

MIDDLESEX.

Entertainment to the Bishops at the Mansion-house.—On the 19th of May, the Lord Mayor, several of the aldermen, and the sheriffs, went to Bow church, to hear a sermon from the Lord Bishop of Durham, on the subject of the propagation of the gospel in foreign parts. After the church service concluded, his lordship gave a grand dinner at the Mansion-house. The toast of "Church and King" having been drunk with great applause, the Lord Mayor rose to propose the health of the Archbishop of Canterbury, in doing which he mentioned that the most reverend prelate was entitled to the respect and admiration of every adherent, admirer, and member, of the Christian church. (Cheers.)

The Archbishop of Canterbury returned thanks in the most cordial manner; and concluded his speech by proposing the health of the Lord Mayor.

His Lordship, in returning thanks, assured the company that he should do all in his power to promote all the charitable institutions in the city. He then proposed the health of the Bishop of London, and expressed an ardent hope that the most reverend prelate would be fully enabled to accomplish the great object he had in view, of increasing the places of worship, by which the glory of God would be promoted, and the happiness of mankind increased. (Cheers.)

The Bishop of London said that he felt particularly happy at the manner in which his health had been drunk, especially as those who had done him the honour were members of a corporation with which he had been connected for 17 years, and were, as a matter of course, so well qualified to judge whether he had deserved the approbation he had received. He felt particularly gratified, too, at the manner in which his name had been associated with the grand object which he was so anxious to carry into execution, and he trusted that the means of effecting it would speedily be supplied. He took that opportunity to thank the corporation of London for the 500*l.* which they had voted in aid of the plan; but he would also take the liberty of stating that many members of that body were blessed with affluence, which made it particularly incumbent upon them to contribute liberally from their private resources. (Cheers.) He was sure he should be pardoned for saying that the city had not done its duty. (Hear, hear.) It was his hope to build 50 churches, and, notwithstanding the liberality of the contributions already made, there was not funds sufficient to build 15. If the city of London, however, would set the example, that example would, he was persuaded, be most extensively followed. The citizens, upon whom the gifts of Providence had been showered, could not make a more appropriate return than by aiding in the great work of disseminating the word of God. (Cheers.) His lordship then proposed the "health of the Lady Mayoress."

HAMPSHIRE.

The following answers have been given by the churchwardens of a parish near Winchester, in reply to a circular, issued by order of Lord John Russell, calling for certain information respecting church-rates:—*Question.* Have church-rates been refused or adjourned in your parish, and in what year? *Answer.* Having neither whigs nor radicals in the parish, no church-rates have been refused.—*Question.* In what manner have the repairs of the church and their attendant expenses been defrayed in the years in which no rates have been granted? *Answer.* The occupiers of the parish, by a cheerful contribution to an annual rate, have always sustained in repair the sacred fabric of their forefathers; and which, notwithstanding the dishonest intentions of a whig ministry, they are still desirous of doing, having no inclination to rob the church in order to enrich themselves.—*Salisbury Herald.*

Christian Knowledge Society.—At the May meeting of this society, which was unusually well-attended, the Bishop of Bangor was in the chair, and the Bishop of Llandaff, Hereford, Ripon, and Salisbury, were also present. The secretary read an abstract of the auditor's report for the past year, by which it appeared that the receipts had amounted to 80,942*l.* 17*s.* 8*d.*, being an increase of about 150*l.* The expenditure had been 109,440*l.*; but the society had, during the past year, expended 40,000*l.* in the purchase of stock. The number of bibles and testaments published during the year had been upwards of 187,000*l.*, and the whole number of tracts and books more than 2,000,000. A long discussion took place on the appointment of the tract standing committees.—*Brit. Mag.*

Sons of the Clergy.—The Anniversary Festivals of the Sons of the Clergy was celebrated on Thursday, May 11th, at St. Paul's cathedral. A great crowd of the most distinguished clergymen in London were present, and amongst the dignitaries of the church were the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Bishops of Winchester, Hereford, Llandaff, Chester, and Kilaloe, the Dean of Chester, and many of the members of the cathedral. A little before two o'clock the Lord Mayor and the city officers arrived. The anniversary sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Thomas Calvert, D. D., Warden of Manchester Collegiate Church. The Collection on Tuesday, at the doors, for the rehearsal, amounted to 73*l.*; and on Tuesday the sum of 226*l.* was received. The dinner was most fully attended, and the collections after dinner were large. Altogether, above a thousand pounds were collected.—*Ibid.*

On Thursday, the 1st of June, the charity children belonging to the several schools within the bills of mortality visited the cathedral church of St. Paul, attended by their rectors, headles, and other parish functionaries, for the purpose of hearing the annual sermon which was preached by the Lord Bishop of Chichester, in the presence of the Marquis Camden, the Lord Mayor, aldermen, sheriffs, and several of the nobility and gentry. The numerous assemblage present far exceeded those of last year. Among those that occupied the scarlet seats were many foreign ladies and gentlemen, who seemed to take a lively interest in the pleasant scene presented to their view. Divine service concluded about half-past two, after which the children proceeded to their separate schools, and were supplied with a good dinner of old English fare—plum-pudding and roast beef.—*Times.*

