

# The Church Guardian.

"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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One Dollar a Year.

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DR. MULLER, of Geneva, estimates that there are in the world no less than 250,000 different species of plants.

THERE are invested in the flower trade in New York and vicinity \$10,000,000. The spring trade begins about the 1st of April, and continues to the 1st of June, and not less than \$2,000,000 are spent for flowers in New York and Brooklyn during that period.

IN Ireland a religious census prevails, from which we gather the following results: Roman Catholics, 3,951,888; Episcopalians, 635,670; Presbyterians, 485,503; the rest being divided chiefly between Methodists, Baptists and Congregationalists, except 1144, who declined to avow their religious belief.

IRELAND can also name a Lord Chancellor who has been a Sunday-school teacher. Sir Joseph Napier acted as such for many years, and after having been Chancellor gave several courses of lectures on *Bulwer's Analogy* to the Young Men's Christian Association of the Irish Church. It may be added that Mr. Justice Lawson also taught in a Sunday-school for years.

THIS year the emigration from Sweden to America will reach 70,000, which is about one-sixtieth of the entire population. The movement toward the land of liberty and enterprise, under the lead of the Star of Empire, has been general for a year or two all along the line. During the six months ending June 30, the number of emigrants arriving in New York was 241,498.

THE exertions for the settlement of the Greek question have been crowned by a satisfactory solution of the dispute about the frontier. The evacuation of the Turkish territory is to be made gradually, and to be completed in five months. The Hellenic Kingdom receives an accession of 5,000 square miles, which is half as much as its present territory, and two thirds of what was suggested at Berlin.

THE year 1887 will be the Centennial year of the British Colonial Episcopate. In the year 1787 the first Bishop ever consecrated for a Colonial Diocese, Dr. Chas. Inglis, was consecrated Bishop of Nova Scotia. Since then the growth and extension of the Church of England in the Colonies has been very remarkable, there being now no less than 70 Bishops laboring in as many Dioceses in the wide Colonial Empire of Great Britain.

UNDERGROUND telegraph wires in Germany, after five years' use, have cost nothing for repairs, and probably will not for some years to come. There are 8,000 miles of such wires in operation. Seven or more insulated conductors, with a coil of moist hemp, are surrounded by a sheath of iron wire, and this is again covered with a layer of hemp yarn impregnated with a protecting compound; they are laid in trenches three feet deep and covered up.

A JEW, acting on behalf of 6,000 of his persecuted co-religionists in Russia, having applied to the Spanish representative in Constantinople, asking whether protection would be afforded them by Spain, and the question having been referred to Madrid, the Ministers, after consulting with the King, have telegraphed back that all Jews desirous of coming to Spain would find the protection they sought in the country in which dwelt so many of their ancestors.

DEAN HOWSON, of Chester, is authority for the statement, that the revised translation of the New Testament shows that the passage in 1 Timothy iii. 11, does not mean that in the ancient Church the word "Deaconess" signifies merely the wife of a Deacon, but a member of a separate organization of woman Deacons. He thinks that if this passage had been read as it now will be, the English people would not so long have allowed that ancient institution of the Church to remain dormant.

WE see it stated that a son of one of the bishops of the Church, who lost everything in the late war but his manhood, at its expiration, seeing one of his father's servants driving a dray, asked him if he knew where he could get a dray for himself. The servant said he had an old one which he could give him. The bishop was accepted, and, his cavalry horse changed to a draught horse, the bishop's son began to coachwood. Was he not surprised to learn that he had bought the dray of a coachman, and was surprised to find that the coachman was the son of his original instructor.

THE death is announced of the Duc de Cambacerès, son of Napoleon's general, and himself page to Napoleon. He was wounded at Waterloo, being then seventeen years of age, and was a Senator and Master of the Ceremonies under the Second Empire.

SOME blocks of stone recently uncovered at Elberfeld, in Germany, contained portions of a fossil tree of the Arancanites family. The rock belonged to the upper Devonian, and it proves that there must have been a terrestrial flora long before the bogs were formed which give us our coal seams.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Herald* declares his belief that there is not in existence any sane human being who is utterly without belief in a Supreme Being. He says that all the nations of the earth have some idea of an omnipotent, invisible being to whom they in some way pay adoration. Col. Ingersoll rages against Christianity, and vehemently declares his infidelity; but he is satisfied that it is not possible for the professed atheist to avoid perceiving in the wonderful things in nature the necessity of a Creator to produce them.

MISS MARGARETTA SCOTT has sailed for Liberia on the bark "Montevia," for the purpose of having a seminary built there for the education of young girls. Building materials worth \$5,000, which were given by persons in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore, were stowed in the vessel. A charter for the institution has been secured from the State of Maryland, and also an annual endowment of \$5,000. The institution will be called All Saint's Hall. The government of Liberia has given two hundred acres of land to the seminary.

