

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: 3.

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THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1881.

One Dollar a Year.

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EDITORS.

APRIL 6th was the anniversary of Greek independence.

THE estimated cost of the proposed new cathedral at Douglas, Isle of Man, is about £25,000.

THE Italian government has already expended \$4,000,000 in improving the Tiber at Rome.

THE coronation of the Czar will not take place till the end of the year, when the period of mourning will be over.

ENGLAND is being flooded with New York sovereigns, counterfeits made in America, so perfect as to have deceived the English experts for some time.

SPEAKING of the little he had been able to give to his father, Thomas Carlyle says; "Thou who wouldst give, give quickly. In the grave thy loved ones can receive no kindness."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *London Globe* gives the result of a week's shooting in Ceylon on the last occasion of his indulging in large game shooting. He brought down 9 elephants, 10 deer, 3 boars, and 1 panther.

LAST YEAR the silk industries in the United States gave employment to 34,440 operatives, who were paid an aggregate of \$9,107,825 in wages. Census-office returns show the total value of finished silk goods produced during the year in the United States, as nearly \$35,000,000.

AN important discovery has been made on the Mojave desert. It has been found that grape cuttings inserted in the trunks of the cacti, grow and thrive as vigorously as in cultivated land. By the use of a chisel a man can plant a vineyard in a day; and the vines will climb the cactus, and grow without further cultivation.

IN England, a poor curate, unable to live on his salary, supported himself by repairing watches. This was reported to the Bishop as a disgrace to the cloth. "This must be put a stop to," said the Bishop, indignantly, and he stopped it by giving the curate a place worth \$2,000 a year. We presume that the curate ran better afterward, even if the watches did stop.

THE Synod of the Spanish Church is to be held at Seville during the present month. One of the most important questions to be considered will be the Liturgy, which has been compiled chiefly from Spanish liturgies which were in use up to the eleventh century, when the Roman Ritual was imposed upon the Spanish Church.—*Light and Truth*.

THE Bishop of Carlisle, speaking at Sheffield, said he thought disestablishment would not rejoice spiritually-minded Protestant Dissenters, but any heavy blow dealt at the Church of England would be received at the Vatican as the best news that had gladdened the Pope's heart for centuries. Disestablishment was, however, not within the range of practical politics.

TWO years ago a congregation of the "Reformed Episcopal" sect opened a building they called "Christ Church," at Sidcup. They afterwards withdrew from the quasi-Episcopal jurisdiction of Dr. Gregg, and the chapel has now been licensed by the Archbishop of Canterbury and placed in charge of the Rev. W. C. Hawksley, formerly of St. Silas', Sheffield.

THE Rev. Thomas Johnson, residing at Abbotsford, Quebec, died on March 25th, in his 93rd year. He was ordained Deacon in 1815, and Priest in 1817; became Rector of Hatley, Quebec, 1819 to 1830, and Incumbent of Abbotsford 1830-51, when he retired. We are not aware that any living clergyman in the Church of England in Canada was ordained before 1815, and believe Mr. Johnson was the senior clergyman in the Dominion.

IN addition to the number of skeletons announced as having been discovered in Pompeii, recent excavations have resulted in bringing to light other objects of yet higher interest. The works have been carried on lately very actively in the ninth region. Besides a second fountain in mosaic and very precious frescoes, there have been found during the week some vases of Egyptian workmanship, which are likely to occupy the attention of archaeologists. These vases are of a special *pasta*, composed of clay and glass, and are almost falling to pieces. Around them are alti-relievi representing animals which were venerated by those people.

MR. GLADSTONE has been unanimously elected President of the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, in the room of the late Mr. Carlyle.

A GAS company has been formed for lighting Jerusalem, and a street car company for connecting that City with the Mount of Olives is hinted at.

TWO little girls whilst out bathing in shallow water, near Newcastle, New South Wales, recently, were attacked by a shark, which, in its eagerness to reach them stranded itself, but got clear before assistance arrived. It was estimated to be fourteen feet long.

THE Bishop of Rangoon has met with a serious accident, though we are happy to add he was progressing favourably when the last telegrams were sent off. It seems that his pony shied, and threw him over some rocks. Provisionally no bones are broken, though he is severely bruised and cut. He seems, as we gather, to have been on his way from Tounghoo, to hold confirmations among the Karens.

THE Vicar of Westminster having written to the Bishop of Salisbury on the subject of pew-rents, the right rev. prelate replied:—"I most cordially approve of your desire, and still more of your proposal, to substitute for pew-rents in Christ Church a certain fixed augmentation of the benefice. I only wish it were possible to extend the proposal to every parish in the diocese afflicted by the evil consequences of pew-rents."

THE Rev. J. H. Hopkins, son of the late Bishop of Vermont, has sent to the *New York Churchman* some interesting figures, illustrating the growth of the Church in that city. In 1831 the population was 220,589; in 1881 it is about 1,208,000. In 1831 the number of Church communicants was 3,044, and of members of the Presbyterian body 7,135. If the same ratio to population had been maintained these figures would now have been 18,030 and 42,262. In reality they are 26,839 and 18,950.

