

The Church Guardian.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi. 24.
"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude 1.

Vol. 3.—No. 39.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1882.

One Dollar a Year.

REV. JOHN D. H. BROWNE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, LOCK DRAWER 29, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.
REV. EDWYN S. W. PENTREATH, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK.

It is an encouraging sign that of the 141 members of the British Medical Association, at their recent annual dinner 49 refused to take wine.

JEWISH committees have been formed in Roumania, at several large towns, to facilitate the emigration of Jews to Palestine; and large sums have been subscribed for the purpose.

THE Primitive Methodist Meeting-house in Newport Pagnell, having been closed has been purchased on behalf of the Church, and is now used as an infant school and mission-room.

ACCORDING to a despatch from St. Petersburg, an American Jew performing in a circus there has received orders to quit that capital within three days, simply on account of his professing the Hebrew creed.

DR. FORDYCE BARKER, an eminent physician of New York, speaking as a witness in the Guiteau trial, disposed of the theory of moral insanity by saying: "I have no faith in its existence. Moral insanity is simply wickedness."

THE great Church work which has been done at Great Yarmouth during the last few years has been recognized by the Bishop of Norwich, who has appointed the vicar, the Rev. George Venables, to an honorary canonry in Norwich Cathedral.

AN English Bishop told a vicar a few days ago of a clergyman who said to him, recently, "My lord, my living is put down in the Clergy-list at £600; if any one would take it off my hands, and give me a clear £250 per annum, I should be in pocket."

THE past and present numbers of University College, Oxford, have presented to the Very Rev. Dr. Bradley, a magnificent service of plate, as a testimonial on his retirement from the mastership and his elevation to the Deanery of Westminster.

SPEAKING at Blackburn the Bishop of Liverpool said there were only three subjects more important than that of temperance—the preaching of the Gospel, promotion of Scriptural education, and the maintenance of the old Protestant faith of England.

At the regular meeting of the Standing Committee of Connecticut, held in New Haven on Wednesday, December 14th, Joseph Battell Shepherd, a Methodist minister, was recommended to the Bishop to be received as a candidate for Holy Orders.

A DON-NOY has reached us which it would be a pity to withhold. The other day a Bishop, when traveling in a London bus, met one of his clergy. "My lord," said the latter, "I have seen many a Bishop in *partibus*, but never till to-day a Bishop in *omnibus*."

AN anti-Semitic weekly paper, the *Anti-Juif*, has appeared in Paris. It styles itself "the organ of social defence," and gives as its object the abrogation of the decrees issued by the National Assembly in 1791, conferring civil and political rights on French Israelites.

A SUSSEX lady, who wishes to remain unknown, has offered £500 through Dr. Bailey the late warden to St. Augustine's College at Canterbury, for the purpose of founding a scholarship in the College to the honour of St. Wilfrid, the Apostle to the South Saxons, who built the cathedral at Selsey, which has since been removed to Chichester.

SAYS an American exchange:—The following facts speak a very emphatic language: Among the Roman Catholics who prohibit marriages between blood relatives, the proportion of deaf mutes is 1 in 3,000. Among Protestants, who are more lax with reference to such marriages, the proportion is 1 in 2,000; while among the Jews who encourage them, the proportion is 1 in 400.

THE Ruri-decanal Chapter of Derby, under the presidency of the Rev. Prebendary Abney, has forwarded to the Permanent Secretary of the Church Congress an invitation to hold the next meeting at Derby, which has been accepted. Derby is so central in situation, and so well served by railways, that a large and successful Congress may be anticipated. Bishop MacLagan has not presided over the Church Congress, though it has already been twice held in Lichfield diocese, viz. at Wolverhampton in the episcopate of Bishop Lonsdale, and at Stoke-upon-Trent under the presidency of Bishop Selwyn.

A FRESH outbreak of the anti-Jewish agitation is feared in Russia.

AT Soudan, Algeria, a false prophet, with 1500 followers, killed the governor, and totally annihilated his force of 350 Egyptians.

THE Bishop of Maryland administered Confirmation in Henshaw Memorial Church, Baltimore, last week. Prof. Reider, a converted Jew, was a member of the class.

THE Children's Aid Society of New York, during its existence, has provided homes for 60,000 waifs of humanity; sheltered, fed and taught in its lodging-houses 200,000 boys and girls, and taught over 100,000 little girls, nearly everyone of whom afterwards led virtuous lives.

WHEN the original Diocese of British Columbia was divided in 1879, there were fifteen clergymen and a Bishop. Now there are in Columbia, Bishop Hills and eleven clergymen; in Westminster, Bishop Sillitoe and nine clergymen; in Caledonia, Bishop Ridley and five clergymen; making a total of three Bishops and twenty-five clergymen.

