

# The Church Quarterly

the Doctrines and Rubrics of the Prayer Book

Be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi. 24  
Mostly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude

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## ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

**THE MEXICAN MISSION.**—The *Church Times* employ a special commissioner to report the most interesting features of the Mission. The following facts are taken from the issue of the 8th of December:—

### (r.) Lodging-house Services.

"One of the most remarkable gatherings was that in a well-known lodging-house in New Nicholl Street, Brick Lane, willingly placed at the disposal of the Sisters of the Church, who are working very zealously in the parish. It is a truly astonishing sight to see Sisters of Mercy and ladies of rank from Belgravia, in conjunction with working men, speaking words of comfort to some of the most deplorable looking of men, whose countenances brightened under the influence of well-known hymns and the soul-stirring words of Mr. C. Powell and Mr. J. T. Widgery, formerly a Methodist preacher, but now a prominent member of the Church of England Working Men's Society. The former speaker at once arrested the attention of the men by telling them that he was once a watchman within a hundred yards of the spot on which they now stood, and they listened with sustained attention to the earnest evangelical addresses, many being moved to tears, and most audibly repeating the Lord's Prayer, while evidently touched by the kindness and sympathy of the ladies. The men gave an evidently earnest invitation for similar addresses to be delivered to them. Addresses of a similar kind were also given in the evening by Mr. J. H. Thomas, another working man, to dock laborers, at St. Catherine's Restaurant, Dock Street, where a considerable number of men were evidently affected, and appreciated the efforts of the sisters and others to help themselves."

and go through a ceremonial tearing of their clothes—(Mr. Rosenthal humorously remarked, "they always take care to put on very old ones for the purpose")—they sit upon the ground, and they mourn for seven days as for one dead. Thenceforward the renegade convert is always mentioned in their prayers, the substance of the prayer being that God would either restore him to the Synagogue, or would blot him out of the Book of the living. He is publicly cursed in the Synagogue at every service as long as he lives. More than this, every Jew is taught that it is his bounden duty to do all in his power to injure the character and position of the convert, in the hope that by this means he may be induced to return to his allegiance, to the ancient faith, or if he should fail, others may be frightened and be prevented from taking a similar step.

Hence it will be seen that the sacrifice which a Jew makes when he accepts Christianity, and is baptized, is a very serious one, and one would think that it is enough to prevent any man from taking such a step unless he was really convinced of the truth of Gospel teaching. I have come across more than one instance during the Mission in which there can be no possible mistake as to the reality of the motives which have actuated Jewish converts. Here is one. A young Jew, who formerly earned £5 a week, was converted to Christianity, and was virtually ruined thereby, for in place of the high wages which he used to earn, his character has been so malined that he is now glad to get five and twenty shillings weekly at his business. Nevertheless, he managed out of this small sum to lay by money, and just before the Mission he went to the clergyman who had been the means of his conversion, and told him that he had in the savings bank enough money to keep him for a fortnight without work, and that he wished to devote himself to laboring during that time in behalf of the people whom he had just left. A fact like this is worth more than a thousand theories or arguments, and I am right glad to put it on record.

### (3.) The Attitude of the Salvation Army towards the Mission.

I took pains during the Mission to enquire here and there about the attitude the Salvation Army was taking in respect to the week's work in East London. Everybody knows that the special claim made by the "Boothites" that they are in nowise sectarian, but simply desire to stir up people any how to a sense of their eternal interests, and they profess not to care in the least how this is done, supposing that it is done. One would naturally have supposed that they would have hailed the movement last week and would have done what they could to help it forward. I find, however, that this is very far from being the case. Indeed the attitude which they have assumed is mainly one of *distinct hostility*. Let me give an instance which came to my knowledge in the course of last week. Some time back a young lady of fair educa-

tion, and of genuine piety, had been converted to the Salvationists and was simply endeavoring to do good and to affect them. The London Mission began to take part in it, believing in help to herself personally. "Officers," she was obliged to attend the instruction, but distinctly refused. An isolated case. In one stronghold of the Salvationists, the experience of the lay help was so much in the way that a great many expressed themselves against the services, but had issued from this place was forbidden that the Salvationists' organization, was *but now I can let out*

**THE "CHURCH OF MEXICO."—**On the evening of Thursday, December 10th, the Right Rev. Dr. H. C. Riley, late Bishop of the Valley of Mexico, delivered a lecture in New York, on "The Work of the Church in Mexico." He said:—

"The thought of organizing a Mexican Branch of the Catholic Church of our Lord Jesus Christ—that should be a faithful guardian and teacher of the Holy Scriptures—that should have an entirely independent and patriotic Mexican character, and that should base its liturgy on the ancient Mozarabic liturgy of old Spain, has gradually taken shape and form in Mexico. The magnificent old church of San Francisco in the centre of the capital of Mexico, is now the cathedral of the Mexican Branch of the Church. Some fifty congregations have united with its organization. By its side a Children's Guardian Society has for years been carefully educating a large number of Children in the Christian faith. Through this patriotic Mexican branch of the Church the friends of an open Bible in other lands, by generously contributing in behalf of its work, may, by God's help, aid in rapidly extending and firmly establishing a most precious Christian work throughout Mexico."

**THE STATE OF THE AMERICAN CHURCH.**—The following statistics are taken from "Whitaker's Church Almanac for 1885:—Diocese and missionary districts, 66; bishops, 69; bishops-elect, 3; clergy, 3,645; parishes, 2,482; missions, 1,547; candidates for Orders, 367; ordinations, deacons, 99; priests, 107; baptisms, 49,582; confirmations, 30,204; communicants, 331,894; marriages, 14,442; burials, 26,645; Sunday-school scholars, 318,358; contributions, \$9,042,628.84.

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When a Jew is baptized, and becomes a Christian, his parents and near relations meet together,