AS observations have shown that the southern wall of the Presbytery at Winchester, built in Bishop De Lucy's time, 1204, gradually increases its deviation from the perpendicular—it has long been awkwardly leaning southwards—steps are being taken to ascertain the character of the foundations and with a view to remedial measures. Accordingly, Messrs. Colson & Son, the caputular architects, have had an excavation made near the western buttresses, and this shows that the foundations extend seven feet below the surface, and rest on concrete, but beneath the concrete is a loose soil full of water, and mixed up with remains of Roman tiles, pottery, oyster, and winkle shells, and other relics of the pagan past, showing that the Church occupies a Roman site. A few human bones were found.—*Hants Chronicle*.

RECENTLY over a score of working men, some of them being superior skilled artisans, offered the Vicar of Great Yarmouth to remove an old gallery for children, which it was desirable to take down, in the parish Church, and to lay down a good floor upon the vacated space. At their request the first operations were preceded by a short service. They worked heartily five nights a-week, from seven till ten o'clock, and finally concluded the undertaking in a workmanlike manner. The conclusion was commemorated by another service, and by the men taking a substantial tea at the Vicarage with the Vicar and his wife. They raised the money for material by collections in the parish, but gave their skill and time heartily to the service of the house of their God.

A CONSIDERABLE sensation has been created in the Presbyterian Church of Scotland by the report of the commission which investigated the administration of its mission near Lake Nyanza in Africa. It shows that the missionaries have assumed authority to exercise civil and criminal jurisdiction, which they have not used in a humane manner. One man was executed for murder, and several were flogged in the most brutal manner. One of them, who was severely whipped, proved to be entirely innocent; and another, on a charge of theft, was scourged so savagely that he died before the next morning. Such missionary work is not calculated to impress the natives of the "dark continent" with a favourable idea of the tender mercies of Christianity; and it is not strange that the report of the commission has caused a deep feeling of indignation in North Britain. All the missionaries have been recalled, and the matter is to be brought before Parliament.

MR. WILLIAM HOYLE, of Manchester, has published what he calls "The Nation's Drink Bill for 1880":—

	1880.	1879.
Beer consumed,	905,088,978 gals. at 1s.6d. £67,881,673	£73,557,609
British spirits,	28,457,486 gals. at 20s.0d.	28,457,486
Foreign spirits,	8,477,512 gals. at 24s.0d.	10,173,014
Wine,	15,852,335 gals. at 18s.0d.	14,267,102
British do. [est]	15,000,000 gals. at 2s.0d.	1,500,000
	£122,279,275	128,143,863

Showing thus a decrease in consumption as compared with 1879 of £5,864,588, or 46 per cent. In 1860 the drink bill was \$6,897,683. Year by year, with two or three trifling exceptions, it continued to grow, until in 1876 it reached the enormous total of £147,288,760.

DR. STEARNS' LAST WORD.

"The Archbishop's champion brought to book," which is the title of Dr. Stearns' reply to the Roman Catholic author of "The Faith of our Forefathers," and has been for several weeks past published in *The Guardian*, is ended. This is the Dr's last word:

I have reserved T. P.'s choicest morsel to the last; it will be found on page 162 of his book.

"Now since loud-mouthed challenging seems to be so much to the Doctor's taste, he surely will not hesitate to take up this one, viz.: bring forward one—only one quotation from any of the Fathers, in which the truth of our interpretation [that Peter is the rock on which the Church is built] is denied."

That is fair, says the reader; you can't object to that. That is fair, and I certainly *shan't* object to it. If T. P. will turn to the Two Hundred and Seventieth of the undisputed genuine Sermons of that Prince of the Fathers, St. Augustine [Migne, P. L., t. 38—Aug., t. 5, Paris Prior, col. 1239—fifth line from the top], he will find [and I call his attention particularly to those of them that I have put in CAPITALS] these words following, to wit:

"*Et ego dico tibi, Tu es Petrus: quia ego petra, tu Petrus; neque enim a Petro petra, sed a petra Petrus: quia non a Christiano Christus, sed a Christo Christianus. Et super hanc petram edificabo Ecclesiam meam: NON SUPER PETRUM, QUOD TU ES; SED SUPER PETRAM; QUAM CONFESSUS ES.*"

Which, done into the vernacular, signifies: "And I say unto thee that thou art Peter; because I am a rock [petra] thou art Peter, for the rock is not from Peter, but Peter from the rock, as Christ is not from Christian, but Christian from Christ. And upon this rock I will build my Church; NOT UPON PETER, WHICH THOU ART; BUT UPON THE ROCK WHICH THOU HAST CONFESSED."

The cool effrontery [or is it crass ignorance] of the challenge is positively sublime. I know of nothing equal to it in all literature, sacred or profane.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

BURMAH.

