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The Wycliffe Quincentenary Commemoration has brought out several books, treatises and pamphlets, new and old.—The *Life and Times of Wycliffe*, “the Morning Star of the Reformation,” published by the Religious Tract Society, is a readable book, with illustrations, suitable for general use. From the same Society we have received *Wycliffe Anecdotes*, “Incidents and characteristics from the life of the great English Reformer,” by SAMUEL G. GREEN, D.D. With this book we are greatly pleased; it is short but full, and to the point. On the title-page is a quotation from the work of Professor Montagu Burrows: “To Wiclif we owe more than to any one person who can be mentioned—our ENGLISH LANGUAGE, our ENGLISH BIBLE, and our REFORMED RELIGION.” As to the Reformer’s name, for ourselves, we hold with Wycliffe or Wyclif, rather than Wiclif; but there are fifteen or twenty ways of spelling the name. John of Wyclif was, perhaps, the proper form. It is a pity that Lechler’s excellent work, with Lorimer’s notes, is now out of print, for the Leipsic Professor’s biography is at once highly interesting and informing. Lechler gives *Wiclif*. — *Wiclif and Hus*, from the German of Professor LOSERTH, is a volume of 360 pages. (Hodder and Stoughton.) Students will find it just now particularly helpful. We may hereafter notice this work with somewhat of fulness; but at present it may suffice to state that Book I. treats of “Wiclifism in Bohemia, down to the time of its condemnation by the Council of Constance,” while Book II. gives “Wiclifism in the writings of Hus.”—An excellent little volume by Miss HOLT, we very heartily recommend, *John de Wycliffe*, (John F. Shaw and Co.): clear, full, and good all through.

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### THE MONTH.

THE division on the Vote of Censure—303 to 275—showed a great defection in the Ministerial ranks.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Forster and Mr. Goschen spoke against the Government. The speech of Lord Randolph Churchill was, perhaps, second to none, in point and effect. In commenting on the debate, the *Guardian* says: “General Gordon should not have been sent, or should not have been deserted.”

By 238 to 127, we regret to record, the House of Commons adopted a resolution in favour of altering the law relating to marriage with a deceased wife’s sister.

The ceremony of unveiling the statue of Tyndale was performed by Lord Shaftesbury.

Canon Boyd Carpenter, we right gladly note, has been offered, and has accepted, the Bishopric of Ripon. An eloquent and really suggestive speaker and preacher, with generous sympathies, he will win his way in Yorkshire, and do much for the Church.

At the anniversary of the Church Sunday-School Institute, the chief speakers were the Chairman (the Bishop of Lichfield),

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<sup>1</sup> Sir M. Hicks-Beach moved “That this House regrets to find that the course pursued by her Majesty’s Government has not tended to promote the success of General Gordon’s mission, and that even such steps as may be necessary to secure his personal safety are still delayed.”

and the Right Hon. A. J. Mundella, Vice-President of the Council. The Institute is doing a glorious work, and deserves to be liberally supported.

The Lower House of Canterbury, continuing its debates on the Church Courts Report, has recommended, we are sorry to see, that reference to the Bishops shall be *compulsory*. With regard to lay readers, it has suggested that the subject be brought before the clergy and laity. The proposal that unordained men should preach and conduct services in consecrated buildings was rejected. In the Upper House this action of the Lower was upheld, on a division, by ten to seven. We are glad that it is so. Such a proposal requires most serious consideration. No representative of the Evangelical School is likely to show himself stiffly conservative in regard to Lay Agency; but in dwelling upon the pressing needs of the time, we do not wish to ignore its peculiar dangers.

At the sitting of the Northern Convocation, the resolution on the extension of the Diaconate was adopted without a division. Most thankfully we record this fact. The debate and its result, in York and in Canterbury, will have surprised many. Happily, as yet, "party spirit" has not touched this movement. Many representative Evangelicals have supported it. The *Record*, however, has been rather opposed to it. THE CHURCHMAN from the first, as our readers are aware, has steadily supported it. Together with the increase of lay agency in several forms, particularly with a diocesan organization of lay helpers, we believe the extension of the Diaconate will effect incalculable benefit.

The Bishop of Liverpool, at the Church Pastoral Aid Anniversary, spoke with his old eloquence. The *Spectator* had been moralising about the decay of Evangelicalism, and the Bishop replied in his happiest way.

At the Church Missionary Society Anniversary the venerated President gave his testimony to the staunchness of the Committee. The Archbishop of York, in a powerful address, touched upon success in recent years and at the present. "God has blessed, and is blessing us."<sup>1</sup> Canon Hoare's spirited speech, referring to the brave man alone at Khartoum, stirred the great meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> The *Record* says: "Even in such trying times as we have been lately experiencing, when, as the Archbishop truly urged, every branch of industry has been paralysed and every source of income more or less dried up, one institution—that which is nearest to the heart of the Evangelical section of the Church—has not suffered harm or perceptible diminution. The Associations of the Church Missionary Society throughout the land, which are the backbone of its strength and the true test of the hold which it has upon the country, notwithstanding circumstances peculiarly trying, have sent up as nearly as possible the same amount which they did last year, the highest upon record."