

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.

REV. JOHN D. H. BROWNE, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR, LOCK DRAWER 29, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.
REV. EDWYN S. W. PENTREATH, ASSOCIATE EDITOR, MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK.

At the three great universities of India from 8,000 to 10,000 students are annually examined, the English language being chiefly employed. There are, including the different dialects, 549 languages in the empire, and 243 are spoken.

WITHIN a few years several free circulating libraries have been established in Japan. The one at Tokio contains 63,840 volumes of Chinese and Japanese works, 6,162 of English, and between 8,000 and 9,000 volumes in other European languages.

A CONVENTION has been concluded between Greece and France, subject to the confirmation of the French Chamber, by which France is authorized to explore and excavate the site of Delphi upon the same terms as the German excavations were carried out at Olympia.

LAST week a quantity of bees for Ontario were received from Cyprus by Messrs. Pitt and Scott, of St. Paul's-churchyard. They were let out near London for a fly, and afterwards repacked and forwarded by the Allan mail steamer *Sardinian*. A similar consignment was successfully conveyed to Canada last year.

THE sketch of the statue of Lord Beaconsfield which is to be placed in Westminster Abbey has been made and sent to the Queen for her approval. The cost of the sketch, the model, and the completed statue with pedestal, including the erection, is to be £2,000. The sum voted by Parliament for this object was £2,100.

A RARE American book was found in a collection recently sold in London. It was a copy of the Common Prayer translated into the Mohawk language for the use of the Indians and published at New York in 1715. Few copies of this edition survived the expatriation of the Mohawk tribes of Canada for aiding the British in the War of Independence.

THE *Daily News* says the Queen has presented a stained-glass window to St. Mary's, Bury St. Edmund's, in memory of Mary Tudor, daughter of Henry VII., often called "Mary, the Panch Queen," as she married first Louis XII. of France and afterwards Brandon, Duke of Suffolk. The chief episodes of her eventful history are depicted in the window.

PRINCE FREDERICK of the Netherlands, uncle to the King, expired at eleven o'clock on Thursday night at his residence near The Hague. He was in his eighty-fifth year. The deceased Prince was one of the soldiers of Waterloo. During the battle he was stationed with 18,000 men to cover the Duke of Wellington and protect Brussels in case any sudden turn that way should be made by Napoleon.

THE late Francis T. Buckland, the distinguished scientist, and who was especially an authority in pisciculture, phrased his conclusions as to the being and character of God in the following words: "To put matters very straight, I steadfastly believe that the great Creator, as indeed we are directly told, made all things perfect and very good from the beginning; perfect and very good every created thing is now found to be, and will so continue to the end of time."

A RETIRED judge, recently deceased in Massachusetts, left to the town of Northampton \$200,000 to establish a public library, on condition that no minister of religion shall have anything to do with its management. The Albany Law Journal thereupon says: "Judge Forbes has thus written himself down a particularly bigoted and short-sighted person." He needed not to exclaim with Dogberry, "Oh, that one would write me down an ass," for he had the happy faculty of being his own secretary.

ONE of the Paris Rothschilds announces his intention to bequeath to the Louvre an art collection upon which he has spent 25,000,000 francs and a large part of his life. The collection is famous among connoisseurs. He also promises to leave 1,000,000 francs with it, to meet the expense of keeping it in preservation, and pay the salaries of custodians. The reason assigned for this act is the desire to keep the collection intact, and the wish to repay France in part for its just and liberal treatment of the Jews. The Secretary of State for fine arts promises to keep the collection in a separate gallery, bearing the name of Rothschild.

A CURIOUS discovery is reported from Spain. While engaged in working the lead mines in the Province of Segovia, seventy miles northwest of Madrid, the miners found an entrance into an immense cavern in which they found upon an argillaceous deposit, and in the midst of stalagmites, 500 skeletons of men and women. Ten well-shaped and perfect skulls have been obtained, besides chipped stone and quartz implements and fragments of rude pottery.

WHEN the tide moves in all at once from the ocean, the phenomenon is called a "bore." The most perfect examples are said to be found at the mouths of the rivers Amazon, Hoogly, and Tsientang, in China. In the case of the last mentioned river, the wave plunges on like an advancing cataract four or five miles in breadth, and thirty feet high, and thus passes up the stream to a distance of eighty miles, at the rate of twenty-five miles an hour. The change from ebb to flood tide is almost simultaneous.

DR. E. W. BLYDEN, who has seen Africans in many lands, into which they have been imported, and in which they have deteriorated, says: "The manhood of the race is in the heart of Africa. There is the basis upon which the African national superstructure is to be reared." This is the conclusion toward which those who know most of Africa and the Africans are tending. Even the colonies on the coast, made up largely of Africans born in other lands, fall short of realizing the expectations of their founders.

ON the coast of Africa, west of the Bight of Benin, there is an extended lagoon. Directly behind the principal opening there was built years ago on the mainland a city designed especially as a hiding place and stronghold of the slave trade: and for a generation or two the very name of Lagos was a synonym of all the horrors of that infamous traffic. This is now called the "Liverpool of Africa," the great central emporium of the coast trade. The landmark which now guides sea-going vessels into the opening of the lagoon is the spire of a Christian Church rising gracefully above the city. The yearly exports of Lagos amount to \$2,000,000.

