

At the Paris Exhibition, 400,000 Gospels were given away.

The Rectorial System in New Brunswick.

A paper read before the Fredericton Church Club, March 11th, 1901. By C. E. A. Simonds, B.A., B.C.L., Registrar of the diocese of Fredericton; paper, 25c. The object of this pamphlet is two-fold: (1) To treat of the status of rectors in the province of New Brunswick, of their appointment to and tenure of office, and their rights and liabilities in connection with glebes and other Church properties. (2) To examine the practical working of the present system and to offer suggestions looking to reform. These considerations have led Mr. Simonds to review, from both the historical and legal side, the origin of the system in England, and its adaptation in this country. As a consequence, we have in short compass an interesting sketch tending to show the necessity for some reform of the present system and indicating ways in which reform may be attained. On page 24 we read: "The little case brought out the humiliating helplessness of an ecclesiastical system. Neither the Bishop, the Synod, nor the parishioners, nor all combined, can remove a rector from office." Here is a burning question, and the suggested solutions will interest others than those in New Brunswick. Perhaps of still greater importance is the question of patronage; for prevention is better than cure. If we read the signs of the times aright, this question is likely to become increasingly prominent in the diocese of Toronto. We can heartily recommend this pamphlet as a useful contribution to a live and important subject. Copies of the same can be had at the Publishers' Syndicate Book Store, Toronto.

Government Timber Sale.

It will be seen by the advertising columns, that the Government of Ontario proposes holding a timber sale by public auction on the 17th September next. Some of the berths are those which were intended to be sold on the 15th March last, but were withdrawn as the prevalence of smallpox prevented prospective buyers from examining and estimating. Several townships in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie are also offered. These townships have been surveyed for a great many years, but being inaccessible, were not required for settlement. Now, owing to the good land in the vicinity of Sault Ste. Marie being all taken up, and the construction of the Algoma Central Railway giving miners and settlers easy access to these townships, a number are going in, and the timber is exposed to danger from fire. It is, therefore, considered expedient to dispose of the pine timber, so that the townships can be thrown open for sale or settlement, and that the province may get the benefit of the value of the timber.

The Bible.

How comes it that this little volume, composed by humble men in a rude age, when art and science were but in their childhood, has exerted more influence on the human mind and on the social system than all other

books put together? Whence comes it that this book has achieved such marvellous changes in the opinions of mankind, has banished idol worship, exalted the conditions of women, raised the standard of public morality, created for families that blessed thing, a Christian home, and caused its other triumph by causing benevolent institutions, open and expansive, to spring up as with the wand of enchantment? What sort of a book is this, that even the wind and waves of human passion obey it? What other engine of social improvement has operated so long and lost none of its virtue? Since it appeared many boasted plans of amelioration have been tried, and failed; many codes of jurisprudence have arisen and run their course and expired. Empire after empire has been launched on the tide of time, and gone down and expired. But this book is still going about and doing good, leavening society, with its holy principles, cheering the sorrowful with consolation, strengthening the tempted, encouraging the penitent, calming the troubled spirit, and soothing the pillow of death. Can such a book be the offspring of human genius? Does not the vastness of its effects demonstrate the excellency of the power to be of God. Dr. McCulloch in Southern Churchman.

The Daisy.

A correspondent of the Athenaeum stated recently that our old English daisy was succeeding the California, and adding an additional beauty to the lawns of that land of flowers. Another, on seeing this, writing from Bathampton, says: It is interesting to learn from your correspondent, C. J. G., that our English daisy is making a home in California. Climate will probably prevent it from doing the same in the Eastern States. During the extreme winter of 1894-95, our lawn was swept bare of snow in one patch, that the birds might be fed there. Grass and daisies alike appeared to perish in that patch, while, when the thaw came, the rest of the lawn emerged green and alive. In time, however, the grass sprang again from the roots—the daisies never. For some years there grew no daisy plants on that spot. If they could be thus exterminated here in Somersetshire, they would surely not survive the frosts of the Atlantic States. Thirty-five years ago, the writer had some English daisies here, which flourished one season in the grass round the old-fashioned pump. A few survived to the next season, but none the third. In connection with our wild flowers, a friend who has a garden in the South of England would gladly try the trillium, an ideal Easter flower, but has been unable to procure any seeds or roots. Can any correspondent assist him, or give any advice as to the result of previous trials of this lovely wild flower?

A Modern English Bishop.

A modern English Bishop and his work, as condensed from the Church Times: The work of a modern Bishop is of the most onerous description, the calls upon his time are constant and incessant, the burden of correspondence is overwhelming. The latter

may be instanced by the fact that the late Dr. Creighton, Bishop of London, received twenty thousand letters annually. Then there is frequent travelling, tedious attendances at diocesan committees, which the Bishop, as chairman, has often to steer with careful thought; to say nothing of being present at gatherings of societies which cannot be neglected, not to mention the characteristic duties of a Bishop, such as ordinations and confirmations, and that which comes upon him daily, the care of all the churches. A really conscientious Bishop will feel that he can seldom be seen out of his own diocese, for there alone the work is generally enough to crush a giant down, and if any man needs the bestowal of strength that is supernatural, surely that man is a Bishop of the Church of England. Every now and then the curtain is lifted up, and the world outside is permitted to see the daily doings of the Bishop. Sometimes the chief engagements of a Bishop are catalogued in his monthly journal of the diocese. The Bishop of Wakefield's statement proves what splendid results may accrue to a diocese from the spirituality of its Bishop. "A light that is set on a hill cannot be hid." The Archbishop of Canterbury's garden party at Lambeth Palace has had to be put off, in consequence of Canterbury being still in mourning, and one of the provincial journals described this annual party as "one of the most brilliantly fashionable gatherings of the season." Such an occasion, however harmless in itself, is in no way a factor of spirituality in the diocese, nor can we think that it helps it at all. The spirit of diocesan unity is promoted by, more or less, the saintly character of its Bishop, to which, like the light on a hill, both laity and clergy may look up. The average layman does, no doubt, appreciate business-like qualities in a Bishop or priest, and if it were a sine qua non that every priest were required to have some period of business-training before his ordination, we should see less of that foolish impracticality which so often characterizes the parson. Scholarship, too, is a great thing, and clergy and laity are both glad to look up to it; but these things, necessary as they are, can only occupy a secondary position after all. The unit of the diocese is the spirituality of the Bishop.

A Typical American Mission Parish.

The Rev. Herbert E. Bowers, D.D., LL.D., rector of the Church of the Holy Innocents, St. Louis, Missouri, in his annual report, says some good things which may be of interest to our Canadian clergy: (1) We have not a rich person in our parish, so we have to go to God for all the money we need. (2) We do not and will not contract a dollar of debt without we have the dollar in hand. (3) The stipend of the rector is always paid promptly on the first day of every month. (4) This parish has never failed to meet every assessment levied on it. (5) Our Sunday school is the largest in the city of St. Louis in proportion to the size of the parish. We have 11 teachers and 150 scholars. (6) Our Bible Class for boys numbers 13. (7) Our Altar Guild consists of 24 young ladies.