

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

The *Living Church* says: Of all dogmatists the scientific dogmatist is the most dogmatic. He is as dogmatic in condemning dogmas as he is in asserting the infallible truth of every new hypothesis in natural science.

ON the same subject, Dr. Fulton tells us that: "We hear much of the conflict between science and religion. That there unfortunately is and has been very much of conflict between scientific men and religious men is unquestionably true, but nothing which the researches of scientific men have proved to be true does even so much as touch the utmost verge of the Catholic Faith. Briefly stated, the whole religious question involved in the vague doctrine of evolution is this; How does God create? On that question the Catholic Faith says nothing. It simply declares that God is, and that He is the maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible."

AND Bishop Whipple says:—"Take away the gospel and what a mockery is human philosophy. I once met a thoughtful scholar who told me that for years he had read every book which assailed the religion of Jesus Christ. He said he could have become an infidel if it had not been for three things. First, I am a man. I am going somewhere. I have read all that they can tell me. There is not one solitary ray of light upon all the darkness. They shall not take away the only guide and leave me stone blind. Secondly, I had a mother. I saw her go down into the dark valley where I am going, and she leaned on an unseen arm, as the child goes to sleep on the breast of a mother. I knew that was not a dream. Thirdly, he said, with tears in his eyes, "I have three motherless daughters. They have no protection but myself. I would rather kill them than leave them in this sinful world if you would blot out from it all the teachings of the gospel."

A writer in last month's *Contemporary Review*, says:—"It is sufficiently remarkable in this age of scepticism, that our two indisputably most eminent poets, and precisely those most eminent for intellectual power, should be on the side of faith, and moreover of Christian faith, though claiming liberty to interpret the articles of that faith for themselves.

A CANADIAN correspondent asks for information regarding the number of persons attached to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States, and whether the 375,000 that is given in the census represents the strength of the Church in this country. The figures given in the census represent only the number of communicants. The baptized membership of the church in this country is certainly ten times as great. We think the Church population of the United States may safely be estimated as exceeding three millions.

Church Bells says:—"The late Governor-General of Canada has been delivering several lectures or addresses on the subject of the Dominion. He speaks very highly of the country as a field for emigration, and assures us that the cold, though extreme, is not felt so much as in England. He tells us that good land is to be had at a ridiculous low price, and that the sum of a hundred pounds can set a man up in a small farm, while every labourer and artisan can readily find employment. Surely the eyes of many a burdened father, or strong and ardent youth, may well sparkle with hope as they gaze fixedly across the waves on the fair land of promise not more than ten days distant from the overgrown English metropolis.

THE Montreal *Witness* favors "ten-minute" sermons. Newman Hall once said, "If you want me to speak a quarter of an hour, give me a week's notice, but if you want me to talk as long as I like call on me at any moment." Whether "ten minutes" will come to be recognized as the appropriate length for Sunday discourses is doubtful, but short sermons must become more and more the fashion if the clergy are to have hearers.

OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

THE sum required for the creation of the See of Southwell has been subscribed and Bishops Wordsworth and Maclagan urge that the faithful should besiege heaven for a wise appointment.

ONE sometimes comes across some curious things in newspapers; but it is some time since we saw anything more curious than the following passage which we quote from a local paper's report of the funeral of the mayor of a small town in the south of England. Describing the service at the graveside, the reporter wrote in his most pathetic and touching style:—"The service was continued by the rector, many tears falling during the solemn ceremony. The words of the officiating minister were, as it were, wafted heavenwards, the wind blowing very strong at the time." It is a pity the wind did not blow hard enough to waft away this scribe in the opposite direction.

Among the list of gentlemen whom the Lord Chancellor has just appointed Queen's Counsel is the name of Dr. Walter Phillimore, Chancellor of Lincoln.

THE chaplain of the proposed English Church in Berlin says the cost of building and endowing the church is estimated at £10,000; of this about £8,500 have already been collected, leaving the sum of £1,500 still needed for the completion of the work.

THE Rev. Sydney Linton, vicar of St. Philips, Heigham, Norwich, will shortly leave that city, having accepted an appointment as first Bishop of a new diocese in New South Wales.

THE Rev. W. J. Lawrence, rector of the Cathedral Church, at St. Alban's has been appointed Archdeacon of St. Alban's.

THE Bishop of Peterborough has requested that a public thanksgiving may be offered in all churches of the diocese for his complete restoration to health.

THE Bishops of Lincoln and Lichfield have issued a statement announcing that a sufficient sum has been now invested in approved securities to produce, together with the contributions from their own bishoprics, the minimum annual endowment required by the Act of Parliament of 1878 for the foundation of the new See of Southwell.