Munificent Bequest.—We are told that a very splendid grant towards the fund for providing additional churches in the destitute parts of the Metropolis and its suburbs, has been lately made. Mrs. Hindman, a wealthy and pious lady, who during her whole life was much attached to our national religion, and felt a deep interest in the spiritual welfare of her fellow-creatures, has bequeathed the sum of £80,000 for the erection of new churches in our large metropolis, which has been placed at the disposal of the Bishop of London, under the control of the Rev. Mr. Dodsworth, appointed by the donor, trustee of the gift. The circumstance has created a lively feeling of satisfaction among the friends of the Establishment, and in accordance with a wish expressed by the benevolent lady, the erection of a new church in the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, will be shortly commenced. The erection of a new church at Stepney has been ordered by the Metropolitan Church Building Committee, and others in St. George's East, St. George, Southwark, Chelsea and other parishes, will be shortly commenced.

In consequence of the expected return to Europe of the Rev. Dr. Mill, Principal of Bishop's College, Calcutta, whose term of service has expired, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts wishes to engage a proper person to succeed him in that important office. The qualifications required in a Principal of Bishop's College are thus described by Bishop Middleton:—The Clergyman sent out to conduct the labors of the College must possess considerable endowments, be, of course, especially, who

is to be at the head of it: they should be, if not distinguished for general scholarship, at least respectable divines, acquainted with the Scriptures in the originals; of frugal and laborious habits, and possessing a talent for languages; and without a certain ardour of character, and deep feeling of the importance of the duties committed to them, and a disposition to value success in such an enterprise more than that in any human pursuit, they would not, I fear, answer the end proposed. The senior should not, I imagine be more than thirty years of age. The salary of the Principal is fixed at £1000 a year with a retiring pension of £500 a year after the expiration of fifteen years' service.—*Chr. Rem.*

From the Church.

The following are extracted from a late Charge of the Rev. Dr. Dealtry:—

THE VOLUNTARY SYSTEM.

So ineffectual is the Voluntary System in Wales, where dissent is sometimes represented as eminently flourishing, that the "greater part of dissenting ministers there are either actual farmers or tradesmen, and most of those who are not so employed, are assisted annually from the dissenting fund in London."—*British Magazine.*

If the reader would wish to learn how the voluntary system acts abroad, he will do well to see its operation in the case of that excellent man, Oberlin. "At the revolution, Oberlin, like the rest of the established clergy in France, was deprived of his scanty income. This was in 1789. At first his parishoners came forward with generous alacrity, and declared that their excellent minister should be none the worse—that they would raise 1,400 francs, or about £56 a year for him, at the least. The first year they subscribed a purse of 1,133 francs; the second year their liberality fell down to 400 francs, (£16.) The pastor saw how things were going on, and requested that there might be no more annual collections for him; he was unwilling to draw from the poor or the reluctant; he would leave it entirely to their free will and unsolicited offerings; they knew the way to his house, he said, and might bring to him what, and when they pleased. In 1794, few as were Oberlin's wants, his own resources and his parishoners' bounty had so far failed him, that he was obliged to undertake the charge of ten or twelve pupils for his subsistence."—*Gilly's Memoir of Felix Neff.*

In a word, except in large towns, not the slightest dependance can be placed any where upon this system. "At Chriton," says Dr. Dwight, "there are three Presbyterian congregations, and two Clergymen. These gentlemen, though held in high estimation, and deservedly beloved by their parishoners, consider themselves as holding their connexion with these congregations by a very precarious tenure. A voluntary contribution, except in a large town, is as uncertain as the wind, and a chameleon only can expect to derive a permanent support from this source."

Although the above may be regarded as very impartial testimonies, we annex the direct opinion of a Dissenter upon the workings of the same system:—

"the support of the clergy is one of those matters which from the very peculiar conditions that attach to it, is more safely and effectively provided for by a public and inviolable impost, than by the capricious liberality of a portion of the people. Thus thinking, the country taxes itself for the maintenance of religion; and, far from grudging a liberal support to its best friends and worthiest servants, it sees that its own highest welfare is involved in the comfort and dependance of those who are at once to teach, and to enforce, morality. The clergy, tranquil in heart, and secured of a modest and reasonable competency, and protected, each in his private sphere, against the insolence of individuals; though not exempted from the salutary operation of public opinion, exercise their functions on the basis of the motives proper to it; and at least, are free from any temptation to work upon the credulity of the people, or to prevent religion to sinister ends. "A degree of intelligence, and of steady consistent principle, such as has never yet belonged to any Christian people, must have become prevalent, and