

Cathedral. His subject was "The Mission of the Church."

Ninety-six persons were recently confirmed by Bishop Whitaker, of Pennsylvania, in the Church of the Covenant, Philadelphia, more than half of whom came from other religious bodies.

Mr. Elliot Stock announces for immediate publication *The Antiquity of Man from the Point of View of Religion*, by F. Hugh Capron. The work is published in answer to Mr. S. Laing's *Modern Science and Modern Thought*.

The Hawaiian Queen has lately testified her interest in the Temperance movement at Honolulu by paying the license on a coffee house, something over fifty dollars. Her total abstinence principles are proved by the banishment of all sorts of liquors from her table and her receptions.

Bishop Edward Bickersteth, of Japan, has sent home an urgent appeal for at least fifty more workers. The legitimacy and urgency of the appeal for reinforcements is, the Bishop says, emphasised by "the rapid spread of unbelief among all classes" in Japan. Nevertheless the prospects of the Church in Japan seem to be very bright.

After having "toured" the North-Western American States, and the North-West Provinces of Canada, the Dominion Roman Catholic Hierarchy have decided that the latter offer the better prospects of settlement to Canadians from the older provinces. These Roman episcopal dignitaries claim that Canada has advantages in regard to climate, cost of living, lightness of taxation, and religious tolerance.

The Rev. Dr. Miel has been invited to visit Woonsocket, R.I., at the instance of several Churchmen who desire to establish a French Church in that city, and who wish to confer with him on the subject. There is a large resident population of French Canadians in that vicinity.

Nine new languages have, during the last year, been added to the British and Foreign Bible Society's list of additions of the Scriptures. Four of these belong to Africa; of the others, one is for the West Indies, one for China, one for the New Hebrides, and two for the Russian Empire.

Religious Statistics for South Africa.—From the *Mission Field* we gather that the Dutch Reformed Church stands at the head, having some 298,000 adherents, of whom 220,000 are Europeans. The English Church stands second, with 139,000 adherents, of whom one-half return themselves as Europeans; the other half consists of Kafirs, Fingoes, and 46,000 of mixed blood. The Wesleyans and other Methodists number 109,000, of whom 22,000 are Europeans, 63,000 Kafirs and Fingoes, and 19,000 of mixed coloured blood. There are 17,000 Roman Catholics, 32,000 Presbyterians, and 66,000 Independents.

On St. John Baptist's Day the members and honorary associates of the Grand Priory of the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem in England held their annual commemoration services at the Chapel Royal, Savoy, by permission of the Queen, who is the Sovereign Head and Patron of the Order, of which his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is Grand Prior. The preacher was the Rev. Borrodale Savory, rector of St. Bartholomew the Great, one of the Chaplains of the Order.

Bishop Wilkinson, late of Truro, has gone to South Africa, taking with him the sub-dean of his late cathedral church, Mr. Bourke. According to *The Manchester Guardian*, the Bishop goes out "as a peacemaker to the South African Church, and is fully charged with the views of the Primate."

The Bishop of Shrewsbury (Sir Lovelace T. Stamer) has intimated his intended resignation, in three months hence, of the important rectory of Stoke-upon-Trent, a living he has held for thirty-four years, with the view to confining his work mainly to his episcopal duties as Suffragan of Lichfield, accepting the vicarage of St. Chad's, Shrewsbury, which will shortly be vacant by the resignation of the Rev. E. Stanley Carpenter. The rectory of Stoke-upon-Trent, valued at £1,059 net, with residence, is in the gift of the Bishop of Lichfield.

The annual clerical retreat of the diocese of Albany will be held in the cathedral during Ember week, September 21 to 24, 1892. The conductor this year will be the Rt. Rev. E. T. Churton, D.D., the Lord Bishop of Nassau. Accommodation can be provided easily for two hundred, and the name of the conductor is a sure pledge of the retreat's being full of spiritual helpfulness and instruction.

