

# Church Observer

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"ONE FAITH,—ONE LORD,—ONE BAPTISM."

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## Poetry.

### HE KNOWS.

I know not what will befall me! God hangs  
A mist over my eyes;  
And o'er each step of my onward path He  
Makes new scenes to rise,  
And every joy He sends me comes as a  
Sweet and glad surprise.

I see not a step before me, as I tread the  
Days of the year.  
But the past is still in God's keeping, the  
Future His mercy shall clear,  
And what looks dark in the distance, may  
Brighten as I draw near.

For perhaps the dreaded future has less bitter-  
ness than I think;  
The Lord may sweeten the water before I  
Stop to drink,  
Or, if Marah must be Marah, His name will  
Stand beside its brink.

It may be there is waiting for the coming of  
My feet,  
Some gift of such rare blessedness, some joy  
So strangely sweet,  
That my lips can only tremble with the  
Thanks I cannot speak.

O restful, blissful ignorance! 'Tis blessed  
Not to know,  
It keeps me quiet in those arms which will  
Not let me go,  
And hushes my soul to rest on the bosom  
Which loves me so.

So I go on not knowing! I would not, if I  
Might;  
I would rather walk on in the dark with  
God, than go alone in the light,  
I would rather walk with Him by faith, than  
Walk alone by sight.

My heart shrinks back from trials which the  
Future may disclose,  
Yet I never had a sorrow but what the dear  
Lord chose;  
So I send the coming tears back, with the  
Whispered word "He knows."

## Family Circle.

### A GERMAN STORY

In that beautiful part of Germany which  
borders on the Rhine, there is a noble  
castle, which as you travel on the western  
bank of the river you may see lifting its  
ancient towers on the opposite side, above  
the grove of trees which are about as old  
as itself. About forty years ago there  
lived in that castle a noble gentleman,  
whom we shall call Baron. The Baron  
had an only son, who was not only a com-  
fort to his father, but a blessing to all who  
lived on his father's land.

It happened on a certain occasion, that  
this young man being from home, there  
came a French gentleman to see the old  
Baron. As soon as this gentleman came  
into the castle, he began to talk of his  
Heavenly Father in terms that chilled  
the old man's blood, on which the Baron  
reproved him saying, "Are you not afraid  
of offending God, who reigns above, by  
speaking in such a manner?"

The gentleman said that he knew  
nothing about God, for he had never seen  
him.

The Baron did not notice at this time  
what the gentleman said, but the next  
morning took occasion first to show a  
beautiful picture which hung on the wall.  
"My son drew that picture," said the  
Baron.

"Then your son is a very clever man,"  
replied the gentleman.

Then the Baron went with the visitor  
into the garden and showed him many  
beautiful flowers and plants.

"Who has the ordering of the garden?"  
said the gentleman.

"My son," replied the Baron; "he  
knows every plant, I may say, from the  
cedar of Lebanon to the hyssop on the  
wall."

"Indeed," said the gentleman, "I shall  
think very highly of him soon."

The Baron took him into the village,  
and showed him a small neat cottage, where  
his son had established a school, and  
where he caused all the poor children who  
had lost their parents to be received and  
nourished at his own expense.

The children in this house looked so

happy and innocent that the French gentle-  
man was very much pleased, and when he  
returned to the castle he said to the  
Baron:—

"What a happy man you are to have  
such a good son."

"How do you know I have a good  
son?"

"Because I have seen his works, and I  
know that he must be both clever and  
good if he has done all you have shown  
me."

"But you have never seen him."

"No, but I know him very well, be-  
cause I judge of him by his works."

"You do; and please now draw near to  
this window, and tell me what you observe  
from thence."

"Why, I see the sun travelling through  
the sky and shedding its glories over one  
of the greatest countries in the world; and  
I behold a mighty river at my feet, and a  
vast range of woods; and I see pasture  
grounds, and orchards and vineyards, and  
cattle and sheep feeding in green fields,  
and many thatched cottages here and  
there."

"And do you see anything to be admired  
in all this? Is there anything pleasant or  
lovely or cheerful in all that is spread be-  
fore you?"

"Do you think that I want common  
sense? or that I have lost the use of my  
eyes, my friend?" said the gentleman  
somewhat angrily, "that I should not be  
able to relish the charms of such a scene  
as this?"

"Well, then," said the Baron, "if you  
are able to judge of my son's good charac-  
ter by seeing his good works, how does it  
happen that you form no judgment of the  
goodness of God, by witnessing such  
wonders of His handiwork as are now be-  
fore you? Let me never hear you, my  
good friend, again say that you know not  
God, unless you would have me suppose  
that you have not the use of your senses."

