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The Church Guardian.

the Doctrines and Rubrics of the Prayer Book.

"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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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

A BELOVED DIOCESEAN.—The twentieth anniversary of the consecration of the Bishop of Maine has called forth a very warm expression from the people of his Diocese of the love they bear to him. They have taken this occasion to place in the Cathedral a costly and beautiful altar-rail, oak with floriated standards of polished brass. The rail is very heavy, and richly-carved, and on the sloping front is the inscription, "In Thy Presence is the fulness of joy." They happen to be the words of an anthem often sung at the Cathedral. The walls of the chancel have been simply but effectively decorated in colour throughout, the stone parapet wall under the chancel arch, and the semi-circular projection of it which forms the pulpit have been richly covered. The four circular panels of the latter, are now filled with medallions bearing the symbols of the four Evangelists in Carlsle stone, contrasting in its warm red hue with the gray Nova Scotia freestone. The cornice of the pulpit is wreathed and its whole surface covered with foliage and flowers in stone. Above the parapet, which is carved in like manner, is a light open-screen of oak, with a wide central opening, and on either side three smaller arches with flowing tracery. The centre is crowned by a cross of oak, and on the choir-side of the screen, are gas-jets which while invisible from the nave, light up the chancel with an almost magical effect.

A BOLD APPEAL.—Rev. Phillips Brooks appealed to his congregations, one or two Sundays ago, for \$50,000 wherewith to erect a chapel for the poor at the West End of Boston. The appeal caused considerable talk among people connected with the Church, but it is generally believed that the amount will be raised, and possibly by the first Sunday in the coming month, which will commemorate the tenth anniversary of Trinity Church as it now stands, and which Dr. Brooks wishes to mark by the founding of another chapel.

UNDISPUTED POSSESSION.—The "warm coolness" which has existed, a sort of "armed neutrality," between the various religious bodies of the land and this Church, is likely to be disturbed by the friendly challenge lately extended them by the House of Bishops. It will set people thinking. It may set some who ought to be good students studying. Out with your title-deeds, gentlemen, and look them over. Go over the metes and bounds, scan the distances, if need be shoulder your tripod and your compass and go a-fielding. In the meantime, we are in possession, and possession is "nine points of the law." Uninterrupted and undisputed possession is presumptive title. Disprove us, and then dispossess us. We are "the historic," unless proved in court otherwise. We are actually in use of, and paying taxes on, the property—the historic Episcopate—and will "grant and give," but it always takes a "party of the second part," and he must meet us half way.

INTERCOMMUNION.—At the consecration of the American Church of S. John, Dresden, it is stated, that "the Gospel was read in Greek by

the Russian priest (pastor of the church in Dresden), who also received the Holy Communion at the hands of Bishop Lyman, of the P. E. Church of the U.S." This is said to be the first recorded instance of actual intercommunion between the Russian and American Churches.

MEDICAL MISSIONARIES.—The need of medical Missionaries, and especially of females, is immense. The S.P.C.K. report says:—"More women are wanted than can possibly be sent out fully trained: but happily a great part of the work can be almost as well done by women trained in one or two special subjects, such as midwifery, for which two years will suffice." The Church of England Zenana Missionary Society gives now such a course to ladies at the cost of £70 a year, and the S.P.C.K. has founded two studentships of that value for the purpose.

A LIVE CHURCH.—The vitality of the English Church received says the *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette*, a fresh proof in the closing days of 1886, when it was announced that the endowment of the Wakefield Bishopric was completed. There are no signs that belief in Episcopacy is declining in England when such things are to be chronicled. The English Bishops are happily themselves men who justify this belief, and in their hands the English Church, notwithstanding what croakers talk, is growing stronger day by day. In Ireland also, we had the pleasure of chronicling last year the revival and re-endowment of an old See suppressed some fifty years ago by the Crown.

THE ANGLICAN BISHOPRIC IN JERUSALEM.—The *St. James' Gazette* says, on good authority that the question of maintaining an Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem, which has been in abeyance for several years, has lately been revived, and under circumstances that leave no doubt of the speedy re-establishment of the See.

IRREGULAR METRES—EXPRESS SPEED.—Dr. Stainer is at war with irregular metres, and the express speed put upon our old hymns by a fast degenerating age. At a meeting of the Musical Association last week, the distinguished composer told us that he liked the old passing notes as they stood in the dear old tunes his mother used to sing. For illustration, he played "Mount Ephraim" in its original form, and then, denuded of passing-notes at express speed in the modern fashion, amid great laughter. Most congregational singing nowadays is too quick. In large churches especially slowness must be cultivated.

HOSPITAL SUNDAY COLLECTIONS.—The *National Church* publishes its annual analysis of the London Hospital Sunday Collections. Last year the total was £35,505, against £31,692 in 1885. The contribution of the Church last year was £28,205, against £24,239, an increase of £3,966, the total increase having been £3,813, so that the gifts of Churchmen more than account for the overplus. It may be interesting to add that the other contributors of more than £100 were as follows:—the Independents,

£1,789; Wesleyans, £1,020; Baptists, £1,007; Jews, £919; Presbyterians, £839; Roman Catholics, £575; Unitarians, £241; Quakers, £148.

These figures show that if the Dissenters are as strong in London as they claim to be, they are scandalously mean and uncharitable.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.—Lord Selborne, in an appendix to the new edition of the *Defence of the Church*, has convicted the notorious *Case for Disestablishment* of gross and wanton misrepresentation of even its own advocates. That quasi-authoritative book has falsified the figures of Mr. Arthur Arnold to the extent of adding £1,000,000 to his estimate of the Church's revenue, £1,000,000 to tithes, and £30,000,000 to estimated capital value, proceeding in its argument upon this basis. The book is, therefore, worthless. As it is, Mr. Arnold's figures (£4,000,000) for tithes exceed the par value of the whole ecclesiastical tithe-rent charge by £908,305 per annum. But as tithe has never been at par for many years, and is now at its lowest ebb, viz., £87 6s. 10d. per cent., a further 12 per cent. must be deducted from even these figures.

CLERICAL SOCIETY.—A Society of Sacred Study for the Better Fulfilment of the Ordination Vow has been formed with the sanction of the Bishop in the diocese of Gloucester and Bristol. Its principal rules are:—

1. To devote a fixed time daily to private devotion, including prayer, intercession, and meditation, and to say daily the Diocesan office of Intercession.
2. On five days in every week to give at least one hour daily to theological study, half of the time being devoted to the reading of Holy Scriptures.

Note.—It is required that the reading in connection with the Society should be continuous, and be directed systematically to one or more specially selected subjects; also that it shall be independent of preparation for sermons or clerical meetings.

3. To pay a fine of one penny for each default, the fines being deposited in a box kept for that purpose and paid over to the Secretary of the archdeaconry at the end of each year. The faithful laity are admitted as associates.

A LENGTHY MINISTRY.—The Rev. J. Elliot, of Radwick, near Stroud, who reached his ninety-fifth birthday on Sunday, preached on that day, as he had done on most Sundays since he was ninety-four. He was appointed to Radwick so long ago as the year 1819.

AN OLD CORPORATION.—Mr. E. S. Norris, of Hurst Dene, Hastings, writes to the *Standard*:—"The Collegiate Chapter of the Royal Hospital and Free Chapel of St. Katharine, near the Tower, is an ecclesiastical corporation of the Church of England of higher antiquity than any other existing. Its original foundation was by Queen Matilda, and dates from A.D. 1148."

SEEKING THE LOST.—During the Mission of 1884 (says the *Times*), we mentioned, amongst other features of interest, that the street preach-