A PRIVATE visit was paid to the English Channel tunnel experimental works by Sir Edward Watkin and a large party of scientific and other gentlemen interested in the operations. Satisfactory progress was found to have been made with the boring operations since the last visit, the heading having been advanced to a total length of upwards of half a mile. The tunnel is kept perfectly free from any accumulation of water by the pumps. There is no alteration in the nature of the strata. The work at the new shaft at Shakespeare's cliff promises to be even more successful.

DR. FRANKLIN CARTER, late professor of German in Yale College, in his inaugural address as President of Williams at the last commencement, pleaded earnestly for the study of the Hebrew theocracy in the college course. The great reason for the study of Greek and Latin, he thought, was that through it the student gains possession of the great ideas which shaped the civilization of the Greeks and of the Romans. As the moral ideas of the Hebrews are worth more to the world than the constructive ideas of the Greeks and Romans, so, he argued, are they more worthy of study in our colleges.

BISHOP GREEN, in his recent convention address said:—"Reaching Rolling Fork by way of Vicksburg, I remained three days in sight of the appointed place of worship, but, on account of a continuous rain and an inconceivable depth of mud, neither preacher nor people were able to reach it." On the 5th of the following December, so incessant was the rain that there could be no service in the church at Diamond Place. The same was true on the 7th at Grand Gulf, the church being surrounded by water. Bishop Green is well on to fourscore years, but only desists from abundant labors when urged by imperative necessity.

IN a recent discourse, the Rev. F. J. C. Moran made a statement respecting the work accomplished during the first year of his rectorship of the English Church, Rue d'Aguesseau, Paris. He said:—

"In all our material work we can say progress has been made. Our attendants at the Holy Communion have been in the year 5,521. Our evening service has more than trebled in attendance. Our daily services, 626 in number, have been attended by 3,216 persons; out of the 626 services at which the clergy have attended, 476 services have been held, and on 150 occasions there has been no congregation. Our Mission service at Auteuil has been well attended every Sunday morning. The afternoon service at the Batignolles has been closed, and a new service opened at 58 Rue Madame, in the Luxembourg quarter. At Montmartre the service has been continued as before. Our three Sunday schools are well attended, and in active operation."

GIVING TO GOD IS AN EDUCATION.—It is progressing in Ireland. There is room for improvement nevertheless. From the annual statement of accounts of the comfortable parish of Seagoe, in the Diocese of Drogheda, we gather that two-thirds of families professing to belong to the Church of Ireland do not contribute to any fund by which the public ministrations of the means of grace, the instruction of the young, or the general education of its members are perpetuated. The exact figures are, 250 families who maintain the parish ministrations for the whole 704 families belonging to the Church. These 250 families do their duty very fairly, as we find that the parochial accounts for the year amount to £1,075 13s. 1d.—*Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette*.

THE French Republic has certainly achieved a financial success. The expiring Parliament has remitted over \$55,000,000 annually of taxes, has redeemed \$200,000,000 of national debt, devoted \$300,000,000 to be expended in ten years—to public works, which is \$8,000,000 more than was spent per annum by the "Empire" under Louis Napoleon; and closes up its accounts with a surplus of \$10,000,000. It might have been added to this that it has appropriated \$4,000,000 for the relief of the famine-stricken people. These figures speak volumes for the vitality and resources of the nation, and will do much to attach the people to their present form of government.

IT is believed in well informed quarters, says the *Record*, that at a late meeting of the bishops, the subject of the Revised Version of the New Testament came somewhat fully before them, with the result that certainly no encouragement was given to a departure from the authorized version of the Holy Scriptures in public worship. It is also said that a legal opinion has been taken informally by the Bishop of London, which seemed, like that contained in the Lord Chancellor's published letter to the Bishop of Lincoln, to show that the law is against any departure from the use of the authorized version in the public services of the Church of England.

M. MASPERO, the new Director of the Boulaq Museum, will publish the texts of the five recently opened pyramids of the Fifth and Sixth Dynasties. These texts may "revolutionize" many preconceived ideas on the ancient Egyptian religion. By means of pyramids opened last April at Saqqara, M. Maspero has found that not only pyramids, but groups of pyramids, in the vast field of Saqqara, Dashur and Ghizeh, are placed at certain mathematically determined relative positions and distances apart. "The pyramid fields represent a vast historical map of Egypt chronologically arranged. This symmetrical arrangement enables the student at once to determine the dynasty or any pyramid as soon as its position is known. The latter is of great importance, for it is often impossible to distinguish some of the other pyramids from mere mastaba, or from natural irregularities or undulations of the desert. If M. Maspero wishes to find a pyramid of a dynasty, he has only to take a donkey ride with a prismatic compass and the key to the system which has been disclosed by the newly opened pyramids. Next winter will probably mark an epoch in Egyptology, for M. Maspero intends to open as quickly as possible all the pyramids at Saqqara, some 60 in number, and publish their texts."

