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The Church Guardian.

Upholds 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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ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE WAKEFIELD CHURCH CONGRESS.—The Church Congress programme has just been issued. The committee of selection have confined the proceedings to 16 meetings, which are quite enough for a four days' session. The subject of Church Reform naturally occupies a prominent place, and will be discussed under three different aspects, viz., patronage, Church government and representation, and clerical efficiency and the diaconate. The second place in importance is given to the Church in relation to social questions, and the other subjects include Christian evidences, the Church in relation to the rural population, the increase of the episcopate (presumably with special reference to the proposed new Bishopric of Wakefield), the Church in relation to the State, Foreign missions, the Church in relation to the urban populations, Uses of music, Education, and the Parish Churches Bill. There will also be the usual working men's meeting and the Friday morning devotional meeting. The opening sermons will be preached on Oct. 5 by the Archbishop of York, the Bishop of Meath, and the Bishop Designate of Edinburgh.

OLD CATHOLICS IN AUSTRIA.—The eighth Synod of the Old Catholic Church in Austria was held on Wednesday, Sept. 8, in the old Town-hall of Vienna, which has been kindly lent by the Town Council. Many delegates attended from all parts of the country. An especial welcome was given to the Old Catholic Bishop of Switzerland, Dr. Herzog, and also to the Rev. R. S. Oldham, rector of Little Chart, Ashford, Kent, who appeared as representative of the Anglo-Continental Society. There were also present two other Clergymen of the Church of England. The Synod was opened at 9 a.m., by the celebration of the Holy Communion in the Church of St. Salvator, which was given by the Roman Catholic Vienna Town Council to the Old Catholics at the commencement of the movement. The church is one of the oldest in Vienna, and dates from the thirteenth century. The members of the Synod then adjourned to the Town-hall. Letters and telegrams were first read by the President, Herr Director Sinnek from various parts of the world, wishing the Synod every success. Among these were letters from the Archbishop of Canterbury and Bishop Wilkinson, the successor of Bishop Titcomb as coadjutor of the Bishop of London, who presides over northern and central Europe.

WHAT A PRESBYTERIAN SAYS:—I am not an Englishman, nor an Episcopalian, yet no loyal son of the Church of England could look up to it with more tender reverence than I. I honor it for all that it has been in the past, for all that it is at this hour. The oldest of the Protestant Churches in England, it has the dignity of history to make it venerable. And not only is it one of the oldest Churches in the world, but one of the purest, which could not be struck from existence without a shock to all Christendom. Its faith is the faith of Reformation, the faith of the early ages of Christianity. Whatever "corruptions" may have gathered upon it, like moss upon the old cathedral walls, yet in the

Apostles' Creed and other symbols of faith it has the primitive belief with beautiful simplicity, divested of all "philosophy," and has held it not only with a singular purity, but with steadfastness from generation unto generation.

What a power is a creed and a service which thus links us with the past? As we listen to the Te Deum or the Litany we are carried back not only to the middle ages, but to the days of persecution, when "the noble army of martyrs" was not a name; when the Church worshipped in crypts and catacombs. Perhaps we of other communions do not consider enough the influence of a Church which has a long history, and whose very service seems to unite the living and the dead—the worship on earth with the worship in heaven. For my part I am very sensitive to those influences, and never do I hear a choir "chanting the liturgies of remote generations" that it does not bring me nearer to the first worshippers and to him whom they worshipped.

CHRISTIAN LAWYERS.—The new Solicitor-General of the English cabinet is, like all the lay officers of the present administration, a staunch Churchman and, like Lord Halsbury and the late Lord Hatherley, an old Sunday school teacher. He was for many years a teetotaler, like the Attorney-General, but after his election and defeat in Southwark he was, by his doctor's orders, compelled to take intoxicating liquor. Sir Edward Clarke was a Sunday school teacher at St. Alban's Wood street.

RE-OPENING OF A VENERABLE CHURCH.—The parish church of Cripplegate, London, was re-opened on Sunday, after being closed for reparation and cleaning. The church is note-worthy because of its historical associations, and also because it is one of the very few in the City which have good congregations generally; and it is open for several hours every week-day for private devotions. It is the burial-place of—among other illustrious men—Milton, to whom there is a fine canopied monument at the West-end; of John Speed, the painstaking chronicler, whose memorial is close by that of the author of "Paradise Lost;" of Martin Frobisher, the arctic discoverer and gallant seaman at the time when the Spanish Armada, but whose memory is not honoured in the church by "storied urn or animated bust;" and it was here that Cromwell was married to Harriet Bouchier on Aug. 29, 1620. Foxe, the martyrologist, was also buried in the church. A large portion of the former building was destroyed by fire in 1545, and since the re-edification, shortly after that date, so many alterations have been made that it is somewhat difficult to trace the older portions now, but there are remains which date back long before the above-named year. The church has now a very handsome appearance, and that it attracts the notice of a good many "pilgrims" to London is shown by the fact that since last September the visitors have been 18,000 in number. A good many of these have been Americans and Colonials, whom the South Kensington Exhibition has brought over. The organ was originally built by Renatus Harris in 1704, but it has to a very considerable ex-

tent been reconstructed by Messrs. Gray and Davidson, by whom it has just now been "overhauled" again, and they have welded three new composite pedals, and made some other improvements.

THE CHURCHWARD DRIFT.—The recent death of the venerable Rufus W. Clark, D.D., for many years pastor of the old Dutch church at Albany, calls attention again to the drift from the families of denominational ministers into the Church, in which three of Dr. Clark's sons are now in orders. One, who bears his father's name, has long been rector of St. Paul's, the mother church of Detroit. Dr. Clark, however, was one of four brothers, sons of a Presbyterian elder of Newburyport, Mass., of whom three became Church Clergymen. The eldest has been for thirty-two years the Bishop of Rhode Island: the others are the Rev. George H. Clark, D. D., of Hartford, Conn., and the late Rev. Samuel A. Clark, D.D., of Elizabeth, N. J.

REMARKABLE EXCAVATIONS AT JERUSALEM.—The French Dominican monks at Jerusalem have made some remarkable excavations on some land which they have lately acquired, about a furlong and a half outside the gate of Damascus. Six metres below the present level of the ground the workmen came on some arches of considerable extent, the walls of which had been very carefully built. At a short distance they found the basement of a chapel, before the entrance of which there was a tombstone covered with a long inscription, which, however, was stolen before any one thought of copying the inscription. About the middle of their property they found a large well-preserved mosaic and upon the space all around being cleared the bases and other remains of great pillars were discovered. This is supposed to be the site of the great basilica built in the fifth century in honour of St. Stephen by Eudoxia, the wife of Arcadius, the first of the long line of Eastern Emperors. A still more remarkable discovery was made while digging the trench for the foundations of the boundary wall which the Dominicans wished to build; the ground gave way, and one of the workmen disappeared. On clearing out the place they came on a large and beautiful hall which had been cut out of the rock; where the rock failed the gap was filled by admirable masonry. From two of the sides two large doorways led into two vaulted tombs, all of equal size. On each side of the vault there was a resting place for one coffin, and at the end, opposite the entrance, places for two. At the farthest end of the great hall a passage led to another excavated vault, in which stood three great covered sarcophagi. It is suggested that these sarcophagi contains the remains of Helena, Queen of Abiadenos, and her sons. The quantity of bones found in these chambers was very great. In the middle of the great hall, in a hollow specially prepared, a sort of long metal box was found. It was adorned with representations of children holding garlands up on high. Unfortunately there was no inscription, nor anything which could furnish a clue to the period or the process of these sepulchral chambers.