

with the following address:—

"We, the undersigned parishioners of Christ Church, Hamilton, desire to offer you our sincere congratulations on your safe return to your parish.

We would request you to convey to Mrs. Geddes, the assurance that her improved state of health is a subject of heartfelt satisfaction to us.

The happy connection which has long subsisted between us, but which has for a time been severed by your travels abroad, will, we trust, be resumed with the same benefit to us, who have hitherto reaped so many blessings and derived so large a profit from your faithful and zealous administration.

While we remember with gratitude your past labours amongst us, we humbly pray to Almighty God that your health and strength may long be spared, and that as the sphere of your exertions is extended, you may be continually supplied with a fresh measure of His grace towards the adequate discharge of the onerous duties involved. Miles O'Rielly Church-warden, V. H. Tisdale, and a number of others. Mr. Geddes replied verbally, to the following effect:

That he felt quite overcome by this unexpected mark of kindness and respect. The last sound that died upon his ears when he took his departure some five months ago were those of their valedictory address, conveying their heartfelt wishes for his safety, and now when he returned to his parish, the first words that greeted him were the same kind expressions of affection and esteem. He begged to assure them that Mrs. Geddes' health had been greatly benefited by her tour, and that he himself had not only enjoyed excellent health, but also many opportunities of observation and experience, which he hoped to turn to good account for the remainder of his life. He remarked that he had visited the chief cities of the three British Isles, and had made excursions into many of the most attractive parts of the country—he had also spent some time in Paris, during the exhibition and the Queen's visit, and had made a short tour embracing the borders of Germany and the scenery of the Rhine.

The whole period of his absence, from the time he left home till his return, had been one uninterrupted season of gratification and enjoyment. The only drawback was that he should have returned to his parish in a disabled state, the result of a sharp

attack of illness contracted at Montreal on his return home. Still he felt it would be wrong to murmur—there must be some alloy mingled with all earthly enjoyment and it would have been much more distressing had it occurred in a distant country and among strangers instead of friends. He concluded by remarking that, although it is a very pleasant thing to travel and to see the wonders of the world, it is far more pleasant to find the same warm hearts ready to greet you and the same kind friends ready to welcome you on your return. He hoped in a few days to be ready for duty and was desirous of devoting his best energies to promote their temporal and spiritual welfare.—*Hamilton Gazette*

#### ECCLESIASTICAL.

ENGLAND.—The Church journals continue to record the consecration and re-opening of new or restored edifices, and it is gratifying to observe the growing respect for a solemn ceremonial on such occasions. Many of these erections are instances of the private munificence of noble-hearted members of the Church. The Dowager Marchioness of Londonderry has laid the foundation-stone of a new church at Sesham Colliery, designed by her ladyship to be a memorial to the late Marquis. The church is intended to be in the early English style, with decorated windows. The seats will be open, and the whole of the sittings will be free, so that it may emphatically be called the Church of the poor. It will be capable of accommodating between four hundred and five hundred people, and will not only be built, but will also be endowed, at her Ladyship's own expense.

The attempt in the House of Commons, to introduce lawlessness and disorder into the Church, by a dispensing power of the Clergy to act in opposition to their vows of canonical obedience to their Bishops, happily did not succeed. It arose on the Burial Bill, in which it was moved to introduce a clause to the effect that, in case of a Bishop delaying to consecrate a cemetery, the Clergy might officiate at interments therein, previous to consecration, by permission of the Secretary of State, and without incurring any penalties for so doing.

The determination to prohibit the saying of the prayers in monotonous at the Chapel of St. Mark's Training College, continues to excite a strong feeling of uneasiness. Many are about to withdraw their subscriptions to the National Society, on the ground of its being a mischievous concession to puritanical prejudice. Amongst many others who have come forward to protest against the proposed alteration, is the Rev. Thomas Holmore, the Precentor of the College, and formerly the Vice-Chancellor, who urges the necessity of a strong expression of opinion. "Our hope," he says, in a letter to the *Guardian*, is in the justice, kindness, and real good-will to the Church of England, of the Bishop of London. As Ordina-

ry of St. Mark's, he can certainly order the continuance, at all times, of Divine Service, of the rational and consistent chorality which has for twelve years been established, by God's blessing, among us. I have myself appealed to his Lordship to stay, if only till I have had opportunity to state my reasons against the alteration before the Council, all essential changes in the Service. Meanwhile, I am happy in the assurance that 'good deal of strong feeling seems to be brewing on the subject' all over the country. It is natural it should be so, for the omission of beautiful ritual and choral services would be only too happy in scolding the finger of disapprobation laid, however lightly upon St. Mark's. That institution, thank God, does not stand alone; and it will be well for his friends to remember this, as well as, I am sure, her enemies will. But in order that some expression of public feeling on the part of Churchmen may be given, I venture to suggest that formal remonstrances be drawn up, and signed by as many communicants in every locality where such a feeling either exists already, or can by proper representations be aroused, and sent in either to myself or to the Secretary, or to the Principal of St. Mark's, to be laid before the Council immediately."

We find that among the Clergy of Bristol who have commenced the practice of open-air preaching, are the Vicars of St. James and St. Philip and Jacob, the Revs. W. Bruce and S. E. Dav. The practice has also been commenced by Laymen and Ministers.

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