

readers may be assured, that we have no intention of trying to please everybody. There are some unreasonable beings whom none can satisfy. They resemble the English soldier who, when being flogged, kept crying out "Too high! too low!" and at last so enraged the Irish drummer as to force him to exclaim with over-much forcibleness: "Strike high, strike low, there's no pleasing ye anyway. I'll flog to please myself." We intend to edit *The Church Press* so as to please our own consciences, and to help the cause of the Church, as far as lies in our power. If in so doing we tread upon this man's or that woman's corns, we cannot help it. Corns are abnormal excrescences, and their owners must suffer accordingly. We are not afraid of hurting those whose toes are in a normal condition.

LONDON CHARITIES.—The total income for the London charities for 1884 was about £4,500,000. Of this sum about £2,000,000 were contributed to church and chapel building funds, missionary, tract, Bible, and book societies. Commenting upon this amount, the *London Times* speaks of it as being more than twice the revenue of the Swiss Confederation, greater than that of Sweden and Denmark, and nearly as much as Portugal, Belgium and the Netherlands.

The *Church Standard* says:

Leaving out the name, and thus taking away any special application, we give the following direction, which ought to be observed wherever "Seats Free" is the law:—

"We respectfully and most earnestly urge all persons attending — Church to absolutely refuse to pass in front of persons who are in the pews. If they will not move up, go to some other pew, or stand up in the aisle until room is made, and you can have a seat without climbing over anyone. There are some intolerable nuisances in this world that have got to be righted, and this is one."

Editorial Notes.

Our able contemporary, the *London Guardian*, recently had a long and interesting article on "The Secular Uses of Lent," which it epitomizes under the two heads of "Frugality" and "Thoughtfulness," or in other words, "Plain Living" and "High Thinking." It reminded us of a remark made to us many years ago by an eminent American physician, to the effect that, although he was not a Churchman, he was constrained, as a man, and especially as a medical man, to admire many things in the Church's system which had a direct tendency to promote the physical as well as the mental and spiritual welfare of her members. There is no doubt that the annual Lenten experience of a plain diet has an important bearing on personal health. The unanimous testimony of medical practitioners is to the effect that over-feeding is the cause of a large proportion of the bodily disorders that come under their observation. When we add to this the unquestionable evils that result from a long-continued luxuriousness of diet, we shall be led no less to appreciate the physical benefits which we may all derive from a periodical abstinence from all unnecessary pleasures of the table.

"But," as our contemporary observes, "an occasional retreat along the paths of plain living could not be urged with much earnestness if such paths did not lead to the realm of high thinking." That they do so lead is a fact which it needs no professional witness to establish. Any one who has ever attempted to buckle down to real mental work after a full meal on rich and dainty viands knows the hopelessness of the task. Many an essay, and many a sermon, have been spoiled by

too hearty a dinner. But when Lent is allowed to do its salutary work, there is no afternoon work, in school, or parish, or office, or workshop, done blunderingly or confusedly because of drowsy eyes and blinded minds. There is no after dinner torpor which renders the effort to share in conversation irksome and abortive. There are no evening hours unnecessarily lost by reason of sleepiness and dulness. High thinking takes the place of wandering thoughts, and becomes the parent of high and noble deeds.

Thus the Christian Church, by her annual Lenten Fast, not only guides her children into regions of unwonted spirituality, but also braces and strengthens both body and mind for a better discharge of the secular duties of life, and thus proves herself to be a reliable guide for the things of this life as well as of that which is to come.

Earl Granville's *ultimatum* to the Russian Government on the subject of the threatened encroachments of the latter power on the territory of Afghanistan, forms a refreshing contrast to the excessively bland and conciliatory style which generally characterizes that amiable nobleman's diplomatic correspondence. It looks very much as if the Gladstone Ministry has at last awakened to the truth of the late Mr. Roebuck's axiom, that "England, to be respected, must be feared." They have received a sharp lesson in the result of the recent vote of censure, but if they can show, even at this late hour, that the honor of the nation is safe in their keeping, they may yet regain much of the public confidence which they have lost.

We heartily join in the general chorus of congratulations which welcomes our hardy *voyageurs* back to their native soil. In the perilous enterprise in which they have been engaged, they have proved themselves worthy comrades of the red-coats and blue-jackets of Old England, and they return to their homes with the proud consciousness that they have contributed no small share to the success of one of the most difficult undertakings that was ever attempted by an army on a foreign soil. It is a matter for gratitude, considering the multifarious dangers to which they have been exposed, that so large a proportion of the men have come back in health and safety. For the few who never shall return, we bespeak the grateful remembrance of their countrymen.