THE days of lazy prelates are happily gone by. Here is the work done by the Bishop of Bedford in a single day as described by *John Bull*:—"In the morning he preached in a West-end Church. Afterwards he went by steamboat to Wapping, and in the afternoon held a Confirmation in the parish church. From Wapping he went to the adjoining parish of St. George's-in-the-East, and on the steps of the church gave a very plain but forcible address to a body of working men and women who assembled to hear him. This over he took a train from Shadwell Station, in order to preach in his own church in the City."

THERE has been some trouble among the Methodist ministers now in London about the temperance question. In their great hospitality, the English hosts have arranged for vinous refreshment for the delegates in a side-room chapel. This has been a horrible scandal to the stricter members from the United States, who are also shocked at finding wine on tables wherever they are invited to dinner. The result of the council is likely to be that the eastern and western sections will part at its close, having very poor opinions of each other. The Americans know too much to suit the English, while the English know too little to suit the Americans. The English press say the American white delegates are very uncivil to the colored representatives.—*Living Church*.

Church Bells says:—"In one respect the Newcastle Congress will fall at a very opportune time for Churchmen. People are beginning to feel the necessity of drawing together more closely the bands which unite the different schools of thought within the Church. The Church Association, the English Church Union, and the Church Reform Union, if left to follow out their own idiosyncrasies, can but set up a reign of chaos and bitterness. Each, if kept within due bounds, is capable of doing a good work; and the 'limits' within which each may act is more likely to be learned at a general meeting of Churchmen, such as the Church Congress is, than in any other way. Mutual respect is more easily gained by bringing opposing forces and parties face to face than by leaving each to pursue its own course, unchecked by the presence and criticism of the other. If the Church Congress accomplished no other good than this, we are of opinion it would of itself be a distinct gain to Church institutions."

THE *Pall-Mall Gazette* says a sensation has been caused in Bristol by the discovery that a cargo of three hundred tons of human bones had been consigned to local firms of manure manufacturers. The bones were shipped at Kolosto and Constantinople, and are the remains principally of the defenders of Plevna. The hair still adheres to some of the skulls, and complete limbs are among the horrible contents of the cargo.

It is announced from Newfoundland that the steamer "Proteus," owned by Mr. James Stewart, M. P. for Greenock, arrived on Sunday from Lady Franklin Bay, having successfully landed the American Arctic Expedition on the 11th ult. The "Proteus" brings back the English Arctic mail deposited on Littleton Island in 1876. Last winter was very mild, and the ship could have penetrated farther north, there being open water as far as the eye could reach.

THE Irish Presbyterians are mustering their forces for another contest over the instrumental music question at the approaching Assembly. This is, with them, the burning question. Fresh grievances are nothing in comparison with this; the Irish land question nothing; even Irish evangelization nothing. A free fare to Dublin on the railway and free board and lodging there are promised to elders and ministers of limited means who will consent to attend and vote against instrumental music.

It is announced that Mr. Frank Wise has given £10,000 to the Bishop of Cork and £10,000 to the Roman Catholic Bishop of Cork, who are to apply the interest of these sums each year to the relief of the poor, no institution to receive aid from the same. Mr. Wise has also given £3,000 to the South Infirmary, and £2,000 each to the North Infirmary and the Cork Fever Hospital. When Mr. Wise gave £20,000 to Bishop John Gregg to aid in building St. Fin Barre's Cathedral, *Punch* recommended all rich men to "Go and do like Wise." This sage advice would well bear repetition now on this fresh instance of Mr. Wise's liberality.—*Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette*.

ACCORDING to the new memoirs of Count Kisselef, who acted as Russian Ambassador at Paris after the Crimean War, it was the Empress Eugénie who decided Napoleon III. to make war against Russia. The story, as told by Count Kisselef, is given on the authority of the Empress herself. Count Kisselef observed, "Then it is your Majesty who has been the cause of the death of 200,000 men, and of the loss of seven or eight milliards of francs?" "Yes," she answered, "indirectly; and I do not repent of it. Such perturbations are sometimes necessary in the existence of peoples. It was necessary for France to take her rightful place in Europe. She has done this by means of the alliance with England, and by that alliance she will maintain her influence at home and abroad." So runs the story.

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

SOME FIRST FRUITS FROM THE MISSION FIELD.

"Out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation."—Rev. v. 9.

I.—NAOMI SUKHLI; OR, "I WILL NEVER WORSHIP A CRUCIFIED GOD."