MR. SAMUEL MORLEY, whose fatal advice to the dissenters of Northampton, led to the election of Mr. Bradlaugh, has recanted. At a meeting of the electors of Bristol, he declared that he would not vote for any tampering with the oath, and that if any substantial proportion of his constituents objected to his views on that subject, he would resign.

A COLLECTION of the highest interest and importance to Oriental scholars, consisting of 5,400 cuneiform tablets, is now on its way to England. They were discovered by Mr. Rassam, at Sippara, near Babylon. It is supposed that these tablets are the library mentioned by Berossus, which contained antediluvian records copied from earlier documents by King Sargon I., who lived 1,800 B. C.

THE exploration of the Nickajack Cave in Tennessee has already revealed many miles of galleries, yet no ending has as yet been reached. Its entrance is on the northern side of a hill; a river flows through it. Many most interesting animals were found, including an apparently new salamander, a snowy white and blind crawfish of a new species, several other crustacea, also blind, and two crickets.

GOVERNOR NEAL, of Idaho, says with reference to Mormonism: "The Government must go at it now and cut it out by the roots. If not, in the end it will have to be put down at the end of the bayonet. Already they think they can defy the United States, and I have seen a mob of twenty thousand Mormons in Utah, march by the Federal Court when it was in session, and hoot in derision of its authority. I have seen the flag borne covered with insulting mottoes, and I have seen it dragged in the dirt. We must meet this thing now, or it will cost bloodshed to put it down."

THE twentieth and last volume of the *History of the Franco-German War of 1870-1871*, prepared by the German Staff under the superintendence of Marshal von Moltke, is just issued. It appears that from first to last the Germans had no less than 123,453 men and 6,247 officers placed *hors de combat*, of which numbers 40,081 were killed or died. No sufficient data exists for correctly calculating the French losses. The number of French prisoners made is given at 702,094 men and 21,508 officers. The German force engaged during the whole period of the war numbered 1,451,944 men, including 33,101 officers.

THE Bishop of Saskatchewan has visited the Indian Reserves in the south-western district of his diocese, by Fort Walsh, Cypress Hills, and Fort Macleod, to the Rocky Mountains, a distance of about 700 miles from Prince Albert, his see-town. He found body after body of Indians wholly destitute of Christian teachers. In speaking of the few missionaries he mentions Canon McKay. This gentleman, though not twenty-nine years old, is perfect master of four Indian tongues: Blackfeet, Cree, Salteaux or Ojibway, Sioux or Assiniboin. Thus he can converse with all our British Indians, while he can make himself understood in the language of the Nez-pierces and Crows, two tribes belonging to the United States. He has worked hard among both Indians and settlers. He has a school-house on the reserve, built mainly with his own hands. The Bishop has made him a Canon, and will shortly make him Archdeacon of Cypress. The lack of clergy in this diocese is most serious.

AN application was made in July last by Sir Rutherford Alcock to H.R.H. the Princess Louise that there might be some annual inspection of the children taken out from England by Miss Rye, with a view to meet an objection of the Local Government Board to the transfer of pauper orphans to the Canadian homes which are ready to receive them. We are glad to find that after some delay, caused by the debate whether this inspection should be undertaken by the officials of the Dominion or of the several provincial governments, it has now been decided that the Minister of Agriculture will undertake to see that there shall be a satisfactory annual inspection made, the report of which he will forward officially. And the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, Canada, adds, "The class of young children of both sexes, if well selected and of suitable age, from workhouses, if placed out in families of Canadian farmers, would be very likely to do well. The experience of the past has proved that the great majority of children brought from England and placed with families of farmers in Canada have succeeded and become prosperous."

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

CHINA.—IX.

THE FAMINE IN CHINA.—BY REV. U. Z. RILEY.

Famine is a thing of which happily we know but the meaning in this favoured land of ours. Indeed we hardly know so much. We form, it is true, some conception of its fearful nature by reading the accounts of its causes, of its progress, and of its results in the lands which it visits. Except, however, in so far as God can, of course, order all things as it may please Him, it is scarcely possible that our own country should ever be the theatre of this terrible visitation. Weak and ill-organized government, and deficient communications, no less than variable seasons, are among the many causes which have brought China to suffer so grievously under the late appalling ravages of this dreadful scourge.

The districts chiefly affected were Shansi and the three neighbouring provinces forming the north-eastern portion of China proper. The crops having failed in these districts, owing in great measure to drought in the year 1876-78, following upon floods in previous years which had destroyed nearly all the trees and obliterated the irrigation channels, a vast extent of country became wholly dependent upon supplies from without, the cost of which was immensely increased by the fact of there being no means of communication in the least adequate to the vast traffic thus suddenly called into being. Crowds were compelled to migrate to more favoured districts. Parents even sold their very children to permit of this being done. Multitudes perished under the hardships of the way. Crowded together in the places to which they had flocked, vast numbers had become the prey of typhus fever. Of those who remained the less affluent fell to selling anything and everything for ready money by which to pay for the food so hardly imported. At length the rich purchasers themselves found that even they could not get food, and people of all sorts and classes shared the common dreadful death.