### THE FIRST SABBATH.

The sixth day of creation was drawing  
to a close. The sun had completed his  
course. The darkness of evening began  
to extend over the young earth. The first-  
born son of creation stood on a hill of  
Eden, beside him Eloah, his gardian angel  
and attendant.

All the while it grew darker and darker  
about the hill. The twilight changed into  
night, and wrapped as in a misty veil the  
heights and valleys. The song of birds  
and the happy sounds of animals were  
hushed. Even the playful breezes seemed  
to fall asleep.

"What is that?" asked the man in a  
low voice, of his heavenly attendant. "Is  
the young creation coming to an end, and  
about to sink again into its ancient  
nothingness?"

Eloah smiled and said: "It is the rest  
of the earth."

Now shone out the heavenly lights.  
The moon ascended, and the host of the  
stars came forth in serene brightness.

The man looked up toward heaven with  
delighted surprise; but the angel looked  
down well-pleased upon the up ward gazing  
son of earth. The night became stiller;  
the nightingales sang in clearer and louder  
tones.

Eloah touched the man with his staff.  
He laid himself down on the hill and slept.  
The first dream came to him. Jehovah  
made for him a female companion.

When the morning dawn began, Eloah  
touched the sleeper. He awakened and  
felt himself filled with strength and life.  
Out of the twilight arose the hills and  
valleys; the young light came down and  
danced upon the waves of the stream of  
Eden; the sun ascended on high and  
brought the day. The man beheld his  
newly created wife, the mother of the liv-  
ing. Wonder and happiness filled his  
heart.

"See!" said Eloah, "out of rest is born  
the god-like. Therefore shalt thou hallow  
this day to rest and to god-like ends."—  
Krummacher.

## Ecclesiastical News.

### GREAT BRITAIN.

—According to the latest accounts, the  
Venerable Archdeacon of London is gradu-  
ally sinking.

—For the first time since the Reforma-  
tion, Oxford city has a Romanist Mayor.  
The new sheriff is a Nonconformist.

—The first Conference of clergy and  
laity for the diocese of Bath and Wells has  
just been held with much success.

—It is asserted that Exeter Hall and  
the premises westward are to be purchased  
for the purpose of building a large hotel.

—The Archbishop of York at a confir-  
mation at Hull, lately administered the  
rite to 497 young persons—204 males and  
293 females.

—A notice has been put up at St. Giles's  
Church, Camberwell, London, announcing  
that at the commencement of the service  
all vacant seats are open to any paragoner.

—The Archbishop of Canterbury will,  
on the advice of his medical attendants,  
spend the winter in Italy, most probably  
at St. Remo, so well known to travellers by  
the Corniche-road.

—The debt on the church of St. Luke,  
West Hackney, is now paid. The  
Rector, the Rev. Richard G. G., being  
ably seconded by his congregation, has  
effected this in one year.

—The new church of St. Stephen, Wal-  
worth, is approaching completion, but the  
need of 1,000l. retards the consecration.  
The vicar-designate, Rev. G. Copeland,  
is raising a shilling subscription among the  
inhabitants.

—Conferences on lay help in Church  
work, in connection with the Bishop of  
London's Association, will be held on Mon-  
day next, the 21st inst., at St. Stephen's  
Schools, Whitechapel, and on Thursday,  
the 24th, at St. Saviour's, Londonwall.

—The movement for a simultaneous  
mission has received the approval of some  
of the most eminent of the Evangelical  
clergy in the diocese of London and Win-  
chester, there being reason to anticipate  
"a great drawing together of different  
schools as the result."

—"It appears that our execution," says  
the *Rock*, "as to the literal execution of  
the faculty for the erection of chancel gates  
at St. Mary's, Taunton, was not unneeded.  
A Ritualist writer has already discovered  
that the faculty does not specify at what  
precise angle they are to be 'kept open.'"

—The Wardenship of St. Peter's College,  
Radley, has been filled by the selection of  
the Rev. Charles Martin, M.A., an Assis-  
tant-Master at Harrow, and one of the  
select preachers before the University of  
Oxford. Mr. Martin is a son-in-law of  
the Bishop of Salisbury.

—A handsome new church has been  
consecrated at Abington, Ireland, upon the  
site of the ancient Cistercian Abbey of  
Owney. It is constructed of white, red,  
and buff sandstone, after designs by Raw-  
son Carroll, Esq., of Dublin, the style  
being geometric Gothic.

—We (*Rock*) regret to record the death  
of the Hon. and Rev. Leland Noel, Vicar  
of Exton, Rutlandshire, so well known  
and respected by Evangelical Churchmen.  
He was the son of Sir G. Noel Noel, Bart.,  
brother of the Hon. and Rev. Baptist Noel,  
and uncle of the Earl of Gainsborough, and  
the Hon. Gerard Noel, M.P.

