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BUSINESS MANAGER.

LESSONS for SUNDAYS and HOLY-DAYS.

May 29. SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION.—
Morning—Deuteronomy 30. St. John 11, v. 17 to 17.
Evening—Deut. 31, or Joshua 1. Heb. 4, v. 11 & 5.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1881.

THE Rev. Thomas Peters, Rector of Eastington, Gloucestershire, has returned ten per cent of his rent-charge for 1880.

The Bishop of Nottingham has recently confirmed a gentleman formerly a Congregationalist minister of that town, who is now preparing for Holy Orders.

The little church of St. Lawrence, Sheepwash, near Torrington, has been reconsecrated by the Bishop of Exeter, after having been rebuilt by the late Mr. J. F. Gould, of Barnstaple. The church is in the Early English style.

During the past year the Bishop of London has confirmed 15,793 persons; the Bishop of Manchester 8,708; the Bishop of Salisbury 6,757; the Bishop of Truro, 1,402; the Bishop of Peterboro', 5,408; the Bishop of Chichester, 6,618. Although these numbers are not so large as they might be, we may nevertheless repeat the question—Does this state of things look as though the Church was dying out?

On the 30th ultimo, the annual children's flower service was held at the parish church of Upton-cum-Chalvey, better known as Slough. The popularity of the service attracted an immense congregation from the parish and neighbourhood. The children from the large National Schools of Slough and Chalvey, the British Orphan Asylum, Slough, and the Eton Union, with others, numbered about eleven hundred. The choir was composed of forty boys drawn from the choirs of the three churches in the parish. They entered the church from the western door singing, "Brightly gleams our banner," &c. The service was choral and was a shortened form of matins. The Rev. T. Teignmouth Shore, of Mayfair, preached from Canticles ii. 12, "The flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come." The offertory of £11 was for the Children's Hospital. At the conclusion of the service the children left the church in procession, each laying a bouquet of flowers at the chancel steps in passing. The flowers were then packed in hampers, and sent to the Windsor Dispensary, and the Paddington, Victoria, and Ormond street Hospitals.

Mr. Goodall, Congregationalist preacher at Lowestoft, has recently resigned his charge, and is studying for Orders in the Church.

The Rev. F. S. Swindell, ordained at the last Norwich ordination, is a son of Mr. Swindell, retired superintendent preacher among the Primitive Methodists.

In the diocese of Truro there were 191 clergy ministering in the year 1830. In the year 1879 there were 292. Does this look as though the Church was dying out?

At a special service recently held in the parish of Tibenham, Norfolk, the preacher was the Rev. Samuel Smith, Curate of Beccles; a gentleman who, until the last three or four years, was superintendent preacher of the Wymondham circuit of the Primitive Methodists, and as such was accustomed to preach in the place where he now officiates as parish priest.

At the first of two conferences convened by a committee of clergy and held in the Chapter-house, St. Paul's churchyard, the Rev. J. Oakley presided. The subject was "Emigration as a Remedy for Social and Industrial Distress;" with which was to be considered the class of emigrants, Government control, and tests of fitness for emigrants. In the course of the discussion it was stated that emigration had been going on from England at the rate of a hundred and fifty thousand per annum. Some industries were mentioned as dying out, as the watch trade in Clerkenwell, where very few workmen had during the last three years done a full day's work.

The church of St. Oswald, Burnside, was reopened by the Bishop of Carlisle on the 28th ult., after being nearly rebuilt. Bishop Goodwin preached on St. John xx. 19. He said:—"Our churches are places of prayer, places of teaching, places of praise and thanksgiving; but above all and including everything else, they are places of the real Presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. That phrase 'Real Presence' has been connected in the minds of many with bitter controversy, and with the thought of erroneous doctrine; and doubtless the phrase may be abused, and there may be evolved from it, or engrafted upon it, superstition and error; but, after all, what a blessed phrase it is! How thoroughly it expresses the ground upon which the souls of the disciples rested on that first Easter evening, when 'Jesus stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.' It was first because His Presence was real, and they were sure it was Jesus the Lord Himself, that they received into their hearts the 'peace which passeth all understanding.' And if there be any danger of the phrase being abused in these days, or misunderstood, then I would suggest that the true way to prevent abuse or misunderstanding is to consider how wide the expression is, and how it contains in itself almost the whole Gospel of the New Covenant. Wherever Christ is, there His Presence must be real."

Mr. Butterfield has declined the office of architect for the proposed restoration of the parish church of Stratford-on-Avon.

M. Emile de Girardin has died at the age of seventy-five. France has thereby lost a man who once set his mark upon the time in which he lived as the first journalist of his day.

The first conference for the diocese of St. Asaph having succeeded so well, the Bishop has been encouraged to hold another. Papers were read and a discussion followed on the organizing of the diocese by rural dean, archidiaconal, and diocesan conferences.

The Bishop of St. Albans has reopened the parish church of Great Stambidge, and consecrated an addition to the churchyard, which has been made by the patrons, the Governors of Charterhouse. The church was originally a Norman structure, with Early English and other later insertions.

The third annual conference of the Church of Ireland was opened on Wednesday the 27th ult., in the Exhibition Palace. The Archbishop of Dublin presided. His Grace delivered an introductory address, which was followed by a paper and addresses on the Christianity of the First century, and the "Social Theories of the Nineteenth."

Special services have been held in the church of St. Peter, Rock, in the diocese of Hereford, to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the tower, the rest of the church having been completely restored about twenty years ago. The tower which is a grand landmark of the neighbourhood, has been partially rebuilt and restored at a cost of about £450.

The church of St. Lawrence, Broughton, near Newport Pagnell, was reopened, after restoration, by Mr. William White. The sermon was preached by Archdeacon Leslie Randall, the Bishop of Oxford not being well enough to attend. Great interest is given to the church by a number of mural paintings which remain. They are of late mediæval date, quaint and rude, and of treatment almost unique.

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY.

THE Festival of the Ascension is of so much consequence in the Church's system that it may be regarded as continued until Whitsunday, when the first great result to the Church, of the Redeemer's exaltation, was manifested. On this day the session of Messiah on the right hand of God may be appropriately considered. On His ascension far above all heavens that He might fill things, He sat down on the right hand of God, from henceforth expecting till His enemies should be made His footstool. To the highest position in the universe has the human nature of our Redeemer been exalted, angels, and authorities, and powers,