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

WE have seen lately in the newspapers a good deal about Burma, and may wish to know something about that country, and the work of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel there. Burma lies to the east of India, beyond Calcutta, the wide Bay of Bengal, separating it from the peninsula. The country along the coast and for about 200 miles inland, called British Burma, belongs to the English, but the interior is ruled over by a Burmese king, Theebaw, who has lately succeeded his father, and been so terribly cruel and bloodthirsty to his own people that it was feared he might attack the English possessions in India. Burma has its own special difficulties, some of which come from the fact that several of the races of people living there, speaking different languages, following different religions, and each having its own ways and customs. First there are the Burmese, who inhabit the coast and more civilized parts of the country along the great river. The king is one of these, so are the courtiers and the soldiers, and all

the merchants and gentry. They are a good-tempered, clever people, always full of fun, not very industrious, being fond of a "pau," or drama acted in the open air, which often goes on for hours on moonlight nights, than of work. They seem affectionate to each other and to all who are kind to them, and they pay great respect to those who have been at any time their teachers. Their clothing and houses are comfortable for that hot climate, and they have grand pagodas in which they honour their great teacher Buddha, whom they call Guadama.

AFTER these come the Karen tribes, who live in the hills by cultivating the ground. They are a much wilder race, and do not even know how to make the most of their good soil. Their way of working is to burn down the trees and grass in a part of the forest, so as to make it clearing; then, without removing the stump, they scratch rather than plough the ground, sow their seed, and reap a harvest. This goes on for three years, then the goodness of the soil is exhausted, and all the people of the village who cultivated it, move on to a fresh place. The missionaries try to help them in their everyday life, teaching them how to make the best of the fine country God has given them. The Karens are not so clever or pleasant as the Burmese, and they have great faults, especially drunkenness, but they seem to have a good deal more firmness, and when they have made up their minds that a thing is right, they hold to it. Their religion was a worship of devils, but a good many of them are Christians now; they were first taught by Dr. and Mrs. Mason, from America, and after a time they begged the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to take charge of them and oversee their native teachers. For several years the Karens had to wait, and some of them in despair, went to the Roman Catholic Missionaries for help. But for the last three years teachers have been found for them by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and five Karens have been ordained.

BESIDES these two races and a number of Indians in the towns, there are a great many Chinese in Burma, who come from their own country to do the work that the indolent Burmese neglect. Some of them have lately become Christians, and the Bishop is trying to get a Chinese teacher for them.

ALL these people have to be taught by persons who can speak their languages, and at the same time the English residents must not be neglected. There are four English and eight or nine native Clergy supported by the S. P. G., besides Chaplains for the English. The Bishop superintends the whole, and under them work Catechists and Schoolmasters, as well as several ladies supported by the Ladies' Association, and native female teachers helping them to train the women and girls. When we think of the thousands of miles over which these few workers are scattered, it does indeed seem as if we could expect very little to be done; and the Bishop says in one of his letters that the sight of the country through which he travels makes his heart sink. In one district containing 11,000 square miles, covered with large towns, there is not a single Missionary. Still something is doing. Several young Burmese are being trained under the Bishop to be Clergymen, and some have been lately ordained. A few months ago forty-two Chinese came forward asking for Baptism, and when they had been thoroughly tried their request was granted, and they were all baptized on two following Sundays. The Bishop says that when he goes to the stations far up the country he finds numbers of Christians waiting for Confirmation. One day at Rangoon, the principal seaport town, he confirmed twenty-seven Chinese, twenty-seven Burmese and fifteen Eurasians; that is, children of an English father and Burmese mother. Chinese Burmese and English were used in the service, the Bishop giving the blessing in English, after which it was translated into the language that each candidate knew best.

OF course the struggles of the young king of Burma make the missionary party very anxious. Mr. Colbeck, who is stationed at Mandalay, the king's capital, and the church and mission buildings are in a good deal of danger. The church was built by the father of the present king, and is said to be very pretentious, and is ornamented with carved wood in the Burmese style. Let us hope they will not be destroyed. But whatever may happen to them, we know that the work taught in them cannot perish, for truth comes from God himself, and he has told us that his seed can't die, the truth will abide and grow up in us, and bear fruit after many days. If we keep up our courage then, and have the Burmese Mission will live through these dark days, and prosper in the future.