

The Late Bishop of Wakefield, as a Giver.

The late bishop of Wakefield left a personal estate valued at £72,240. Accompanying his will was a memorandum to be opened after his death. This has now been published and throws an interesting light on Bishop How's views of the stewardship of wealth. It reads thus: "My father left me a good fortune in money, and this has been considerably increased. I have, ever since I possessed an income at all, always dedicated one-tenth annually to God in charity. When I became a bishop I resolved that my children should never profit by my episcopal income, and dedicated to God in charity (*i.e.*, in direct gifts and subscriptions) £1,000 a year, or a full fifth of my gross income. Perhaps I should mention that I always gave away the large sums I received for my books. My chief object in naming these things is to provide an answer to the charge, sure to be made, that I have enriched myself and my children out of the endowment of the church. This would not much matter if my personal credit alone were at stake. But such belief does great harm to the church. As I believe there is no class which approaches that of the clergy in self-sacrifice, so I believe there is no class which approaches that of the bishops in the amount they give away."

Friday.

In the "Table of Fasts" in the Prayer Book, Fridays are included among the days "on which the Church requires such a measure of abstinence as is more especially suited to extraordinary acts and exercises of devotion."

It is a well known fact that in this city Friday is looked upon as the day for teas, receptions, dinners, etc. How this has come to be we do not know. And for other than Church people perhaps we may not wonder. But it can only be thoughtlessness on the part of those who have the Prayer Book as a guide. Surely that is of far more authority with us than the custom of society. Let us say again—it is not for us to condemn others, but surely Church people ought to think carefully. We quote the following:

The Church has a weekly commemoration of Christ's Passion on Friday, as a weekly celebra-

tion of His Resurrection on the Lord's Day. And as the element of spiritual rejoicing is presented to us on Sunday, the fellowship of Christ's sufferings, and the imitation of His self-sacrifice, if the special lesson of every Friday is the life of a Churchman. And he is no loyal son of Holy Church who keeps her festivals, but not her fasts; who enjoys the privileges of Sunday, but never humbles his soul on Friday; who is willing to exult in the Redemption, but not to sympathize with the Passion; who wants the crown, but not the cross; who will not partake of Christ's sufferings, although he hopes to share His glory.

—Church News.

Gladstone's "Central Hope."

To a young American inquirer, Mr. Gladstone replied: All I write, and all I think, and all I hope, is based on the divinity of our Lord, the one central hope of our poor wayward race." "Talk about questions of the day," he said on another occasion, "there is but one question, and that is the Gospel. It can and will correct everything needing correction. All men at the head of great movements are Christians. During the many years I was in the Cabinet I was brought into association with sixty master minds and all but five of them were Christians. My only hope for the world is in bringing the human mind into contact with divine revelation."

The Oldest Chorister.

When the Queen was outside St. Paul's Cathedral on Jubilee Day her eye fell on one of the oldest singers in England—Mr. Thomas Wicks—who holds an unbroken record of seventy-one years as a cathedral singer. Mr. Wicks is still a tenor in Wells Cathedral, but joined the choir of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, to take part in the service held outside the Cathedral.

Curiously enough, his first appointment was as choirboy of St. George's Chapel and Eton College, and in this way he has sung on many historic occasions.

He was present at the funeral of the Duke of York in 1827, also at that of George IV. in 1830. He sang at the Coronation of William IV. in the same year. In 1831 he was solo-boy at Windsor Castle, where he sang before William IV.