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From Messrs. Isbister and Company we have received the *Annuals of Good Words* and the *Sunday Magazine*, handsome volumes, in every way attractive. In *Good Words* appears a story by the eminent novelist, Mr. Payn. The Rev. H. R. Haweis writes on Brahmanism, and there are several religious papers by representative writers, not only of the "Broad" school. Here and there appears a valuable article—social, historical, biographical, and so forth. The *Sunday Magazine*, so far as we have read, well maintains its literary reputation. The Bishop of Ripon, Dr. Macmillan, Professor Blaikie, Dr. Cox, and Archdeacon Farrar are among the contributors.

From Mr. Hawkins (17, Paternoster Row) we have received our usual December assortment of his thoroughly good and pleasing Cards. Of Floral Cards, "Peace in Believing,"—Scripture Cards, "The Lord our King;" of "Treasures of the Snow," six charming Cards by E. St. B. HOLLAND, Deaconess Home, Mildmay Park; and of the large Coloured Cards with landscapes, we can only write in warmest praise. The price of many of the packets is very low.

THE MONTH.

THE General Election is over. Of the 670 Members of the House of Commons there are 250 Conservatives, 333 Liberals, and 86 Parnellites or Nationalists. Mr. Parnell is therefore, in some degree, master of the situation.

The Church Reform memorial to the Archbishops from members of the Cambridge Senate, printed in the newspapers of the 2nd,¹ has since been largely signed. A "Liberal" declaration has also received influential signatures.

Another important Memorial, bearing many influential

¹ We, the undersigned resident members of the Senate of the University of Cambridge, desire to lay respectfully before you the expression of our belief that the Church of England has long suffered serious injury from the postponement of necessary reforms, and of our earnest desire that advantage may be taken of the revival of public interest in ecclesiastical questions for the authoritative consideration of temperate measures of Church reform, in order that they may be carried into effect with the least possible delay.

Certain definite evils affecting portions of the administration of the Church appear to us to need prompt correction. As examples may be given abuses connected with the sale of patronage, excessive inequalities or anomalies in the distribution of revenues, and difficulties in the way of the removal of criminous and incompetent clerks.

But the reform which we believe to be most urgently needed is a more complete development of the constitution and government of the Church, central, diocesan, and parochial; and especially the admission of laymen of all classes, who are *bonâ fide* Churchmen, to a substantial share in the control of Church affairs.

Such a reform as this would, in our opinion, find a cordial welcome from clergymen and laymen of all schools of theology in the Church of England and from the nation at large. It would do no injury to the organization which the Church has inherited from earlier ages, but would rather bring

signatures, is published to-day. We shall give the document *in extenso* in the next *CHURCHMAN*.

The first and chief reason why the *Guardian* regrets the result of the election is that which relates to foreign affairs. "That the foreign relations of this country are safer in the hands of Lord Salisbury than in those of Mr. Gladstone, events have shown. Unfortunately the appeal has necessarily been made to an electorate to which our foreign relations are in a great degree unknown ground." "As regards Ireland," says the *Guardian*, "there is also ground for regret, not so much because the Conservative policy was likely to be good, as because the Liberal policy is likely to be bad."

The *Standard* of to-day (15th) states that, "as the result of the deliberations at yesterday's Cabinet Council, it was decided that Ministers should meet Parliament, and should take the earliest opportunity of ascertaining whether they possess the confidence of the House of Commons."

The battle at the polls, says the *Record*, has produced some startling results :

The Liberal successes in the counties are, upon the whole, scarcely so significant as the Conservative successes in the boroughs. The agricultural vote, it was known long before the elections, would be largely, if not solidly, cast for the Liberals, but the revolt of the artisans was a great surprise. The effect of the Irish vote has been enormously overrated, and in many cases, such as Salford and Newcastle, it is said to have been cast in favour of the Liberal candidate. If this be so, and the change in the representation of the boroughs marks a definite growth of Conservatism, the circumstance is of the highest importance in estimating the future fortunes of the country. In the counties the Liberals have changed a representation of 50 into one of 134, while the Conservatives, who had 125 county members in the last Parliament, now have only 100. But it has yet to be shown whether these figures can be taken as a reliable basis for future calculations.

that organization into fuller and more salutary activity ; while it would enable provision to be made for meeting with greater elasticity the growing needs of the time.