Relief committees were formed to supplement the efforts of the Government by the distribution of funds voluntarily subscribed. It was decided to make the distribution in money, not in grain, and "it was necessary to trust entirely to the various missionary bodies for agents in the work."

One of these, the Rev. C. P. Scott, S.P.G. Missionary at Chefoo, has written an account of his journey on this errand of mercy. He says, amongst other things:—

"The destruction of property is enormous, and the prices at which poor creatures have sold their all is too cruelly ridiculous. Good houses sold for 8d., the buyer to pull them down and sell the wood, because the seller had not sufficient strength. Mr. Hill (a Methodist Missionary) was shown a very finely-built court-yard one day which had been sold for about \$7, the cost having been somewhere about \$7,000. Land of course has gone in the same way."

Cannibalism became frequent; so frequent that Mr. Hillier, of H. M. Consulate, Shanghai, in a report dated March 26, 1879, supposes that 50 per cent. of the people of Shansi have tasted human flesh.

Mr. Scott, in a letter dated November 27, 1878, says:—

"At the place where we stayed on Sunday very few people were left. The landlord of our inn told us that in the spring of this year while thirty or

forty men remained alive they used to go out at night into the caves which serve many of them for houses, waylay any unhappy traveller, rob, kill, drag him into the cave, and eat him! I believe this to be quite true, and to have happened in many places."

In another letter, dated December 21, he says:—"Up to three or four months ago, the people were eating one another terribly in these parts. Bad men took occasion by the calamity to steal children, kill them, and sell their flesh to the cook-shops, where it was made into dumplings! The following is very characteristic:—'A certain Mandarin had five women brought before him, charged with kidnapping children and eating them. The charge was not denied. He then asked the women if they would avenge themselves on him when in the spirit world, in case he sentenced them. They replied "No." So he quietly sentenced them each to 300 blows with the bamboo and then to be burned alive.'"

It would be easy to multiply instances of distress. We can but hope that among the Chinese some such result as that in South India may be witnessed, and that some may learn that there is such a thing as Christian charity. The time and strength consecrated by the missionaries to the cause of relief, will then have been indeed well-spent. Of the devotedness of those engaged in this generous work, Mr. Forrest, the Consul at Tientsin says:—

"It would be invidious to make any distinction in recording the services of this devoted band, but Mr. Richar, whose name is known far and wide among all classes of natives, stands out so prominent that he must be regarded as chief of the distributors. . . . The Chinese are little liable to the diseases which kill so many Europeans; but typhus fever, a direct result of the famine, which broke out in the winter of 1877, slew thousands and thousands that the famine had spared. The distributors were of course fully exposed to the contagion. Mr. Whiting, of the American Presbyterian Mission, died early in the year, and his grave in the cellar of a ruined house is not the least noble in the valley of the Fen. Yuan Pao heng, the Famine Commissioner, followed next, and a large number of the assistants employed in distributing died, or were disabled by typhus. In Chihli, Mr. Harradale, of the London Mission, followed his wife into the tomb on the 23rd of May. The wife of the Rev. Mr. Hall, of the Methodist Mission, was taken with typhus, and awoke from a long delirium to find that her husband had during her unconsciousness contracted the disease and died. Three French sisters of charity perished at Tientsin. Mr. Turner, of the Inland Mission, and Mr. Smith, of the American Board, survived fearful attacks, and not one of the little band has escaped without a severe shock to his health. Braver or more unselfish men it would be difficult to find."

The following account of the manner of distribution, taken from one of Mr. Scott's letters, shall close this paper:—

"Mr. Chapel stays here and studies, while I go out with Mr. Ma and a native of this place, and stay for two or three days at a central village distributing to the smaller villages in the neighbourhood. We are furnished by the chief men of the village with a list of names of persons who need relief more or less according to the size of the village. When we arrive on the spot these same men take us round to visit every family, and we judge from their appearance and their numbers how much to give to each, making a pencil note of the same. Sometimes one has to wait about nearly all day. We have visited as many as two hundred families per diem in this way. When the inspection is over, those who are to receive are assembled at a temple or other place of public resort; a table is set, and piles of 'cash' and small bank-notes are brought out. I address a few words to the people, telling them how far off my home is, that the money is not mine, but is sent by those afar off who have never seen their faces or heard their names, but who know that they are men and brethren, made by the same God, and that they are in trouble and need assistance; that they need not thank me, but may go home and thank the Heavenly Father, and that they need not beg for more, for they cannot have it. I then tell them that however much of little they may receive it is their own, no one is to acquire a percentage on it, and then in their presence I tip pretty handsomely for their trouble the men who have done the work. This is in order to prevent the wretched 'squeezing' which in spite of this we call off the names, give the money to each one with our own hands, and all is over."