

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

A SECTARIAN paper says that it ought not to be forgotten that Mr. Moody was refused license to preach by the church of his choice because he was not a graduate from some institution of learning.

THE *Nonconformist and Independent* has another leader in favour of Bradlaugh. "It says:— "That the cause of liberty will ultimately triumph we cannot doubt. In the meantime, religion is suffering cruel wrong from men who pose as its special champions." It is lamentable to see how entirely Protestant Nonconformity in England has fallen away to politicalism to the quenching of its spiritual life.

RICHARD BAXTER tells us that "while we wrangle here in the dark, we are dying and passing to the world that will decide all our controversies, and our safest passage thither is by peaceable holiness."

THE *Religious Telescope* says: "The love of display in dress is the curse of society in our country. It dissipates holier and better thoughts, and genders pride in the heart. It bankrupts many a father and husband, and wrecks thousands of homes. It is itself an intolerable burden upon its devotee. It is a shame that Christian men and women have not grace and sense enough to dress in a manner becoming both their profession of Christ and their circumstances in life.

THE *Churchman* writing of the cry for unity says:—"There is but one scheme of comprehension that has any chance of success, or that will carry God's blessing with it. And that is for the Church of Christ to hold steadfastly by the "old paths" of Apostolic truth and order, to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints, to remember that in so doing she is holding to and maintaining, not the doctrines of men, nor the traditional order of any human organization, but the doctrine of her Lord and Head, and the sacred deposit given by Him to His "Holy Church throughout all the world," whose order no heresies nor schisms have ever succeeded in overthrowing.

THE *Church Messenger* says: "The greatest preachers are those who have sought hardest to make the simplest understand. The strong temptation to the man in the pulpit is to attract the attention and win the applause of the learned or please the proud and wealthy with pious platitudes. Some plain truth relating to man's salvation, told in the simplest, tenderest manner, will take deep hold, be long remembered, and do more good than the sententious, dogmatic discoursing on high subjects of metaphysics which may be controverted and do engender strife and passion."

THE *Church Standard* writing of the separation of rich and poor in towns says: "By banishing the poor from our midst, we are doing our utmost to thwart the design God in appointing, for the mutual good of rich and poor, the different conditions of riches and poverty."

THE *Church Times* says: "The symbolical explanations of the vestments are quite valueless, being mere mediæval afterthoughts, which had nothing to do with the origin or design of the several articles, which are simply the ancient Eastern dress ornamented; precisely as the Jewish priestly dress was."

A WRITER in the *Saturday Review* humorously remarks that the multiplied responsibilities, and the increased exposure to fierce attacks of the modern Bishops, are, "in the way of discipline, efficient substitutes for the hair shirt and knotted scourge."

Church Bells says:—The Church system was never dearer to the people than now. Prayer meetings are out of favour. The progress of education is against them. They are found 'dull,' 'gossipy,' 'preachy' vehicles for sly innuendoes. They remind us unpleasantly of certain people of old time who loved to be heard and seen of men, and to please men. The more earnest is the love of persons of good understanding and deep religious

feeling for the prayers which are the the collective piety and devoutness of Christian centuries.

FATHER HYACINTHE says: "Statistics speak of 200,000,000 Roman Catholics, where there are not 100,000,000. Half of the Church is out of the Church."

ST. CHRYSOSTOM, *Hom. iii.*, has the following:—"The value of fasting consists not in abstinence from food, but in a relinquishment of sinful practices; since he who limits his fasting only to an abstinence from meats is he who especially disparages it. Dost thou fast? Give me proof of it by thy works. Is it said, "By what works?" If thou seest a poor man, take pity on him. If thou seest an enemy, be reconciled to him. If thou seest a friend enjoying honor, envy him not! For let not the mouth only fast, but also the eye, and ear, and the feet and the hands, and all the members of our bodies."

OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

THE Bishop of Newcastle's Fund already amounts to £21,953, 10s., including a donation of £8,000 from the Duke of Northumberland.

13,000 of the English clergy receive official incomes not exceeding £200 a year.

It is announced that Mr. E. F. Freeman will be Dr. Stubb's successor as Regius Professor of Modern History. The income of the chair is £900 a year.

AN anonymous donor has given £300 to the Additional Curates' Society, and £500 to the Ordination Candidates' Exhibition Fund.

A NEW Jewish synagogue has been opened in Oxford, to accommodate, it is said, the increasing number of Jews resident as undergraduates there.

It appears a few Sundays ago Mr Fowler, Lord Mayor of London, and his daughter, who is Lady Mayoress, attended a Mission Hall in Hackney. The Lord Mayor read the lesson, and, after the sermon, he delivered an evangelistic address.

THE death is announced at Bath, in the eighty-first year of his age, of the Rev. Richard Watson Moor, who had been for nearly half a century vicar of Stoke St. Gregory, Taunton.

