

ground of its own intrinsic merit, but also because it is a "labour of love," of one of the most zealous and devoted of our clergy, who is daily exemplifying in his own life with the potent truth of the principles so clearly and forcibly advocated in its instructive pages.

Church Funds in England.

The Archbishops have appointed a committee to consider the report on methods of Church Finance. The committee is to consider the position, administration, and mutual relation of the various funds whether raised by voluntary subscription or created by endowments, to correlate these various funds and show the National Church its financial responsibility. This will probably be followed by the creation of one Central Board so that in giving money, charitable people will know what necessities exist. As the "Times" said of this matter, "There are in this country about one hundred and fifty societies for the relief of poor clergy, their widows and their children. Most of these societies come, quite independently, to the benevolent public for financial support. It sometimes happens that half a dozen of them, at once are—still quite independently—assisting a 'deserving case.' Clerical charity, like Church finance, of which it is a branch, has neither centre nor unity." Let us hope these days will soon be over.

Man Before the Ape.

Some recent discoveries of human remains in France and Germany warrant revision of the old theory as to the origin and development of the human race. The discovery by Dr. Schoetensack at Maur, near Heidelberg, of the lower jaw of a man in a preglacial deposit has aroused the interest of leading anthropologists. Prompted by the increased study given to the subject the authorities of the Natural History Museum of South Kensington have put in order a collection of casts and original specimens of the oldest human remains. All the discoveries tend to increase the probable antiquity of man's presence on earth, and even to indicate to some extent the degree of culture and civilization he possessed. The Heidelberg remains are held to be preglacial and older than any yet discovered. The marked similarity of the mandible or lower jaw to those of the anthropoid apes led many to think that the missing link had at last been found. The most striking of these resemblances are the size and thickness of the jaw and the absence of any trace of chin formation. Against this view must be set the presence of a complete set of teeth agreeing in dentition with those of the human race of to-day and presenting marked variations from those of any of the anthropoids. The difference is so pronounced as to lead anthropologists to regard the human dentition as more primitive than that of the ape family, and it is now admitted that no anthropoid stage immediately preceded the age of the Heidelberg man. Comparing the Heidelberg remains with the Neanderthal skull, which has long formed a standard, the changes which must have taken place are so striking and numerous that the length of time suggested as the age of the Heidelberg skull warrants the conclusion that man preceded the ape. If this proposition is admitted the ape must reluctantly abandon the ancestral throne so laboriously built for him by Darwin.

The Theology and Natural Selection.

What a warning to the theologians who are ever eager to trim their sails to the latest scientific breeze is presented in "the decline and fall" of Darwin's animalistic theory of natural selection. The tenacity with which even learned adherents of this theory seek—in defiance of the laws of logic, the promptings of common sense, and the accumulating evidence of scientific discovery to adhere to their leader's speculative illusion is graphically shown in the plaintive

words of Weismann:—"We accept natural selection not because we are able to demonstrate the process in detail, nor even because we can with more or less ease imagine it, but simply because we must—because it is the only possible explanation that we can conceive. We must assume natural selection to be the principle of the explanation of the metamorphoses, because all other principles of explanation fail us, and it is inconceivable that there should be yet another capable of explaining the adaptation of organisms without assuming the help of a principle of design." "It would seem from this," says Professor Borden P. Bowne, in the "Hibbert Journal" for October, "that natural selection is in a bad way. We must accept it, though 'unable to demonstrate the process in detail or even with more or less ease to imagine it' for otherwise we must 'assume the help of a principle of design.' But this is not science," truly says the learned Professor.

Forestry.

To judge from many newspaper items there seems to be a general opinion that the timber in the States has been exhausted. There are in the West one hundred and ninety five millions of acres of national forest areas. The need of men to protect these grows as the needs develop, this year 500 young men will be appointed rangers. Examinations are being held in every state and territory on the 25th and 26th October. The salaries of rangers run from \$900 to \$1,400. What an education these very examinations give. Rangers have the opportunity to advance to the highest positions in the service. In many instances forest supervisors, the highest positions, on the national forests, have entered the service as rangers and have risen by good work, to the positions which they now occupy. Knowing this, many college graduates have availed themselves of this opportunity to enter the employ of Uncle Sam and at the same time have all the advantages and joys of life in the open. Others who are not college men, but who understand the practical side of the ranger's duties, enter the service and make up any educational deficiencies through a course at the rangers' schools which have been established on the national forests. Compared with this our arrangements seem very crude. From Cochrane we read that the fire rangers have had few fires to contend with this year, and a very reasonable suggestion is made that from the settlers who are taking up land should be chosen these caretakers in the future, so that the money may be circulated in the district. But in estimating the forests in the States it must not be forgotten that in some, like Michigan, the waste of years has not only been stopped but that large tracts are being reforested. That there is still waste both in the States and Canada is too true, but year by year this ought to decrease, the new forests be increased, and the rainfall conserved.

