

## CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

Our able English contemporary, the *Rock*, has the following forcible remarks, which we commend to the attention of the young men of Canada:—

There are thousands of middle-class Englishmen, under thirty, who have made haste to forget the little they learnt at school, and whose reading is now confined to the daily paper, supplemented only, if at all, by an occasional novel, or a still more occasional magazine article. Now let us go straight to the point. Is it right that this should be so? Is it not a plain neglect of a religious duty? We say a religious duty, for a man consists not only of soul and body; but he has also a mind, and that mind he must consecrate to the service of God who gave it. Powers of imagination, powers of reasoning, powers of memory, and the like, are all talents entrusted to us for use in the Master's service; and it is shameful to employ them only in business speculations, and in reckoning prices and calculating profits, or in "what we shall eat and what we shall drink, and wherewithal we shall be clothed." Our business, whatever it may be, we must, of course, each one of us, attend to; but when the day's work is over (and for most of us it is over by seven or eight o'clock in the evening,) is it not a plain duty to endeavour to raise our thoughts higher than the fluctuations of stocks and shares, the petty details of aristocratic flittings to and fro, the wholesale lying of professional politicians, the scandals of "Society," or the horrors of the latest crime? "Whatsoever things are noble, whatsoever things are lovely," said St. Paul, "think on these things;" and there is no excuse for mental idleness in the present day. The best books are within the reach of all. History, poetry, science, art—all are ready at hand to teach us if we will but learn. The history of our own land might teach us the same lesson which the Psalmist of old learnt; the 104th and 107th Psalms are even truer now than they were when first they were written; for both science and art have amply enlarged our ideas of the "wonderful works" of God.

The *Church Messenger* says:—

New York City is to be shaken up this Advent with a great mission, reaching out in all directions, to high and low, rich and poor, capitalist and laborer. We wish to ask why arrangements could not be made in all cities to have the same thing done? Indeed, it need not be confined to cities, as sin is not, but town and country might well share in the awakening, and during this season, when the whole Church is proclaiming the Lord is at hand, let a united effort be made to induce people to repent, to bring forth fruit meet for repentance.

The *Pacific Churchman* says:—

"Members of the Church" is a term scarcely more distorted from its right meaning by Protestant sectarians than in the very common usage of Church people. As is well known, the former apply it to such as have "joined" one or another of the various "orthodox" religious bodies—joined it, that is, upon the "experience" and "profession" of religion which they require. This is the sectarian idea of "joining the church." By the "church" they mean either one of the sects, or some invisible, inorganic body of the saved and sanctified, known only to God. Amongst intelligent Church people, on the contrary, it is at least theoretically understood that the Church of Christ on earth is a visible body ordained by Christ Himself, and that to be baptized is to become a member of the Church. According to this idea, all baptized people, adult and infant, good, bad and indifferent, are members of the Church, the world over, and only such so far as we have any right to determine. This is not

saying that God may not add thereto by the invisible working of His grace multitudes of others in all lands who have not had the opportunity to "enter into the Kingdom of God" through the door of Christian Baptism, or even by an actual knowledge of Jesus as the Saviour.

The *Church Press* says:—

It is one of the favorable signs of the times that Church Schools have become so numerous. They are planted in almost every part of the land, and from them there goes forth an influence which is as a pure, refreshing stream. The importance of a sound religious education has long since been recognized. If, as Aristotle says, the fate of empires depends on the education of youth, so, in a special sense, it is true that the Church can fulfil its divine mission only by taking hold of the young, bringing them under its power, and thoroughly imbuing their minds with its doctrines.

Church Bells says:—

Two curious side-lights have just been thrown upon the Disestablishment Question. The first comes in the shape of a manifesto from a Churchmen's Disestablishment Union, to which—wisely perhaps—no names are appended, and pleads for Disestablishment on the anti-Shakespearian theory that it were better to fly to ills that we know not of rather than bear the ills we have; its main argument for Disestablishment being based on the existence of defects in our Church system, and the probability of their eradication by the action of the Liberation Society. The second light comes from a document entitled a "Free Churchman's Objections to Disestablishment," in which he shows that it would strengthen Rome, promote sacerdotalism in the surviving Anglican communion, impoverish districts which would be unable to maintain voluntary churches, leave the cathedrals in a sorry plight, induce parish squabbles over the fabrics, destroy lay influence, and meet the dearest wishes of infidels, secularists, and all sorts of men who wish to disestablish the Church because they hate religion. These documents form a significant and important contribution to the literature of the subject.