N. M. Ferrers, D.D., Vice-Chancellor, Master of Gonville and Caius College ; E. Atkinson, D.D., Master of Clare College ; G. Phillips, D.D., President of Queen's College ; C. A. Swainson, D.D., Master of Christ's College, Lady Margaret Professor of Divinity ; W. H. Thompson, D.D., Master of Trinity College ; J. Porter, D.D., Master of Peterhouse ; C. Taylor, D.D., Master of St. John's College ; C. E. Searle, D.D., Master of Pembroke College ; H. A. Morgan, M.A., Master of Jesus College ; B. H. Kennedy, D.D., Regius Professor of Greek ; B. F. Westcott, D.D., Regius Professor of Divinity ; F. J. A. Hort, D.D., Hulsean Professor of Divinity ; J. Rawson Lumby, D.D., Norrisian Professor of Divinity ; E. C. Clark, LL.D., Regius Professor of Law ; G. E. Paget, M.D., Regius Professor of Medicine ; G. M. Humphry, M.D., Professor of Surgery ; P. W. Latham, M.D., Downing Professor of Medicine ; C. C. Babington, M.A., Professor of Botany ; G. G. Stokes, M.A., Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, etc., etc.

THE CAMBRIDGE ADDRESSES.

TWO very important addresses have emanated in the last few weeks from resident graduates of the University of Cambridge.

One proceeds from and is signed by professed Liberals. It seems to be admirably drawn up, exhibiting the intimate ties which bind the Church of England to the nation, and the immeasurable difficulties which will ensue if the attempt should succeed of suddenly and violently breaking the connexion.

The other was drawn up by about a dozen gentlemen, Liberals and Conservatives, Clerical and Lay.

Their object was to bring before the Archbishops and Bishops their sense of the impropriety of postponing action in the reform of certain abuses, among which were specified four out of the five topics which were introduced (if my memory is right) by Mr. Egerton Hubbard in his speech at Brighton. This address has now received more than 150 signatures, which means (I should think) nine out of ten of the members of the Church of England resident graduates.

I do not remember any document which has received in Cambridge such an amount of support. In an article in the *Guardian* it is assumed (as was the fact) that the address was drawn up when the borough elections seemed to indicate a possibility of a Conservative majority.

The significance and importance of it is not diminished by the elections which have subsequently taken place; and I hope that whatever our prelates would have contemplated if there had been a Conservative majority will not be held back under the present circumstances.

I do not myself believe that the Liberal Churchmen in Parliament will refuse to give their support to well-considered measures of Church reform.

The attention which the chief newspapers have drawn to the address is mainly fixed upon the proposal to admit laymen who are *bond à fide* Churchmen to a substantial share in the control of Church affairs. Questions have been raised as to the meaning of the words "*bond à fide* Churchmen." Personally, I would leave this to be decided by the judgment of each man for himself. The lesson which I have learnt from these notices in the journals is this, that the admission spoken of, however it is carried out, is of itself likely to lead to the careful consideration of other points specified.

For example, the question of Patronage would be discussed by a body of men amongst whom both patrons and parishioners would be represented; and we may presume that whatever measure was adopted, the rights of the one class and the

claims of the other would be carefully considered. In this question would be involved the power of the bishop to refuse to induct a presentee who was, for any substantial reason, objectionable, and the power of the parishioners to resist any sudden and arbitrary alteration in the services to which they had been accustomed.

Again, there would be considered the claim of the Church at large to tax rich benefices for the purpose of finding additional incomes where poor populations have been growing. We have a precedent of the last in Queen Ann's Bounty, to which we give a tenth of the incomes at which our benefices were assessed in the time of Henry VIII. This subject was before Convocation about the year 1870, when I first had the honour of a seat in it; it reached a certain stage, and then it fell dead, and I believe it has not been revived since. In point of fact, Convocation needed the spur, and there was no one to use it. In the meantime years have passed, and it would be hard to say what the Lower House has done in the matter, except identifying the Church with the Temperance Movement, for which we were indebted in the olden time to Archdeacon Sandford, and of late to Canon Hopkins.

I do not believe that it is too late to stir; the Parliaments of 1884 and 1885 have passed measures which can only be called "Measures of Church Reform," and this in the face of the Liberation Movement. The fact does not indicate that the Liberal majority in the early part of this year considered that the days of the Church of England were numbered. We may certainly say that the towns of England, where the Church's influence seemed weakest, have rallied in an unexpected way in her defence. It is premature now to measure the causes why the counties have failed, but I must not enter upon party politics. I should like, however, to throw this out as a suggestion. In districts where the landed gentry do not reside, where, in consequence, the clergyman is the chief man of the place, the object of envy possibly because of his very power of being beneficent, the agriculturists have voted against him. The difficulty, no doubt, is increased by the fact that in these parts there are few others qualified to be placed on the Commission for the Peace. This is true of a large part of Cambridgeshire and the north-west of Norfolk; but where there is a resident class of gentry, and the clergy are subordinated in a social point of view, so that the squire has helped them on the one hand, whilst he has shielded them on the other, the result has been different.

C. A. SWAINSON.