The arrangements for the thirty-second Church Congress to be held at Folkestone in the first week of October next, under the presidency of the Archbishop of Canterbury, are, we understand, in a forward state. A special building will be erected, to seat three thousand persons, in the grounds of the exhibition. The subjects have been selected for discussion, and several well known speakers have promised to address the Congress.

The Bishop of St. Asaph has just pointed out that the attendance of children at national schools in his own diocese is 19,000 against 14,000 at all other elementary schools. Nonconformity fails (the Bishop declares) to provide a resident pastorate in country districts, there being in the Diocese of St. Asaph 90 parishes out of 208 without a resident Nonconformist minister, while for 330 Methodist chapels there are only 70 pastors.

The commissaries for South African Bishops have inaugurated a combined South African Festival, to be held annually, with the object of consolidating the efforts of the smaller diocesan organizations. St. Peter's, Eaton-Square, was well filled at the Festival service recently, and Lord Nelson afterwards presided at a crowded meeting in Grosvenor Hall. All the ten dioceses of the province were represented, and the chairman was able to announce that the new diocese of Limpopo was practically an accomplished fact. Over £10,000 has been secured for its endowment. This diocese will complete the chain of Anglican bishoprics in Africa, its borders touching those of Bishop Smythies at Zambesi.

At a Council held on June 22nd, the Rev. the Master of St. John's College, Cambridge, D.D., vice-president, in the chair, the Rev. H. N. Burden, of Holy Trinity Vicarage, Shoreditch E. (late of Uffington, Algoma), was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature.

Consul Henderson, of Cadiz, relates from his own experience an anecdote which goes a little way towards illustrating the peculiar customs of the wine trade. Some time ago he visited with a friend one of the most extensive bodegas, or sherry cellars, and, amongst other samples of wine they were given to taste, were two which appeared to them to be the same wine. It was with some difficulty they could decide which they thought best—which they preferred. One of the partners then volunteered the information that one was a wine sold at £50 a butt; the other was a wine manufactured for one of the largest mail steamship companies in the world at the rate of 4d. per bottle, and retailed to their passengers at 4s. a bottle.

Bishop Montgomery, who had been asked to visit Melanesia for the purpose of discharging episcopal duties in that diocese, where, since the resignation of Bishop Selwyn, no confirmations have been held in that important mission, and at the present moment native pastors are awaiting ordination, has arranged to go to Auckland in the month of July, and to embark from that port in the "Southern Cross," proceeding first to Norfolk Island, which is the headquarters of the Mission, and from thence visiting in turn some of the New Hebrides, the Banks, Torres, Santa Cruz, and Solomon groups of islands. It is expected that the visit will take up three months. The Bishop's proposed absence from the diocese was the final reason which induced Mrs. Montgomery to take the voyage to England. The diocese, during the absence of the Bishop, will be administered by the Dean of Hobart, who has been elected by the Synod as Administrator for the next three years—that is, during the existence of the newly elected Synod.

The late Mr. David Lewis, head of the great firm of Lewis', trading at Liverpool and Manchester, has left the bulk of his large fortune in trust to be applied for the benefit of the working classes in those cities. His residuary legatee, Mr. Levy, who is virtually the trustee for its proper application, states that he has at present a sum of £200,000 ready for distribution, and that when the administration of the estate is completed there will probably be a further sum of £150,000 to be so applied. Knowing that the testator fully approved of the Peabody disposition, Mr. Levy holds that he will best fulfil his presumed intentions if this bequest be applied in a similar manner. He has, therefore, requested Mr. Forwood and Mr. Houldsworth, the present members for two of the divisions of Lancashire, to nominate six gentlemen, respectively of Liverpool and Manchester, to form a committee to undertake the application of the magnificent bequest.

