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The Church Guardian

A. P. Willis
225 St. George

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.

VOL. VIII;
No. 19.

MONTREAL, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1887.

\$1.50
PER YEAR

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA.—In Melbourne, Australia, a religious "census" has recently been made, showing that on a given Sunday there was an attendance in the various churches with a capacity of 107,620, in the morning of 53,924 and in the evening 59,183. Of these, 11,041 in the morning and 11,909 in the evening were Church of England attendants, these being the largest of any one religious body. Next in order respectively are Wesleyans, Presbyterians, Romanists.

JOINT LETTER.—The Archbishops of Canterbury and York, have addressed a joint letter to the Bishops of the British Colonies and dependencies, directing their attention, and that of their clergy, to the evil effects of the drink traffic amongst the native races, and asking the Bishops to use their influence as far as possible to stem the evil.

CENTENARY IN CLOYNE CATHEDRAL.—A Special Service with Festival of Choirs was held in Cloyne Cathedral on Friday, August 12th, the centenary of the consecration of the first Bishop for the English Colonies; being one of the commemorative services of thanksgiving held on that day throughout the British Empire. Choirs from various parishes in the Diocese—Queens-town, Rushbrook, Midleton, Aghada, Corkbeg, Inch, Ballycotton and others took part. The music having been carefully practised, was most accurately rendered. The service—full choral—was intoned by Canon Warren and the Archdeacon of Cloyne. The Dean of Cork read the first Special Lesson, and Canon Wilson the second. The responses (Tallis) were fully joined in by the choirs. The hymns were Nos. 233 and 335. The services, Ebdon in C. The first anthem, "God is a Spirit" (Sterndale Bennett) was admirably rendered without accompaniment. The second anthem, "Nazareth" (Gounod), solo with unisuo chorus, was most effective. A very instructive and suitable sermon was preached on the subject of the day by the Rev. Canon Nicholson, Treasurer of the Cathedral.

YORK MINSTER.—Special Services were held in York Minster on Friday, the 12th ult., in celebration of the centenary of the Colonial Episcopate. In the morning the sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Kirkham, vicar of All Saints',

Dunedin, New Zealand; that in the evening by the Archbishop. Preaching in the Minster the Archbishop of York said that the sum subscribed annually now to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was but a feeble effort fit to be mentioned with bated breath and with something like a blush. But, on the other hand, it showed growth, and it was little enough to a nation like this to rise ten times higher. Ignorance was one of the chief hindrances in missionary matters. They wanted to kindle a missionary spirit in every place and parish, or their means would languish and their speeches be received by dull ears.

ST. PAUL'S AND WESTMINSTER.—There was a choral celebration of the Holy Communion in St. Paul's, and a sermon by the Bishop of London. The anniversary was also commemorated by a solemn service in Westminster Abbey, conducted by the Rev. F. K. Harford, who is closely connected with several leading families in the United States, through descent from an expatriated Devonshire Royalist, Colonel Tristram Coffin of Virginia. The sermon was preached by Dr. Perry, Bishop of Iowa, in the United States, who, by a happy coincidence, has just been elected Bishop of Nova Scotia. Special prayers, written by the Archbishop of Canterbury for the occasion, were used at the different services.

A TEST.—The Rector of Bury, Lancashire, has made an interesting experiment by way of testing the desire of the laity to obtain information from the clergy. Acting on the suggestion of a clerical friend, Mr. Hornby gave notice in his Church that a box would be fixed accessibly in which might be placed any texts for explanation or questions to be answered. In the space of a year he only found two suggested texts, both of which would seem to have been selected with the object of exercising the ingenuity of the preacher. Mr. Hornby's conclusion is, that either the congregation are (1) satisfied with the sermon they hear, or (2) that they take very little interest in this matter; and he believes the second to be the true answer.

FREE CHURCHES.—The percentage of Free Churches in the United States is now seventy-four and a half, as reported by the Free and Open Church Association. In the Diocese of Florida, all are free; in Connecticut only 14½ per cent., while in the Dioceses of Fond du Lac, Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Springfield (part of the State of Illinois) 95 per cent. or more are free. Nine other Dioceses have between 90 and 95 per cent. of their Churches free.

AN INFERENCE.—Canon Tristram, who has been classifying the fishes to be found in the Sea of Galilee, says that they do not belong to the Mediterranean species but to those of the great inland lakes of Africa. The inference is that the waters of the Jordan valley, in far back ages, were in direct communication with the lakes of Central Africa.

BISHOP OF OHIO.—Bishop Bedell, on the 27th ult., completed his seventieth year. He was

born at Hudson, N. Y., August 27th, 1817. His early life belongs to Philadelphia. He is now in the twenty-seventh year of his consecration, and has been for more than fourteen years sole Bishop of the Diocese of Ohio.

CONGRESS MEETING.—The Eleventh Church Congress of the P. E. Church in the United States will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, from Tuesday to Friday, October 18th to 21st. Twice the Congress has been held in the West, at Cincinnati and Detroit, and once in the South, at Richmond.

The great debate of the Congress will probably be on the "Proposal to change the name of the Church;" wherein Bishop Randolph and Dr. Phillips Brooks will be met by such champions of the change as Bishops Seymour and Thompson and Judge Prince. Another question that engages such strong debaters as Drs. Hardwood, Vibbert, Donald, Holland and Babcock, is "The historic Episcopate and Apostolic succession." Bishop Peterkin is appointed for the opening address at Holy Communion; and among the more devotional themes are, for the first evening, that of "The function and power of the Christian preacher of to-day," treated by Rev. Drs. Greer and Leonard, Bishop Harris, Rev. Prof. Lawrence and Rev. D. W. Rhodes; and that of the last evening, "Prayer Meetings," by Rev. Messrs. Glazebrook, Stoddard, A. C. A. Hall and others. Other topics of more special interest are "Higher education of women;" "Lay co-operation in Church work," and "What should be the basis of representation in the General Convention."

A WARNING.—As an illustration of the shameless prevalence of divorce, the fact may be mentioned (says *The Standard of the Cross* and *The Church of Philadelphia*), that the present writer has been called upon twice within a week to marry young people who had to be refused on account of divorce. A young man not thirty years of age had a wife that he had not heard of for a year and a-half since being divorced, and now wanted to marry again. A young girl, scarcely past twenty, arrayed in costly satin, brought her second living spouse through dark wet streets in a rainy night for the Church's sanction of union "other than God's Word doth allow." A sadder sight than that of these young people wandering about in the rain and darkness to find some one sufficiently regardless of Christian principle to soothe their guilty consciences with the legal form of marriage, it would be hard to find. These two cases occurred in the regular course of duty in a populous city parish. One of the many comments they suggest is that we have reason to be proud and thankful that our Church supports her ministry by a canon so explicit as that which covers these cases. And another comment is that clergymen cannot be too careful in making inquiry behind the civil license of marriage.

H. B. BYRON.—The Mother Superior of the Sisterhood of All Saints', Margaret St. London, died on the 3rd ult. In the world, her name was Harriet Brownlow Byron. Her work has been singularly faithful in a post of no little difficulty. With reference to the lamented death