AN English authority states that the region now known as the Soudan, is precisely the area known as the Ethiopia of the Bible.

THE Duchess of Connaught has contributed a beautiful altar-cloth, with the Greek cross and lilies embroidered by hand, to the new parish church at Bagshot. The Duke has also presented a cross and candlesticks.

THE Rev. J. S. H. Brooke, rector of Mary Woolnoth, has addressed a Lenten letter to his parishioners, dated Tuesday, in which he regrets that he has the same complaint to make as his ancient predecessor, John Newton—viz., that the parishioners are "too intent upon their wealth and merchandise to pay much regard to their new minister."

LAST week the Bishop of St. Alban's held a confirmation at Dagenham, at which the ages of fifteen of the candidates from that parish amounted to 960 years; one was seventy-seven, another was seventy-five, a third seventy-four, and another seventy-two, while there were several, between the ages of sixty and seventy.

A FEW weeks ago a gentleman from Buxton was baptized by immersion at St. Saviour's, Bacup where a baptistry was provided by Mr. J. Maden Holt, when he built the church some twenty years ago. The ceremony was performed in the presence of many witnesses, by the Rev. Conrad S. Green, of Holy Trinity Church, Buxton, of whose congregation the candidate is now a member.

THE Bishop of Peterborough, it is said, has so far recovered from his dangerous and lingering illness that he will shortly resume his Episcopal duties. A movement is on foot for having the Bishop's portrait taken by an eminent artist, and presented to Mrs. Magee for her life and that of the Bishop; afterwards to remain an heirloom at the Palace.

THE death is announced of the Rev. George Mathias, one of Her Majesty's chaplains in ordinary, in the 88th year of his age. He was the son of Captain J. Vincent Mathias, of the 62nd Regiment, and grandson of Mr. Gabriel Mathias, who was for many years Assistant Keeper of the Privy Purse to Queen Charlotte.

THE committee of the Pastoral Aid Society has been enabled to accept the offer of £1,000 lately made by a lady for the benefit of Liverpool, on condition that a second £1,000 were contributed by other donors to meet it. This has now been done, and the interest will go towards curates' stipends for two of the neediest parishes in Liverpool.

THE Archbishop of Armagh and Clogher, Primate of All Ireland, and Metropolitan, Dr. Marcus Gervais Beresford, recently entered upon his eighty-eighth year.

MR. GLADSTONE has written to the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol to say that when £20,000 has been raised the Government will introduce a bill for the reconstitution of the See of Bristol; £16,000 has already been promised.

A sad instance of the result of the excitement occasioned by the Salvation Army occurred last week at Wilmslow, when Moses Shuttleworth, coachman to Dr. Somerville, had to be taken to the county lunatic asylum, Macclesfield. For the previous fortnight Shuttleworth had been attending meetings of the Salvation Army, and at last he stripped himself naked, stretched out his arms, and asked his relatives to crucify him by nailing him to the floor. The poor fellow protested that he had the power to work miracles, and asked for the attendance of a blind man to demonstrate his assertion.

A REPORT, drawn up by Mr. Pearson, R. A., on the condition of Westminster Abbey, shows that decay has spread through nearly every portion of the outside. Beneath the grimy coating of the exterior, the process of decomposition has been so rapid, that unless a sum of £80,000 is at once expended, the ruin of the fabric will be irremediable.

Book Notices, Reviews, &c.

"The Little Christian" is a bright little illustrated children's paper, and well adapted for distribution in Sunday Schools or in parish visiting. The contents are interesting and at the same time of a high moral character. 25 cents a year for a single copy, or for fifty or more at the rate of only 14 cents a year, post-paid, for two numbers a month. H. L. Hastings, 47 Cornhill, Boston, Mass.

"The Homiletic Monthly" for April is a rich number, filled with sermonic material, and useful articles for the preacher. We think that the value of the publication would be enhanced if greater care was taken in the selection of the representative sermons. The example of the "Christian Age" might be well followed in this particular. The symposium on Evolution is still carried on, and does not flag in interest. Funk & Wagnalls, publishers, New York. \$2.50 per year.

"The Pulpit Treasury" for April is as good as usual, and gives promise for the future. It enters upon its second year of publication in May, and a special list of contributors is noted for the coming year. \$2 a year. E. B. Treat, publisher, 757 Broadway, New York.

"The Bowsham Puzzle." Mr. Habberton has evolved a plot which at once excites and evades the reader's curiosity to a most amusing degree. The chief merit of Mr. Habberton's work consists in its portrayal of village life. His faithfulness in this has been generally conceded, but has never been more apparent than in his latest of novels. There is a homely humor underpinning the story that adds much to the reader's enjoyment. Published in Funk & Wagnalls (10 and 12 Dey St., N. Y.) Standard Library 110. Price, paper, 25 cents.