes with other nations which are members of the League. In spite of this

solemn engagement and without any declaration of war the Italian troops entered Abyssinian territory and by means of the latest mechanical devices of warfare have been endeavouring not only to terrorize the natives of the country but also to destroy their towns by incendiary bombs. Although the campaign has already been carried on for a number of weeks the Italians have achieved very little success. The character of the country and the unexpected rains have held them up and the work of conquest appears to be a more serious task than they contemplated. In the meantime by means of sanctions the League of Nations has shown its disapproval of Italy's disregard of its obligations. Christian opinion has been strongly expressed and practical help has been given to Abyssinia for the relief of the wounded by providing ambulance equipment. There has been general surprise that the Pope has made no pronouncement on the action of the Duce. When it comes to practical action in the interest of the moral welfare of the world the claims of the Papacy seem to fade away if it is inconvenient to assert them. The whole situation shows that there is little hope for the future peace of the world unless the principles of Christ become the guiding rule for nations as well as individuals.

Our Contributors.

The publication of the *Life of Archbishop Davidson* has been one of the outstanding events of the last quarter. Dr. Bell's monumental work has been received with a unanimous chorus of praise, both for his skill in dealing with the voluminous material at his disposal, and for the way in which he has presented it. We have asked Bishop Knox to write upon the *Life*, and we are glad to present to our readers an article on it which we are sure will be read with the greatest interest. It contains some personal touches which will be especially appreciated. The significance of the Reformation cannot be too frequently emphasised. In the skilled hands of Mr. Albert Mitchell the subject receives the most adequate treatment. Mr. Guy Johnson's historical studies are well known to a wide circle, and we welcome his article on "John Calvin" as a very useful contribution to the better understanding of that great leader of the Swiss Reformation. Mr. Johnson continues in this article the interesting contribution which he made to *Œcumenica* on Calvin and the Church of England. The Rev. Edwin Hirst, M.A., Vicar of Portwood, Stockport, writes on "Church and State," and presents a number of points which it will be well to bear in mind in connection with the publication of the Report of the Archbishops' Commission which is expected shortly. In our Review of Books considerable space is given to the *Life of Bishop Gore* which supplements in some respects the *Life of Archbishop Davidson*.