We are pleased to find a new addition to our list of Exchanges, in *The Church Record*, a monthly, published at South Port, Conn., by the Church Record Association. Its initial number bears date 12th February. Its "Salutatory," addressed to the Bishop, clergy and laity of Connecticut, sets forth its principles as embodied in the motto, "*Pro Christo et Ecclesia*." Working with these objects in view, we heartily wish the *Record* all success.

Book Notices, Reviews, &c.

LITTELL'S LIVING AGE. The numbers of *The Living Age* for the weeks ending February 14th and 21st, contain Prince Bismarck, *London Quarterly*; Sydney Smith, *British Quarterly*; English Character and Manners as Portrayed by Anthony Trollope, *Westminster*; Cæsarism, *Nineteenth Century*; Dr. Johnson, *Contemporary*; Della Crusca and Anna Matilda: an Episode in English Literature, *National Review*; The Summer Palace, Peking, *Belgravia*; Whitby, *Good Words*; The Religion of Hamlet, *Month*; Outside

London, *Chambers' Coptic Monasteries in the Eighteenth Century, All the Year Round*; "Snow Bucking" in the Rocky Mountains, *Longmans*; Silence is Gold, *Spectator*; with instalments of "A House Divided Against Itself," "Within his Danger" a Tale from the Chinese, and "A Hard Day's Work," and Poetry.

REVELATION, UNIVERSAL AND SPECIAL: by the Rev. William W. Olssen, S. T. D., Professor of Greek and Hebrew in St. Stephen's College, New York. T. Whitaker, New York:—

This very able and original work is designed by the author to meet the case of those whom the old arguments for the inspiration and authority of the Bible fail to satisfy in view of the discoveries of modern science, and the objections of modern thought. We think that the author underrates the force of the old methods of establishing the truth of Divine Revelation, and consequently, magnifies the importance of his own work, and we very much doubt whether his argument clever and well-presented as it is, would have much effect on a mind whom the old Christian apologists failed to convince. As a *supplementary* thesis, however, it is valuable, and well adapted to confirm the faith which is already built on the external and internal evidences of the truth of Holy Writ.

THE CHURCH ECLECTIC: E. & J. B. Young & Co., and James Pott & Co., New York.

The March number of this excellent and ever welcome monthly opens with a review of Drummond's "Natural Law in the Spiritual World," in which a note of warning, not unnecessary, we fear, is sounded as to the uncertain if not dangerous tendency of the reasoning contained in this book. The writer says in opening: "The author is no doubt a sincere Christian, but he is also an ardent devotee of science, and has fallen into the delusion that the scepticism of men of science can be removed by proving that the principles of Christianity and of physical science are identical. This extreme devotion to science leads the author into a distinctly pronounced rationalism." There is also the usual number of selections, all of interest, among which we note: "The Revision of the Book of Common Prayer," "Anglican Sisterhoods—Harriett Monsell," by Rev. T. Carter; "Vaticanism," from Miss Mansett's analysis of Father Curci's work; "Evangelizing the Masses," from *Church Times*; and portions of a paper by Mr. G. A. Spottiswoode, read at a meeting of Church workers at Croydon, and entitled, "Home Union and Home Dis-union."

THE ENGLISH ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE: Macmillan & Co., 112 Fourth Avenue, New York. \$1.75 per annum, 15c. each.

The March number of this beautiful magazine, early to hand, is, according to our judgment, the best yet. It opens with extracts from the Diary of Princes Edward and George of Wales, in reference to their stay in West and South Australia, accompanied by an engraving, representing their descent into a coal mine, and this is followed by a Study upon Primroses and Cowslips, by Grant Allen, illustrated by a number of really charming cuts by Ryland. The wonder is how so profusely illustrated a magazine, and one with so much valuable information can be furnished at so low a price.

THE PULPIT OF TO-DAY.

The February number of *The Pulpit of To-day* contains, amongst other good things, sermons by Canon Liddon on "Mysteries in Religion," Canon Farrar on "Spirituality," Henry Ward Beecher on "The Natural and the Spiritual," and "The Use and Abuse of Praise." Dr. Joseph Parker continues his expositions in the book of Genesis, and Prof. E. Johnson contributes one of his characteristic studies. One dollar a year; single numbers, ten cents. A. E. Rose, publisher, Westfield, N. Y.