

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

THE *Living Church* says, "that if there is one principle upon which the fathers of the Reformation are agreed, it is that the Reformed Church must recognize the binding obligation of Catholic Belief and Usage. Cranmer, Ridley, Jewell, Laud, Usher, Hammond, Hooker, Beveridge, Bull, Thorndyke,—these and many others of the illustrious roll who might be named, sound one note of entire concord upon this point.

THE *Episcopal Register* tells us that the knotty question of ritual has proved too much for the Provincial Synod of Montreal. "It seems that a committee of this respected body has been struggling with a memorial from the Diocese of Niagara for the promotion of greater uniformity, by the passage of a new canon. The committee treat the matter (prudently) very much as if they had been asked to regulate the flow of Niagara Falls, and confess that they are unable to frame such a canon, but they advise (still more prudently), that the clergy submit to Diocesan authority in all points about which dispute has arisen. Common sense is better than a cannonade."

BISHOP CLARK, in a recent sermon, says "that vain janglings and winged words are returning to us void, and that we are recognizing the bitterness of the cry 'come to our help.' Standing in the presence of great realities, and in immediate view of the solemn charge that has been given us to 'preach the word, and be instant in season and out of season,' our interest in all visionary schemes of doctrine, and in all minute details of form and ceremony, of necessity ceases—in matters of life and death, eternal life and eternal death, we have no time left to expend upon trifles. In the heat of battle the commander cares very little about the ornaments of his dress or the jewels on his scabbard: as a matter of course he wears the uniform prescribed by those whom he serves, and that is all which concerns him. He marshals his troops according to the manual, but in an emergency the rigid rules of military etiquette have to give way."

THE *Church Times* says that Apostolical succession does not mean that every Bishop is inspired like an apostle, any more than the Levitical succession in the Jewish Church implied that every priest was the equal of Aaron. But just as every Jewish priest needed to be a legitimate descendant of Aaron by blood, even through such evil forefathers as Hophni and Phineas, so the Christian ministry is transmitted through successive ordination by Bishops, who may be individually unfaithful and evil men, but are still the channels of true orders.

THE *English Guardian* is rather hard on the working man, and certainly reflects the cold unsympathetic tone that has done so much to alienate the working classes from the Church. It says:—"To many of our readers the individual working man is a difficulty and a puzzle. He is given to spending his evenings at the beer shop, and his Sundays over the newspapers. He is not often to be seen by visitors himself, but while he thus preserves his personal independence, he is quite willing that his wife and children should resort, in every emergency, to the charity of his wealthier neighbours. Hospitals and dispensaries are set going for his benefit; institutes and reading-rooms and Mission services are devised in the hope, for the most part very imperfectly realised, that he may be coaxed and petted into some degree of self-help and civilisation."

THE *Rock* thinks that the greatest safeguard against the prevailing religious eccentricities of the day is the definite teaching of the Bible truths from the Bible itself. It says that the most fertile source of most of the errors around us is not knowing the Scriptures. "Our Fathers gloried in this knowledge, their children are turning aside to dumb idols even as they are led."

WE never expected a commendatory word for Dr. Pusey from the *Rock*; but, after giving him a stinging rebuke, the *Rock* says:—"We greatly admire him as a scholar, and as a zealous opponent of the evil

ways of high class sinners. He preached sermons simple in their power of diction, and withering in their exposure of gilded vice." Then follows the usual quixotic remarks for which our Contemporary is noted.

THE *Churchman* contrasts past gatherings of the General Convention with the present, and says that to-day party spirit has so far ceased to rule that the divisions of thought or differing policies chiefly relate to the schemes by which the practical interests of the Church may best be forwarded.

TALMAGE has been giving the world his ideas of the "coming sermon," whereupon a Baptist contemporary remarks:—"We do not profess to know much about the coming sermon, but we are quite sure of one thing. When it comes, it will be as different as possible from the discourses of Mr. Talmage. It will not contain slanderous statements about Christian people and brother ministers, made to tickle the ears of the crowd, nor depend for its interest on irreverent criticisms of the Apostles."

OUR contemporary *Church Bells* strongly objects to Churchmen conceding the term Catholic to Roman Catholics alone. It says that to do so is to ignore at once the claims of the Greek Church, our own National Church, and all other historical National Churches who participate in that designation. Further, it is describing the particular with the universal, when we speak of the Church of Rome as the Catholic Church. How can the Church of Rome be locally Roman and universally Catholic at the same time? She may be, and is, a branch of the Catholic Church, though an erring one; she is not *the* Catholic Church, and it is wrong and misleading so to describe her.

OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

THE list of original members of the Clergy Club is closed, and nearly 2000 have been elected.

IT is reported that the Deanery of Exeter has been offered to Canon Venables of Great Yarmouth.