—Sir T. G. F. Hesketh, Bart., M.P.,  
has agreed to defray the cost of heating  
apparatus and other extras in connexion  
with the new church at Rufford. Sir  
Thomas previously gave 1,000l. towards  
the building fund, and also provided stained  
glass windows and other articles necessary  
for the interior of the sacred edifice.

—The Rev. W. Keane, Rector, Whitby,  
preached a funeral sermon on the death of  
Mr. Ralph Greenbury, who had served as  
parish clerk for the long term of sixty years,  
during which time he had seen the appoint-  
ment of four Archbishops, four Incumbents  
of the Whitby parish, the reign of four

sovereigns, and had attended 20,000 fune-  
rals.

—It is announced that the revisers of  
the New Testament Company have conclu-  
ded their fourth session. The number of  
members present on most of the days was  
twenty-two. The Bishop of Gloucester  
presided. Greater progress was made than  
at any former session. The Archbishop of  
Canterbury paid a visit to the Company.

—A memorial to the Rector of Liver-  
pool is in course of signature, asking for  
an alteration of the time of daily service  
at the parish church, and an extension of  
the same to St. Nicholas; also that those  
churches may be declared open for private  
prayer throughout the whole day, and the  
Holy Communion administered every Sun-  
day.

—The Rev. Dr. Hannah, late Warden  
of Trinity College, Glenalmond, and Bamp-  
ton Lecturer at Oxford in the year 1863,  
has just been appointed by the Bishop of  
Chichester, Vicar of Brighton. Besides  
his Bampton Lectures, Dr. Hannah is the  
author of a volume of *Discourses on the  
Fall and its Results*. He has also edited  
several of our old English poets.

—Some excitement has prevailed during  
the week through rumours of a sermon  
lately preached by "Father" Morse, at St.  
Paul's, Lorrimer-square, upsetting all  
generally received theories about heaven  
and hell; and earnestly recommending  
prayers for the dead. Extreme views  
would, by all accounts, appear to have  
been advocated in strong terms.—*South  
London Press*.

—Madagascar, hitherto included in the  
diocese of Mauritius, is to be a separate  
See. The first Bishop will be the Rev.  
Robert Hall Baynes, M.A., of St. Edmund  
Hall, Oxford, Vicar of St. Michael's,  
Coventry. The Bishop-designate took his  
degrees at Oxford in 1856, and has held  
the curacy of Christ Church, Blackfriars-  
road, the incumbency of St. Paul's, White-  
chapel, and the incumbency of Trinity  
Church, Maidstone.

—The foundation-stone of a new church,  
to be dedicated to St. Matthew, has been  
laid on a piece of ground nearly opposite  
the railway station, Commercial-road,  
Stepney. The site will cost 1,250l. The  
Rev. J. Harris will be the incumbent.  
Addresses in favour of church extension  
were delivered by Mr. E. Coope, the Rev.  
J. Bardsley, and other gentlemen.

—The Rev. Orby Shipley complains  
that the newspaper extracts of his scheme  
do not, on all points, impart the intentions  
of the writers. He intends to publish the  
plan, not, as would naturally be expected,  
in a pamphlet, but as an appendix to a  
volume shortly to be issued by Messrs.  
Longman. The curious will therefore  
have to buy a volume which they do not  
want for the sake of a few pages they do  
desire to see.

—The following arrangements for gene-  
ral ordinations have been made:—On the  
Fourth Sunday in Advent, 18th December,  
by the Archbishop of York and the Bishops  
of London, Winchester, Durham, Bath  
and Wells, Ely, Exeter, Gloucester and  
Bristol, Lichfield, Lincoln, Oxford, Salis-  
bury, Bangor, St. Asaph, Chester, and  
Ripon. On the 5th March, 1871, by the  
Archbishop of Canterbury; and on the  
Sunday after each Ember week, by the  
Bishops of Norwich, Worcester, Rochester,  
and Hereford.

—The Foreign Office authorities state  
that steps are being taken with a view to  
furnish the Italian Government with a list  
of religious establishments at Rome belong-  
ing to British subjects, and an account of  
the property attached to them, the Italian  
Government having expressed a desire to  
be supplied with this information. Mon-  
sieur Visconti-Venosta has given the most  
emphatic assurance that all property belong-  
ing to British subjects would be respected  
by the Italian Government.

—The Right Rev. Bishop of Bath  
and Wells has consecrated the new church  
of St. Mary, at Walton, near Clevedon.  
The building is erected from the designs of