We are obliged to hold over this week, owing to pressure on our columns, several items of Home Field, Correspondence, and other matter of interest.

## AMERICAN BUDGET.

The journal of the Diocese contains the following record for the year:—Baptisms—adult, 37; infant, 99; confirmations, 85; marriages, 28; burials, 60; present number of communicants, 1,347; Sunday-school teachers, 151; scholars, 1,064.

The following figures are taken from the journal of the sixty-sixth annual Convention of the Diocese of Maine: baptisms—adult, 82; infant, 275; confirmed, 197; communicants, 2,381; marriages, 81; burials, 235; Sunday-school teachers, 202; pupils, 1,723; total offerings, \$30,246.24.

The will of the late P. C. Cornell, of Brooklyn, provides for legacies of \$5,000 to the General Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church; \$5,000 for Grace Chapel, Brooklyn; \$5,000 for Church Charity Foundation (Protestant Episcopal), Brooklyn; \$5,000 for the Brooklyn City Hospital.

The will of the late Mr. G. L. Harrison contains the following bequests: To the Hospital of the Protestant Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, \$5,000; to the Trustees of the Christmas Fund for Disabled Clergymen and the Widows and Orphans of Deceased Clergymen, \$5,000;

to the Sheltering Arms of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the city of Philadelphia, \$5,000.

Ex-President Arthur assisted at the laying of the corner stone of the new Trinity Church at Lenox, Mass.

In the New York letter of a Methodist paper the remark is made that it is a singular fact connected with the history of the Protestant Episcopal Church—the multitude of men in its ministry who have been occupants of Methodist pulpits, members of Methodist churches or sons of Methodist parents.

By the will of the late Mrs. Augusta Huntington, of Cincinnati, as just probated, \$300,000 are bequeathed to Bishop Whipple in trust for the Episcopal schools at Faribault, Mich. One-half this sum is to be expended for two buildings, one for Shattuck School, the other for Senbury Divinity School; the other half to be held and invested as a perpetual endowment, the income to be used for scholarships in Shattuck and the Divinity Schools. The will provides that these bequests shall be paid within five or seven years after the testator's death.

## BRITISH BUDGET.

The consecration of Dr. Reichel as Bishop of Meath took place on Tuesday, the Feast of St. Michaels and All Angels, in the presence of a large congregation. The consecrating Bishops were the Archbishop of Dublin, acting for the Lord Primate, who is ill, and the Bishops of Down, Kilmore and Killaloe. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Twigg, Rector of Swords, in the Diocese of Dublin.

A cable message announces that the Right Rev. Henry Cotterill, D.D., Bishop of Edinburgh, is seriously ill with cancer of the jaw.

Dean Howson has been ordered by his medical adviser complete rest for some time. The Dean is at present in Scotland.

A vacancy among the heads of Houses at Oxford is caused by the death of Dr. Bulley, the venerable President at Magdalen, who graduated at the University as far back as 1829. He was elected President of Magdalen in 1855.

Lord Penrhyn, who has already given the site for a new church at Capel Curig, a village nestling at the foot of Snowdon, will also contribute £1,100 towards the cost of its erection.

During 40 years \$200,000,000 have been expended by members of the Church of England in building and restoring churches.

The parish church of St. Andrew, Sedbergh, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, has just been restored, at a cost of £4,000.

Sunday, October 25th, has been selected as the National Church Sunday for the present year. Sermons will be preached in most churches, and offertories made on behalf of Church Defence.

The Bishop of Exeter recently opened the temporary iron church of St. Helena, on Lundy Island, which is situate about twenty miles from the "bar" in the Bay of Bideford. The building has been erected at the sole expense of the Rev. H. G. Heaven, the proprietor of the island, who has for many years conducted Divine service in a farm-house. No church has been open on the island from time immemorial, though the ruins of the old fabric of St. Helena are still discernible. The last recorded institution of a clergyman was that of Nicholas Comyng by Bishop Grandison, February 3, 1355. For two hundred years the island was the lair of pirates.