

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.

THE Bishop elect of Western Missouri, Rev. E. A. Atwill, D. D., will be consecrated in September.

THE *Church Times* hears that one of the priest chaplains of the Marquis of Bute is leaving the Roman communion for the Scottish Episcopal Church.

A CIRCULAR letter from Bishop Goe has been read in all the churches of the Anglican Communion in Victoria, Australia, protesting against the Divorce Extension Act.

THE centennial Convention of the diocese of Vermont was held in St. James' Church, Arlington, on Wednesday and Thursday, June 18 and 19. The first Convention of Vermont was held here in September, 1790.

A SPLENDID new church, dedicated to All Saints, at Llanllwchaiarn, Wales, and built through the generosity of Sir Pryce Pryce-Jones of Dolerw, as a thanksgiving offering and memorial of the happy reign of the Queen, was lately consecrated by the Bishop of St. Asaph, and opened to the public for Divine worship.

FROM the bottom of the North Sea, about forty miles north-east of Lowestoft, there was trawled up last month in a net, by a Missions to Seamen helper commanding a fishing smack, a sailor's ditty-box. Amongst the private treasures in the box thus fished up there were a well-used New Testament, a prayer-book, and a hymn-book, telling a story of personal devotion to God. These have been forwarded to the office of the Missions to Seamen in London, as a memento of the work which has been going on under its flag in the North Sea for the last thirty-three years.

GERMAN PRAYER BOOK.—The Young Churchman Co., Milwaukee, U. S., have in press a new and (as nearly as possible) literal translation of the Prayer Book into the German language, by the Rev. K. E. G. Oppen. Mr. Oppen has submitted the manuscript to a number of other German scholars, all of whom indorse the translation and literary work very highly. The book includes the Lctionary, Morning and Evening Prayer, Litany, Psalter, Holy Communion, Baptismal office, etc. It will be ready for delivery about July 15th, and will sell for \$1.00, net.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S, N. Y., is to have a new parish house, large enough, and fine enough to rival anything of the kind in the city. Three lots have been bought by Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt upon which the building is to be erected at the expense of Mrs. Wm. K. Vanderbilt. The ground cost \$75,000, and is situated on East Forty second street.

One of the chief uses for which the building is intended is to give more room for the Rescue Mission for men, established on the same street about a year since. The house will contain a large chapel, spacious Sunday school rooms, a reading room and library, quarters

for the societies of the King's Daughters and similar guilds, sewing schools and all the practical benevolences of a great city parish. A large gymnasium will occupy the fourth and fifth stories. It is intended to hold daily religious meetings there as is now done at the Rescue Mission.

UNITY is not to be won by hasty compromises; we must labor on in patience and in faith, ever abounding in the fullest brotherly love and forbearance towards those who at present hold different views. All we desire is a true interpretation of God's Word free from all party bias and recrimination, and though we may have to wait long before the mists of past controversies are entirely rolled away, there are already abundant signs in all quarters of a return to the old paths, and to the acceptance of the older teachings, so soon as the errors which had once surrounded them give way to the purer faith under which they were first accepted by the Church.—*Home Reunion Society Report.*

THE Rev. Abraham Yohannan, of Persia, a late graduate of the General Theological Seminary, continues his ministrations during the summer to the Syrians in New York, under the auspices of St. Bartholomew's parish. The class of people placed in his charge from various neighboring provinces, and speaking different dialects, are owing to their business occupations, obliged to change their lodgings often from one locality to another. At this time preparations are being made for mission services to be held in the lower part of the city. They are a law-abiding, quiet and exemplary people, appreciative, and showing a real love for the Christian privileges they enjoy under the care of their sympathizing and able missionary.

THE twenty-fourth annual meeting of the Association of Lay Helpers for the Diocese of London, Eng., was held on Thursday evening, 27th June at Sion College. The Bishop of London, the President of the Association, occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members. The hon. secretary read the report, which stated that in spite of considerable losses the roll of the Association had grown during the year from 5742 to 6136, and that this growth had been steadily maintained. The Bishop gave a most interesting address as to the duties of the Christian layman. The first essential for the work was that it should be done in a religious spirit, the second was careful preparation for it, and lastly there was the frame of mind in which it should be approached, which might be summed up in two words—devotion and simplicity.

I AM convinced on historical grounds that Episcopacy is the original form of Church government. I cannot find in the records of primitive Christianity a trace of non-episcopal Churchmanship. At the first Oecumenical Council, representing the Church scattered throughout the world, we find the Church under the government of Bishops; and although some questions bearing on the constitution of the Church came under discussion, there was not a whisper

of complaint that a revolution had silently taken place—namely, the substitution of Episcopacy for Presbyterianism or any form of ecclesiastical polity. Surely that is conclusive proof that Episcopacy was down to that time the universally recognised form of the Christian Ministry. The Council of Nicœa had evidently never heard either of Presbyterianism, Congregationalism, or Papalism.—*Canon McCall.*

THE Bishops of Melbourne and Ballarat (Australia) have acted rightly in prohibiting their clergy from re-marrying persons who have been divorced under the new Victorian Divorce Act. The Act is not a just one, as it unequally affects the two sexes. Cruelty, drunkenness, and desertion for three years are now adequate to sever the marriage tie in Victoria. In these circumstances the Bishops have taken the firm stand which we have indicated, and there will be no Churchmen, at any rate, who will doubt the propriety of the course they have adopted, and which has, we are glad to say, been also resolved upon by the Presbyterian body in Victoria. The violation of the sanctity of the marriage state, and the disruption of home life which such a law would cause, would tend to demoralise and degrade domestic life. The Act is contrary to God's laws, it despises Christ's plain commands on the subject. It enables a scoundrel or a drunkard to impose his villainy, or drunkenness, upon some innocent woman. The percentage of divorce in some of the American States reveals how dangerous it is for the laws of a country to permit any loosening of the marriage tie. There, warned by the evils of the system, they are striving to level up; in Victoria they are working in a contrary direction. The result will be, if the Act should not be rescinded, that the marriage bond in that colony will resolve itself into a temporary contract which can be severed at will; all of which, it is unnecessary to add, is contrary to the teaching and spirit of Christianity, as well as certainly destructive to the moral fibre and social condition of a people.—*Church Bells.*

THE S. P. C. K., LONDON.—The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge is, as all the Church knows, a wealthy corporation, but if it is, it employs its wealth well. Its great business is the production and circulation of sound religious literature. At the general meeting held last week the annual report of the Foreign Translation Committee was read. There is not a region in the mission field of the Church of England where the beneficial influence of the society's vernacular work is not felt. Workers among the Indians in the remote dioceses of North-West America look to the society for a continual supply of Christian literature in the Cree, Blackfoot, Eskimo, and other languages; while the opening up of the "Dark Continent" leads to a constant demand for grammars, dictionaries, reading books, Catechisms, Prayer Books, &c., in the numerous languages of the Africa Mission-field. Egypt and Syria, India, Barmah, and China, Japan, and the Islands of the Pacific, and even the distant and inhospitable Tierra del Fuego, depend largely upon the society for Christian publications in the