THERE were one thousand communicants at the five celebrations at St. Mary Abbott's Parish Church, Kensington, on Christmas Day.

A CIVIL List pension of £100 has been conferred upon the Rev. C. Cuthbert Southey, the only son of the poet, and the author of a *Life of his Father*, published in 1850.

THE Prayer Book Revision Society have decided to take steps to bring the matter of Liturgical revision before Parliament.

THE Jewish Refugees' Aid Society, of which the Earl of Aberdeen is president, has purchased 5,000 acres of land, about six hours' journey from Jerusalem, on which forty Jewish families are to be settled. It is stated that a rich Jewish firm intends to buy some thousands of acres in the plain between Joppa and Jerusalem, also for Jewish colonization.

TIME brings about strange reverses. Voltaire's house is now used by the Geneva Bible Society as a repository for Bibles. The British Bible Society's house in Earl-street, Blackfriars, London, stands where, in 1378, the Council forbade Wicliffe issuing portions of the Scripture, and when he uttered the words, "The truth shall prevail;" and the Religious Tract Society's premises are where Bibles were publicly burned.

Nearly half a century ago a sum of money was collected by the late Rev. F. B. Gourrier to build an English Protestant Church in Paris. The money has never been expended, but has accumulated to £6,000. The authority of the Chancery Division has now been sought to lay out this money in the erection of a church in Paris wherein the Church of England service in the French language should be performed. Canon Cazenove interposed with a contention that the service should be in part English, and in part French; but Mr. Justice Chitty on Tuesday week decided against this view, and sanctioned the plan proposed by the trustee.

Book Notices, Reviews, &c.

Received from the publishers, A. & W. MacKinlay, Halifax, an English Grammar for schools, with outlines of introductory lessons for oral teaching, a complete system of graduated exercises in Etymology, Analysis and Syntax, prescribed by the Council of Public Instruction for use in the Public Schools of Nova Scotia.

"Thoughts on the Lord's Prayer," by the Rev. Francis Washburn. New York, Thos. Whitaker; Halifax, McGregor & Knight. Price 75c.

The contents of this little book comprise a series of meditations, in eight chapters, on the subject of prayer, based chiefly on the Lord's Prayer, and will be found helpful to the Christian reader.

"The Increase of Immorality and the Abeyance of Church Discipline," by J. B. Sweet, M. A., Vicar of Orterton, Devon. London, Joseph Masters. Price eighteen pence.

We are indebted to the author for this really important pamphlet, addressed *ad clerum et fideles*, and containing much significant matter upon a subject which deeply concerns the Church at large. The lack of discipline in the Church has been felt by all who desire her welfare to be a great drawback and an unfortunate hindrance to the promotion of true religion and virtue. And Mr. Sweet's vigorous treatment of the important question will help to attract increased attention to it. It ought to be widely read.

"The Divine Authority for the Table of Prohibited Degrees." A Scriptural inquiry. Being a letter in answer to a friend by Joseph F. Phelps, St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, Precentor of the Cathedral Church of St. John the Baptist, St. John's, Newfoundland. Rivingtons, London. Price one shilling.

This is a timely and highly instructive pamphlet upon a question which is still, notwithstanding all that has been said upon it, but little understood by the laity as well as by many of the clergy. We venture to say that after the perusal of Mr. Phelps' admirable little work, the reader will be more definitely persuaded of the Divine laws embraced in the Table of Prohibited Degrees. We hope our Canadian Society will circulate it.

"Electra," a Belles Lettres monthly for young people, edited by Annie E. Wilson and Isabella M. Leybirt, and published at Louisville, Kentucky. The January number of this very excellent magazine for young and grown up people has been received. It seems to be growing in public favor, and certainly deserves success by the attractiveness of its appearance and the ability of its articles, and the high aim which it keeps steadily in view.

"Belcher's Farmers' Almanack for 1884" is recognized by the people of Nova Scotia as something which they cannot well do without. It gives a large amount of information which every intelligent person ought to know. The copy before us is bound in stiff cloth, with its pages interleaved for notes.

A NEW VOLUME.—*Littell's Living Age* begins its one hundred and sixtieth volume in January. Foreign periodical literature, and especially that of England, continues to grow both in extent and importance; and *The Living Age*, which presents with satisfactory freshness and completeness the best of this literature, cannot fail to become more and more valuable to its readers. This, the first number of the new volume, is a good one with which to begin a subscription. For fifty-two numbers of sixty-four large pages each (or more than 3,300 pages a year) the subscription price (\$8) is low; while for \$10.50 the publishers offer to send any one of the American \$4.00 monthlies or weeklies with *The Living Age* for a year, both postpaid. Littell & Co., Boston, are the publishers.