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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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### ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

**EXETER CHORAL ASSOCIATION.**—This Diocesan Association, which was formed a few months ago to improve Church music throughout the Diocese, met for the first time on Tuesday, the 5th July, and held its festival in Exeter Cathedral. The Bishop is patron of the Association; and on this important occasion nearly 2,000 choristers gathered together for the service from different parts of Devonshire. The Association includes many ladies amongst its members.

**MISSION WORK.**—Mr. Meredith is preparing to send out, in October next, three Sisters, one of whom is an M.D., to labour for the Winter amongst heathen and Mahomedan women. All who are going on this mission will (D.V.) live together during the month of September in the Missionary Institute, Clapham Road, to unite in prayer and preparation for the work to which they are called.

**CHURCH ARMY.**—A new Mission Hall for the Church Army has been lately opened at 62 St. Aldate's, Oxford. The cost of adapting and furnishing these premises for their new purpose has been defrayed by subscriptions collected by an enthusiastic lady belonging to Canon Christopher's congregation; and a free Jubilee tea was given in the Hall to all in the parish who cared to avail themselves of the invitation, at the sole expense of the Rev. A. P. Cox, curate of St. Aldate's.

**TELLING FIGURES.**—The annual reports of the English Church Societies give comparative statements of their present condition as contrasted with that at the commencement of the Queen's reign. Those of the Church Pastoral Aid Society are for 1836 and 1885:—

	1-36. 1836.	1885.
Number of benefices with cure of souls in Eng. and Wales.	10,657	14,013
Number of beneficed clergy....	8,147	13,549
Number of curates employed by resident incumbents.....	1,006	5,798
Number of curates employed by non-resident incumbents...	4224	352
Average annual stipend of curates.....	£81	£140?

**CHURCH EDUCATION.**—The figures recently

published concerning the Church Schools and Training Colleges in England show a wonderful expenditure of money, voluntarily contributed. Here is an abstract of an elaborate report:

	From 1811 to 1870.	Since 1870.	Total
<b>Schools:—</b>			
Building.....	£ 6,270,517	£ 6,160,229	£ 12,430,806
Maintenance...	8,500,000	9,243,312	17,743,312
<b>Training Colleges:—</b>			
Building.....	194,085	80,710	274,795
Maintenance ...	185,276	233,686	418,962
	£15,149,938	15,717,937	30,867,875

It is marvellous. The first figures take in a period of fifty-nine years, and the second fifteen years. Yet in the latter the amounts were in excess of the former. Only one comment is necessary upon the increase since 1870: it shows how well-rooted and grounded is the Church of England in the hearts of her people.

### THE WELSH CHURCH: WHAT SHE IS DOING.

—The following passages taken from a sermon preached in Sketty Church on Sunday morning June 5th, on the occasion of the visit of the Right Hon. W. E. Gladstone, M.P., to Swansea, by the Rev. Canon J. Allan Smith, M.A., Vicar of Swansea, and Rural Dean, are given by *The National Church* published in London. They refute the many misrepresentations made of the state of the Church in Wales:—

Since 1851, a great work has been accomplished, to supply deficiencies of Church accommodation, and to meet the growing wants of the people, 353 additional Churches and licensed rooms have been provided.

In 274 parishes in the dioceses of Bangor and St. Asaph, the total sum spent in ten years on Church building and restoration, mission-rooms, and increase in endowments from private liberality has been £404,135.

Llandaff spent in thirty-three years, up to 1883, £360,000, on the Cathedral and in the erection and restoration of 170 Churches. Her Church Extension Fund, now three years old, has raised £24,000, and has made grants for 29 Churches and mission-rooms. The last report says it was confidently predicted, when the erection of Churches in the Rhondda Valley was commenced, that, as the population there was composed almost entirely of Nonconformists, the money would be simply wasted. The large congregations gathered each Sunday in the four erected sufficiently prove not only the *erroneousness of these predictions*, but also that when opportunity afforded, the people are not slow to avail themselves of the privileges and blessings which the Church is commissioned to convey.

In *St. David's* diocese, in ten years, up to 1884, thirty-three Churches were built, more than forty restored, and forty mission-rooms licensed. On the report of a Commission appointed three or four years ago by the Bishop, to inquire into the spiritual needs of this Rural Deanery of Swansea and Gower East, a Church Extension Fund has been established, and (including two sites) about £15,000 have been raised. In the mother-parish of Swansea, in the last two and a half years, two permanent

Churches have been built, one iron Church, and three additional mission-rooms opened, and an ecclesiastical district with a population of 7,000 separated. Another permanent Church is to be finished in the autumn, and the parish of St. Mary, Swansea, with 33,000 people, will then have five permanent Churches, two iron Churches, and eight mission-rooms. The charge that these are erected with the cheques of the wealthy, as evidence that the Church is not popular, is most unfounded as regards Swansea.

I have already stated that the number of Clergy has grown in Wales during the last fifty years from 700 to 1,336. A still more satisfactory advance is the increase in the number of resident Clergy. *Non-residence has been reduced to a minimum.*

In the diocese of Llandaff the average ordinations of deacons has risen from seven in 1880, 1881, and 1882, to an average of twenty-one in the last three years.

In this diocese *St. David's*, with a population of 485,000, in the triennial confirmations ending 1885, 7,258 persons were confirmed. The Bishop has made a careful calculation that the proportion on the population is much the same as, perhaps a little in excess of, the proportion in several of the more populous English dioceses. In the triennial period up to last year, in Llandaff diocese, the confirmations have risen from 6,599 in the former three years, to 8,592. Within the last three weeks the Bishop of Llandaff has confirmed at one place 114 candidates, of whom seventy were formally Nonconformists.

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 Although events in recent years have been unfavourable to the maintenance of voluntary schools in country parishes, the Church still educates about three-eighths of the whole number now attending public elementary schools in Wales and Monmouthshire. As proof that Nonconformists appreciate this work, out of over 1,300 children in Swansea, Higher Grade National Schools for boys and girls, the headmaster says nearly one-half attend non-Church Sunday-schools.

With regard to ministering to the people in Welsh, it appears that there is not a parish in the diocese of Bangor where there is not a Welsh service. Out of 315 parishes in the principality, in which the Church does not provide a Welsh service, there are only fifty-five instances in which Nonconformists do.

As to the hold of the Church on the people of Wales, I shall not venture here on the thorny question of denominational statistics, not because I have no clear ideas myself, but to avoid controversy. I will only say, if the statistics of the Church population which have been given by some are correct, then in proportion to the Church population the number of annual baptisms, confirmations, and percentage of communicants in this diocese is just double what is ordinarily to be found—a proof to my mind that the Church population must have been underrated. It has been said that if the rich and the English-speaking people left Wales, there would be no Church left in it. The Bishop of St. David's reports that the highest return of communicants comes from Cardiganshire, the most Welsh county in the diocese.

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