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Society under whose auspices they work is intent on fulfilling its obligations to them in the best possible manner, will lighten the hearts of many in the harvest-fields abroad, who, in the suggestive language of the donor, "have to entrust the bringing up of their children to the Committee." The gift is in the names of the Rev. F. E. and Mrs. Wigram.

Vol. III. of *Present Day Tracts* (Religious Tract Society) is an excellent portion of a very good series. The essay by the Dean of CANTERBURY on the Mosaic Authorship of the Pentateuch is the best thing of the kind we have ever read. Little is said about Professor Robertson Smith's book, but its weakness is well brought out. Sir WILLIAM MUIR and Dr. WACE are among the contributors.

We are pleased (and by no means surprised) to see a second edition of *Stepping-stones to Higher Things*, by Captain CHURCHILL; an excellent little book, bright and earnest, some months ago recommended in these pages. The gallant Captain's writings are always thoroughly sensible as well as sound.

Messrs. John F. Shaw and Co. have commenced a sixpenny edition of some of their excellent Tales and Stories. We have received No. 4 and No. 5 of "Shaw's Home Series," Miss HOLT's *Sister Rose*, a tale of St. Bartholomew, which we strongly recommend, and *The Boys' Watchword*.

*Twelve Simple Addresses*, by a Workhouse Visitor (Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge), may be found by many very useful; simple, earnest, and affectionate.

In reply to a correspondent, we strongly recommend "The Revision Revised," by the Dean of CHICHESTER (J. Murray). He will find it a deeply interesting book, one which will richly repay careful study. From each of the three *Quarterly Review* articles we quoted several passages at the time; but these articles have been revised, and have a permanent interest and value. As to the translation of the Revised Version, we have no desire to withdraw anything that we wrote; upon the text, as everyone knows, Dean BURGON has thrown fresh light. His book exhibits a combination of research and literary power rarely equalled. Our correspondent is mistaken, we may add, in supposing that the text of Dr. Hort's book, or his textual theory, has ever in anywise been defended in THE CHURCHMAN.

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## THE MONTH.

THE question of a real Diaconate in the Church of England has of late been worthily discussed, and the movement with which, to a great extent, the Convocation of the Northern Province is identified, is evidently gaining strength. The resolution proposed by the Bishop of Winchester, at the last sitting of the Convocation of Canterbury, seconded by the Bishop of Exeter, and carried unanimously, marks distinctly an advance.<sup>1</sup> The resolution ran thus:

This House is of opinion that, in view of the overwhelming need of increase in the number of the ministry and the impossibility of providing sufficient endowments for the purpose, it is expedient to ordain to the

<sup>1</sup> The March CHURCHMAN was being printed when the reports of this very interesting debate appeared.

office of deacon men possessing other means of living, who are willing to aid the clergy gratuitously, provided that they be tried and examined according to the Preface of the Ordinal, and in particular be found to possess a competent knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, of the Book of Common Prayer, and of theology in general ; provided also that they be in no case admitted to the priesthood unless they can pass all the examinations which are required in the case of other candidates for that office, and that they shall have devoted their whole time to spiritual labour for not less than four years, unless they are graduates, before they present themselves for these examinations.

The Bishop of Winchester, after referring to lay-readers,<sup>1</sup> said :

From the debate which they had had already, it was quite clear that much was needed in the way of additional ministrations in the Church. His own feeling had been for a long time that unless they could find some other expedient than those they had already tried, it would be inevitable for them to lower the standard, socially and intellectually, of the clergy. By adding to the diaconate a certain number of persons in the way proposed in the resolution, he thought they might be able to keep the priesthood at the same high level as at present, if not at a higher level. He was sure they were all pressed often to admit to holy orders persons whom they felt they should like in many ways to have in the ministry, but whom they did not think of the mark socially and intellectually that they desired. He had had a number of people come to him whom he felt that he should be very glad to admit to the diaconate if he could have a certainty that they would not proceed to the priesthood, at least for a considerable time. But he did not think it right to admit persons to an extended diaconate unless agreed upon by the Church generally.

The Diaconate movement, as our readers are aware, has been supported in *THE CHURCHMAN* from the first. In particular, articles by Dean Fremantle, Canon Jackson, and Mr. Sydney Gedge, have appeared in our pages. We thankfully record the resolution of the Upper House of Canterbury.

In the Lower House, the result of discussion on the Church Courts was the acceptance by an overwhelming majority, of course, of the resolutions of the committee.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The Bishop of St. Asaph spoke of the great danger of doing away with that deep sense which now pervaded the public mind as to the importance of ordination. Great inconvenience would arise if unordained men were allowed to preach in consecrated buildings. It appeared to him that it would not only be at variance with usage, but contrary to the law, to allow such men "to take upon themselves the office of public preaching in the congregation," and he believed that a building licensed by the Bishop for divine worship stood on precisely the same basis in that respect as a consecrated building. And if they were to allow persons who had not been duly ordained to preach in consecrated or licensed buildings, they would be setting aside the provisions of the law.