Lord Brassey has given the munificent sum of £5,000 towards the provision of a block of buildings to consist of a Missions to Seamen church, an institute, a gymnasium, an adult school-room, class-

rooms and a coffee-bar, &c., for the free use of sailors and fishermen of all nationalities frequenting the port of London, which block, with four other seamen's institutes, is to cost £30,000. The plans for the main block, by Sir Arthur Blomfield, for a site in the East-end of London, were submitted to the Missions to Seamen Funds Committee, of which His Royal Highness the Duke of York is president, a few days ago. A further sum of £3,000 a year is required for the maintenance of the proposed buildings and staff. The Archbishop, the Bishop, the Bishop-Suffragan, the Archdeacon, the Rural Dean, and the Vicar are on the Funds Committee, with a number of influential laymen, including the Lord Mayor, the Prime Warden of the Fishmongers, and the leading shipowners, &c., of London. With Lord Brassey's noble gift to head the subscription list, it is hoped that the £30,000 required will soon be made up. There is not in this, the greatest seaport in the world, in connection with the national Church, a single church and institute for the sole use of seamen, though most of the larger provincial seaports are thus provided, and much immorality and drunkenness prevails, with great loss of health, character, and money, to sailors who are strangers to the port of London.

An important meeting of the Victoria Institute took place recently, when several new members were elected, including the Bishop of Limerick and the Bishop of Killaloe. Two papers were read, the first on "The Reality of Knowledge," in which the Agnostic doctrine was that "consciousness could not transcend itself, and all fancies of a knowledge that did were only dreams," and he showed that the tendency of all knowledge was to prove the untenability of this doctrine, and its insufficiency as a doctrine to meet the facts of nature. The second paper was by Count de Hulst, on "Researches in Egypt during the Past Season." After referring to the pyramid of Mejdoum, and the chamber which had been opened by Dr. Petrie for the first time after being closed for a period of nearly five thousand years, he described the pyramid as being the model for the Great Pyramid of Cheops. The tombs in the neighbourhood were many, and were of an early dynasty, and showed that architecture in those days was well developed, the fluted column, with capital and abacus being found, as well as the square column, which had been regarded as the only one known in early times; there were also evidences of two races. After describing many other interesting matters, he referred to the valuable work done in securing copies of the inscriptions, pictures, and drawings at the tombs of Benihasan before they had become destroyed. He concluded by describing the exploration conducted by Mr. Naville and himself at Heracleopolis Magna, the tombs of which had been used in the time of the eleventh and twelfth dynasties as well as in the eighteenth and nineteenth dynasties. He then described the work done at Houm el Kimam, otherwise Henassich, the ancient Hanes, where, below the remains of Coptic churches, &c., a column with palm leaf capital was found, and the remains of the ancient temple of Heracleopolis, with remains of six columns and sculptures of Ramses II., a vestibule, &c. The bases of the walls were of stone from Gebel Ahmar. An inscription in hieroglyphics two feet high showed that Ramses II. had "built this edifice in honour of his father, Harscheft (Arsaphes), the master of the two countries." On the south side of the vestibule was a seated statue of Ramses II., of colossal proportions, in red sandstone (it was broken at the waist, the inscription at the base containing a dedication to Arsaphes), a second similar statue, but broken into fragments, and a granite figure. In the discussion, Captain Petrie, who had translated and read Count de Hulst's paper, pointed out that Hanes fell before the time of Abraham, and yet the old capital reappeared as a seat of royalty many a century afterwards, when in the days of the supreme struggle with Assyria, Hebrew ambassadors went thither to beg for Egyptian aid, "His princes were at Zoan and his ambassadors came to Hanes."

Correspondence.

All Letters containing personal allusions will appear over the signature of the writer.
We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.
N. B.—If any one has a good thought, or a Christian sentiment, or has facts, or deductions from facts, useful to the Church, and to Churchmen, we would solicit their statement in brief and concise letters in this department.

The Bane of Our Church.

SIR,—In your paper of the 30th ultimo, under the heading "British and Foreign," is a significant paragraph which, with your permission, I quote: "We understand that no further appointments of vicars