SHE was the wife of one of our catechists, a most earnest convert, by name of Ram Ruttan. He had received his first impressions of Divine truth from a tract which had been put into his hands on the immortality of the soul. He was for some time in the same condition as the treasurer of Candace, Queen of Ethiopia; he wished to understand the things which he read, but no Philip came to instruct him. As no one came to him, he left his house in search of the truth, and in his travels came to Allahabad, at which place our Society had then a catechist. Ram Ruttan heard him preach, and began to argue with him; but the catechist, David Batavia, finding himself unable to cope with him, gave him a letter of introduction, and sent him to Benares, to the Rev. W. Smith, my fellow-labourer, with whom he stayed for some time. Mr. Smith spoke and argued with him daily, and took him likewise to the city to attend the preaching at the different chapels or preaching places. Ram Ruttan visited me also now and then, and I found him an honest, clever and intelligent man, possessed of a considerable share of good sense, but he was too proud to humble himself and believe in a Crucified Saviour. After having stayed some time with Mr. Smith, he left him, and joined the enemies of the Lord in the city of Benares; but after a short absence he returned, stating that he could no longer

resist his conviction, and desired baptism. Mr. Smith, being convinced of his sincerity, baptized him by the name of Nathaniel. He manifested from the beginning the most genuine signs of conversion.

Having tasted how gracious the Lord is, Ram Ruttan was anxious that his wife should share in the blessing, and went therefore to fetch her. She came with three fine little boys, who were at once, at their father's request, baptized by the names of Abel, Noah, and Moses.

Sukhli was a fine, tall, good-looking woman, with a great deal of common sense and powers of mind. She was like all the other women of India at that time, quite uneducated; she could neither read nor write, and therefore went daily to the Orphan Girls' School to be instructed. Her husband was very anxious for her conversion, and prayed much for her. She listened to his instructions and Divine Service; but when her husband urged her one day to accept the love of Christ crucified, she said to him: "Do you really believe that God sent His Son from heaven to die for sinners? I shall never believe it. If we were good people I could believe that He might have sent His Son to instruct us; but for such as we are, who do not act according to that we know to be right, for such He could never send His Son to die." When he spoke to her of baptism she said, "Do I not live in Benares? And if I die I will die in the Panch Kos (that is, within ten miles of Benares), and I shall be sure of going to Heaven. I will not be a Christian; I will not be baptized"—and then told her husband plainly she would never believe in a Crucified God, and that if Christ had been God He would never have been crucified. In this state of mind she remained for some months. Her husband came to me and told me of his wife's state of mind, saying, "What shall I or can I do?" "Do as we did, Ram Ruttan," I said, "when you joined the enemies in the city, we prayed for you."

About that time typhus fever was raging in Benares; numbers died, and Ram Ruttan was also attacked. Sukhli was with him day and night, but he became daily worse. He spoke to her much about the love of Christ, told her of his prospect and happiness. When he felt his end approaching, he called for his children, laid his hands on each and blessed them. He told his wife he was happy in Jesus, and he expired in her arms.

It was a mournful funeral. Sukhli did not attend, but locked herself up. After a few days two of our Christian women visited her. They sympathized with her, but she wished to hear nothing about Jesus. About two months expired, when her eldest boy, Abel, was attacked with the same complaint, and died. We felt deeply for the poor widow. She attended the funeral, and as I pronounced the words, "earth to earth, ashes to ashes," I saw a tear steal down her brown cheek. She went home and locked herself up again. Two other of our women tried to comfort her, but she would not listen, but repeated several times, "I will never bow to a crucified God!"

A short respite was granted her, when her youngest child was taken ill. I was standing one day at the door of our prayer room, which adjoin my house. A person came across my premises, and, as she came near, I saw it was Sukhli, with something in her arms. She brought her youngest child to me, saying, "Oh, look at my child, he is dying! Let him not die: give him some medicine, make him well, or he will die also." I looked at the poor child. The features of death were already depicted on his countenance, and I said to her, "Good woman, here is human aid of no avail, no one can help your poor child but the Good Physician above. When He was on earth He raised the dead; He can do so now, apply therefore to Him." She was in deep distress, and after I had given the child some medicine, she took up her precious burden and went to her house. I followed her in order to see what more I could do. She laid the child on her own bed, and as she did so, it gave a convulsive grasp and the little spirit had left the home of clay. Never shall I forget the bitter anguish depicted on her countenance. She knelt before the bed, clasped her hands, looked up to heaven and exclaimed in agony, "It is enough, Lord, it is enough!" I will humble myself, I will bow to the foot of Thy cross." And she did bow.

Soon after she asked for baptism, and when asked what name she wished to have, she mournfully replied, "Call me Naomi, for the Lord has dealt with me as he did with her. I was full when I came; what am I now?"

But her trials were not yet over. Her second and only son-left was also laid on a sick bed; we did all we could for the child, but he was taken also. When he was gone, she went silently to Mr. Smith, and afterwards came to me, and all she said was, "The widow's dove has flitted to the bosom of his Saviour."

Sukhli is a humble, earnest, Christian woman; a true servant of Christ; and for upwards of thirty-four years she was a fellow-labourer in our Mission. During this greater part of the time she was the matron of the Orphan Girls' Institution, and I left her in 1872 in charge of the same. But she is now, I hear, pensioned, and so has been relieved of those labours in which the Lord has richly blessed her.