DIocese of Rangoon.—I.

To the east of the great peninsula of India, and separated from it by the Bay of Bengal, lies the ancient kingdom of Burmah, with its magnificent river, the Irrawaddy, and its far reaching forests of teak.

Wars and massacres have for ages desolated this fair portion of our globe, and it may not be uninteresting before we enter on any record of missionary work to relate an episode of Burmese history as it is told us by the Rev. C. H. Chard, an S. P. G. missionary in Burmah:—

"In the last years of the sixteenth century, the Empire of Pegu, which extended for some 900 miles along the noble river Irrawaddy, was breaking up. The Emperor had grown morose since his son had been killed on a distant battle-field in the kingdom of Siam which he had invaded. Perhaps a presentiment of coming disaster, of the loss of the kingdom, whose sovereignty his ancestors had seized, weighed down his soul. His capital, Pegu, was very fair and beautiful, walled round about, encompassed with a deep, broad moat. On each side of the city wall were five massive gates, and sentinels kept watch at regular intervals, under guard-houses, with gilded peaked roofs. The streets were broad and straight as a line; ten or twelve men could ride abreast. In the centre of this fair

city stood the King's palace, fairer still, well defended with palisades of the strong teak-wood, for which Burmah is so famous, with ditches full of water encompassing it on all sides. There it stood within its impregnable enclosure, its gracefully carved pinnacles piercing the sky, all brilliantly gilded. Yet the Emperor felt insecure; he could trust none of his nobles or ministers of state. He was suspicious of every one about him. At last the innate cruelty of his nature broke out. He seized his unoffending nobles and burnt them to death; not even were their children spared. Four thousand, small and great, perished. The poor country people were the next victims of the King's unbridled rage. Thousands of Talines, the subject race of his Empire, were killed or exiled. So many corpses were thrown into the river that boats could not pass. If we are to believe a narrative, written soon after the event, the Emperor forbade the people to sow their land, "which caused such a famine that they not only ate one another, to which purpose there was a public butchery of man's flesh, but devoured part of their own bodies." Famine was followed by pestilence till the whole country was left almost without inhabitants. All fled who could get away. The end of the Empire was not far off. Two neighbouring Kings united their forces, besieged the capital, captured the Emperor, and sacked and laid waste the city and the kingdom."—(*Chard's Faithful Ones*.)

Such is but one of many like scenes which have been enacted in this ancient kingdom from the earliest times to the days of the present King Theebau, who has shown himself as fierce and blood-thirsty as any of his predecessors.

Early in the nineteenth century [1811] Burmah became, like many other of the possessions of England's Indian Empire, in part absorbed under her sway, as the only power able to maintain order among a people distracted by internal feuds, and to resist the oppression of the weaker tribes by those whose delight lay in war and rapine. In 1824 the outrages and encroachments of the Burmese Government brought on a war of two years. At the end of that time peace was concluded, and the province of Tenasserim was ceded to England. In 1852 the oppressive extortion of merchant vessels by the Governor of Rangoon, occasioned a short war, which was followed by a revolution in Pegu, a large province of Burmah. It finally petitioned for annexation to the British Empire. For three-quarters of a century they had suffered under the oppressive tyranny of their despotic masters, and they rejoiced at the prospect of passing under British rule. Since the first establishment of English supremacy, no province has ever exhibited so rapid a development of prosperity, and that development is all the more observable from the contrast which the part of Burmese territory, which is still independent, presents. Rice, which is the principal article of export, but never exported under the native Government, has been annually growing in importance until the export and import trade has risen to \$50,000,000 a year. All those material improvements, of which independent Burmah knows nothing—facilities of intercourse by land and water, postal and telegraphic communication, educational progress, sanitary appliances—have followed under the British Government. The people are perfectly content and have no desire to exchange their position with their compatriots under native rule. The revenues of the province have been increased without any undue pressure upon the people, and it has ceased to be a burden on the finances of India. The population has also steadily increased since its annexation until at the last census it amounted to upwards of two millions."—(*Historical sketch*.)

Since 1852, therefore, Burmah has been separated into two distinct divisions,—British and Independent Burmah. The former comprehends the country along the east line, the Provinces of Pegu and Tenasserim, with their principal towns, Rangoon, Moulmein, Prome, where there are rich oil wells, Mayet-myo and Toungoo. In all these cities the S. P. G. have Missions. Independent Burmah lies to the northward, under the sovereignty of its King, the savage Theebau, whose court is held at Mandalay."—(*Historical Sketches*.)

In this city the late King of Burmah built a picturesque little Church, a clergy-house and school building. They are surrounded by beautiful grounds, all studded with trees, like an English park. When finished, His late Majesty presented them to the Mandalay Mission of the Propagation Society. The present King has not been as friendly, and when the British Resident retired from Mandalay it was deemed advisable that the Missionary, the Rev. W. Colbeck, should leave also, as he was considered in the light of a spy by the Burmese.