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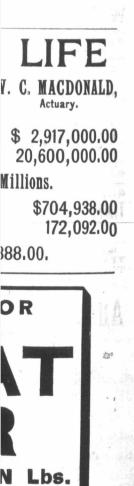
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GRAVES IN WESTMINSTER ABBEY.—The graves in the Abbey are about four feet deep, in a soil of dry red sand. When coffins are placed in the earth, a quantity of charcoal is placed around them, as a sanitary precaution. One of the traditions of the Abbey is that actual decomposition is accomplished within half a century, and that nothing but a handful of bones remains after the lapse of seventy-five or a hundred years.

CLERGY DISCIPLINE.—The Bishop of Rochester, at his diocesan conference, said, "While rejoicing that the Clergy Discipline Act would enable the Bishops to deal summarily with cases of immorality among the clergy, his lordship deprecated very strongly the tendency to exaggerate the number of offences. It is, of course, to the advantage of the Church that the force of public opinion should be brought to bear upon immoral clergymen,"

THE SLAVE TRADE STILL FLOURISHING.—The slave trade appears to be on the increase on the East Coast of Africa, owing probably to the high price of slaves. It seems that caravans from the interior, most of them with a quantity of human merchandise, are arriving on the coast daily. It is said these caravans experienced no difficulty in passing through [Vituland. It is said about 70 per cent. of the number with which the caravans start from the interior are lost before reaching the markets. shall be in the ascendant and political Dissent shall have waned."

ADDITIONAL CURATES' SOCIETY.—The Archbishop of York, speaking at a meeting at Liverpool in support of the home missions of the Church of England Additional Curates' Society, said: "If he were asked what at the present time was the greatest need of the Church, he would reply that it was a large increase in the number of the clergy. In some populous parishes it was impossible for the staff of clergy to discharge the duties which devolved upon them." Resolutions were passed commending the work of the Society to the consideration of Church people.

PANAMA CANAL COMPANY.—The result of the judicial inquiry into the affairs of this company, which will put upon his trial the most distinguished and most widely-known throughout Europe of living Frenchmen, M. de Lesseps, cannot fail to excite a universal feeling of sorrow. And the indignity which the great engineer will have to face is heightened by the action of the French Chamber in passing a measure depriving the wearers of the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour of their privilege of exemption from trial in a Court of Summary Jurisdiction and in suits instituted by private persons.

UNION BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE.—In Mr. Gladstone's great lecture at Oxford, Oct 24th, on the Universities in Mediæval times, the most re. markable passage was that in which he extolled Laud, the Tory, the upholder of the union between Church and State. Mr. Gladstone praised him as the first Primate for many generations who was a tolerant theologian. When he came to Oxford he found it Calvinistic ; he left it Anglican. Laud, he said, with Henry VIII. and Elizabeth, had the largest share in moulding into a British form the momentous changes of the sixteenth century.

WITHOUT A BREAK FOR ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-Two YEARS.—In 1728 Thomas Fairchild, "the pious gardener of Hoxton," vested the sum of £25 in the churchwardens of Shoreditch for the delivery of a lecture every Whitsun Tuesday on a subject drawn from "The Wonderful Works of God in the Creation," or "The Certainty of the Resurrection from the Dead," as illustrated from the changes in the animal and vegetable world. Dr. John Donne delivered the first lecture on Whit-Tuesday, May 19th, 1730; and from that time until now, 162 years, the lecture has been deliver. ed annually without a break at Shoreditch church.

CANON SCOTT HOLLAND, preaching recently at St. Paul's, made an eloquent peroration on the Church's drag-net, hanging long, long centuries: "wearily hanging in the dim waters, never nearer the shore; the sifter never in sight." He drew the usual consolation, of "the forbearance, lovingkindness and tenderness of God," waiting upon the obdurate, prolonging the opportunity of the salvable, and hasting not for the sins of the sinful, nor the sighs of the saints, to make an end of transgression, and to bring in everlasting righteous-

ness.

DIS-ESTABLISHMENT IN WALES.—Church Times says: "If the controversy is no mere religious one, if the Welsh Nonconformists are inspired by no religious tenet, then what warrant have we that peace would be obtained through an Act of Parliament? Our submission is that the bitter storm that rages round the Church was roused and is kept raging by those who know the revived and growing power of the Anglo-Welsh Communion, and foresee and dread the approaching hour when her star

EVERY PRIEST & CANVASSEE .- No event in Irish politics is comparable in importance to the judicial decision in the South Meath election petition, which has been declared void on the ground of priestly intimidation. Mr. Justice Andrews said the whole organization of the Church was thrown into the contest-every priest was a canvasser, they canvass everywhere, on the altar, at the houses, and on the roads, it is alleged, and Mr. Justice O'Brien thinks it true that they canvass in the confessional. The one end and aim of the whole Roman Catholic priesthood of South Meath, from the beginning to the end of the contest, was to make it clear to the electors that their vote would ensure them eternal salvation or ever lasting perdition.