<sup>2</sup> The Dean of Peterborough said : Lord Coleridge was of opinion that the discretion of the Bishop had been abused. He (the Dean) would not raise that question, but he asserted that there was very great danger of the abuse. He would instance a case which was not a fictitious one.

An address has been presented to Bishop Jacobson by the clergy beneficed and licensed in the diocese of Chester.

Bishop Lightfoot's Church Extension Fund has reached the sum of £30,000. At a meeting of the Bishop of Rochester's Ten Churches Fund, the Archbishop of York made an admirable speech.

In reply to the Memorial on the Report of the Ecclesiastical Courts Commission, the Dean of Canterbury received a letter from the chaplain of the Archbishop of Canterbury, acknowledging the receipt. The Archbishop of York wrote as follows :

Bishopsthorpe, York, 21st February, 1884.

MY DEAR MR. DEAN,

I have the honour to acknowledge, with thanks, the Memorial which you have sent me, recommending that legal effect should be given to the Recommendations of the Ecclesiastical Courts Commission, reserving, however, two important points on which the memorialists differ from the conclusions of the Commission.

As far as I can gather, there is no prospect of advantage from an attempt to legislate on these Recommendations at present, the differences of opinion, especially on the constitution of the Court of Appeal, are so great; but the opinion of a body so important as that which is represented by this Memorial, cannot fail to exercise a material influence upon public opinion in arriving at its conclusions upon this matter.

I am, my dear Mr. Dean, with much respect,

Yours truly,

W. EBOR.

The Very Rev. the Dean of Canterbury.

The venerable Earl of Shaftesbury has been entertained by the Lord Mayor; at a very remarkable gathering of ministers of religion, philanthropists, and men of mark in religious and social movements, the illustrious guest spoke with his wonted power.

In moving for a Royal Commission to inquire into the housing of the poor in populous places, the Marquis of Salisbury

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They might go into a parish and find a very earnest clergyman who adopted practices which had been, over and over again, decided by the Ecclesiastical Courts to be illegal. The clergyman carried the whole parish with him. The Bishop, of course, had no representation made to him at all. Apparently the parishioners were perfectly content. Why should the clergyman be interfered with? It subsequently happened that there came into the parish a gentleman of large property with a very large household. He went to the church, and he was shocked at what he saw. He said, "I cannot attend my parish church. I must either go to the Dissenting meeting-house, or I must drive to another parish church several miles distant." If he went to the Bishop and made a complaint, the Bishop would say, "I find that the parish is admirably worked. I find that the clergyman is a most zealous and most devoted man, and I decline to interfere." Surely the House ought to consider the rights of the Christian laity. He sympathized with every word which had fallen from Archdeacon Farrar.

made an excellent speech. The Prince of Wales spoke with effect, and Lord Shaftesbury was listened to with marked deference.

Mr. Marriott emphasized his defection from the Government ranks on the Vote of Censure by an appeal to his constituents. Brighton re-elected him by a great majority.

The return of Mr. Bradlaugh for Northampton by an increased majority is a very regrettable fact.

In regard to Archbishop Tait and the Ecclesiastical Courts Report, Sir Edmund Beckett has addressed a letter to the *Record*:

Every recorded fact, he says, in those two Blue Books tends to refute and not to support the conjecture that the late Archbishop would have signed such a report either as to its history or its recommendations.

At the London Diocesan Conference the attendance was extremely good; the speaking was lively and practical; some of the reports presented are of much interest and value. We note with pleasure the election of Mr. Eugene Stock, a man of ability and judgment, as one of the three representatives to the Central Council.

The proclamations of General Gordon, in reference to the Mahdi and the slave-traffic, are not yet explained. His position at Khartoum, we fear, is full of danger.

It is almost impossible to make out what is Mr. Gladstone's policy in regard to Egypt. There are rumours of dissensions in the Cabinet. Of the two victories over the Arabs in the neighbourhood of Suakin, with a sad loss of life, what is to be said? Five or six thousand Arabs were killed.

Some of the most telling speeches against the Government of late, have been made by their own supporters. Mr. Goschen and Mr. Forster, for instance, have spoken with effect on both the Egyptian and the Franchise questions.

The question of the franchise as regards Ireland, it is felt by many Liberals, ought not to be considered apart from that of redistribution. Mr. Gladstone, in introducing his new Reform Bill, seemed to address himself particularly to the followers of Mr. Parnell.

The thoroughly loyal people of Ireland, and particularly the Protestants outside Ulster, may well feel uneasy.

Mr. Stanhope has spoken well on the annexation of Merv.

Sir Henry Brand, now Viscount Hampden, has received a very general and well-merited tribute of regard. The new Speaker is Mr. Arthur Peel.

Mr. H. Scott Holland has been made Canon of St. Paul's. He was ordained in 1872.

The new Convention with the Transvaal has been signed.