The Torah.

Professor Sayce in the "Churchman" communicates one result of recent Assyrian research. The word Torah always appears in Hebrew lexicons and commentaries on the Old Testament as signifying teaching or instruction. Professor Sayce writes that Torah is neither a Hebrew word nor did it ever mean instruction. In a long article he claims that its place of origin was in Babylonia, gives its various meanings, and its history, concluding that the Mosaic age was really the close of a long period of great literary activity and that some seven centuries before the time of Moses a code of laws had been compiled for an empire which included Canaan, and Abraham must have known of this code and its technical name, and thus his descendants after their settlement in Canaan would be acquainted with the term. The Torah for them would have signified a Divinely revealed legal code, a message from heaven which regulated their life and practice,

and was interpreted for them by an individual legislator.

Growth.

No better proof can be given of the fitness of a man for high office than his growth in usefulness from the time of appointment. It is a pleasant conceit of some men that the position in life occupied by them, by no means affords them the opportunity of fully extending themselves. Convinced of their capacity for successfully handling great things they reserve the demonstration of their superior powers for the day of great things, and so like the artist and poet in Besant's "Golden Butterfly," the day of opportunity, is to them, a prolonged dream of great things to be achieved in a future that with the present, and past, is but one long lingering day dream. Not so with the man of growth and action. To him each hour has its allotted duty. Each duty forms part of a well planned round of life. And the hours, and days, and months, and years, find him ever achieving, ever advancing, onward and upward, with a stimulus of noble hope to the fruition of a worthy well spent life. This is the invariable record of the great Bishops, clergy, and laymen of the Church. Their motto is Von Moltke's famous "forwards." And their lives are conspicuous examples of the deep, sustained and moving power embodied in that magical word.

Gain—A Thralldom.

We believe the world is far more indebted to the strong unselfish lives, in all its varied callings, who have been content to work for the good of their fellow men, rather than for the main purpose of gathering wealth to be devoted to the purposes of their own pride, ambition or pleasure. Can that be other than a sordid and ignoble aim that leads one away from all active participation in religious and benevolent enterprises and directs his thought and energy chiefly to making and hoarding money. It is a blessed fact that there are men toiling to-day in humble position, with narrow means and lives burdened with pressing duties and grave responsibilities who are nevertheless princely givers to Church and charity. Rich in faith, noble in unselfishness, humble in spirit, pure in life, constant in private, family and public worship. Such men are the salt of the earth. Their riches cannot be weighed in earthly scales. Their pleasures are simple and spiritual, and assuredly they have here in time a sweet foretaste of their inestimable and enduring reward.

Conscience.

The Bishop of St. Asaph said recently at his diocesan conference some words on conscience which reminds us of St. Paul's noble defence of his life before Felix, Acts 24:16. Referring to the proposed plundering of the Welsh Church by the present Government, he remarked, "There is a power which, at the alarm of danger, will rally to the defence of the Mother Church of the British Isles. That power is the conscience of the British people." They love justice and will not readily allow the diversion of religious endowments to secular uses, when they are altogether unequal to the needs for which they were provided, and are being faithfully used. It is a fine sight to find a Bishop appealing to conscience as the strongest safe-guard of Welsh Church, which is in peril of being despoiled. Some of our readers may remember Bishop Jeremy Taylor's noble words on conscience. "Conscience is a clock, which in one man strikes aloud and gives warning; in another the hand points silently to the figure but strikes not. Meantime, hours pass away and death hastens, and after death comes judgment." To this mighty power, which when aroused is irresistible in its onward march, Welsh Churchmen fearlessly appeal, and it will yet be seen that the voice of God is as powerful still as when the Psalmist wrote the 29th Psalm.