THE steady improvement in the Bishop of Peterborough's health continues; the symptoms, both local and general, being greatly ameliorated.

IN consequence of the illness of the Rev. Arthur W. Poole, his consecration as first Bishop of Japan, which was to have taken place in Lambeth Palace Chapel, on Sept. 29th is indefinitely postponed.

THE ancient custom of ringing the curfew bell was resumed at Stratford-on-Avon a short time ago. It may interest Shakespearean admirers to know that the curfew is rung upon the bell that was tolled at the poet's funeral, and which he must have heard when alive.

TWO new churches have just been dedicated to the service of God under the auspices of the Colonial and Continental Society. They have been erected to meet the spiritual wants of English and American travellers in the favourite haunts of Tarasp and Davos-am-Platz, Switzerland.

A CLERGYMAN driving out to visit a sick parishioner is exempted by 3 Geo. IV., cap. 126, s. 32, from paying toll in respect of his carriage and horses, although accompanied by his wife and family. (*Layard v. Ovey*, 37 L. J. M. C. 148).

How many clergymen are aware of this?

DURING some alterations at Longworth Vicarage, near Farringdon, a *terra cotta* oven has been discovered, which it is supposed the priests used for the purpose of baking altar-bread.

THE REV. THOMAS CAMPBELL, of Boston, Lincolnshire, in a letter to the *Times*, asks why the Church of England has not a sustentation fund? "It is an admitted fact that among the clergy of the Church of England there is an amount of personal poverty simply appalling.

WE regret to learn that the Bishop of Cape-town had a fall from his horse at Grahamstown, on the 27th ult., and that he sustained a fracture of a small bone in the wrist, and other severe injuries.

PRINCESS MARY ADELAIDE, the Duchess of Teck, has transmitted to the Honorary Secretary of the Kew Church Enlargement Fund the sum of £1062, this being the net proceeds of the concert organized a few months ago by her Royal Highness on behalf of the Fund.

AT his enthronization in the Cathedral at Cumbray, the new Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, wore instead of the ever-beautiful "mag-pie," a violet cassock, mitre, cope, stole and pectoral cross, and held his pastoral staff in his hand while pronouncing the Benediction.

A MEETING has been held of the Church Schools Company, at which it was stated that £30,000 worth of shares had been taken up. It was agreed that it was desirable to bring the subject before the friends of the movement at the approaching Church Congress at Reading in the month of October.

THE Sheffield, England, workingmen have just manufactured a remarkably fine cabinet of cutlery, for presentation to the Archbishop of York. It consists of upward of two hundred pieces, with fine ivory handles, and mounted in sterling assayed silver. Each piece is engraved with the Bishop's mitre.

A WORK of great architectural beauty is just approaching completion at Cold Ashby in the form of a lich-gate, which is being erected at the entrance of the churchyard, and is intended in the case of funerals to be the halting-place of the procession previous to the corpse being carried into the Church. These lich-gates are of very ancient origin, though but few of the old ones remain in our day.

A series of interesting services in connection with the Children's Special Service Mission has recently been carried on at Eastbourne by a clergyman of the Church of England, the Rev. W. S. Standen. A large number of children of the upper classes were gathered together at noon and evening on the beach, when Gospel truths were put forth in simple pointed words, illustrated by anecdotes admirably suited to the young audience.

Modern Christian Martyrdom.

IN the course of a lecture on Christian Martyrdom, delivered recently at the Church Institute, Forest Gate, England, in connection with the Christian Evidence Society, Mr. W. Chamberlain said: "It might be that the particular danger of Christians biting and devouring one another, as the Galatians of old were prone to do, was a mark of our own times. Did the Church of England at the present day stand absolutely quit in respect of the persecuting tendency? We tithed mint, anise, and cummin, in the shape of enormous sums spent in litigation in the Church, while those who knew something of the danger from infidel propagandism regarded almost with complacency the fact that the funds of Churchmen were so largely flowing into legal channels. The enemy was at the very gates of our Zion, shouting, 'Down with it! down with it even to the ground!' 'Missionary societies, home and foreign, almost all deplored the insufficiency of funds for maintaining their work. Multitudes of toiling, poverty-stricken, sin-stained souls in our great cities, were without the means of instruction in the elements of the Christian faith, while, to gratify a spirit of expensive quibbling, Churchmen were actually banded together and subscribed largely, aiming to enforce laws the major part of which, though adapted, possibly completely adapted, to the state of the Church and of society 300 years ago, were utterly unsuited to the requirements of the present age, and might with advantage be scattered to the winds. Atheistic modes of thought were slowly affecting every section of English society, yet still the usefulness and vitality of the Church of England were hindered and impaired by the action notably of two rival societies, cherishing the serpent grudge one towards another. Surely this was a state of things deeply to be lamented. Why should Christians stifle all good feeling towards men who used not a particular Shibboleth?"