

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

THE *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says:—"The Church in this day needs, as much as ever she did, ripe scholarship and varied study in her ministry. The seeds of falsehood and of wrong are being sown by busy brains, and with brilliant dexterity over the whole country from end to end. The most formidable shapes of unbelief stalk defiantly before the face of men. Every truth of God is assailed. Every hope of man is imperilled. No doctrine so dear to the consciousness of the believer or so clear upon the page of Scripture as to escape the profane touch of the blasphemer or impalement upon the shaft of the scorner."

THE *Churchman* grows eloquent on Church decorations and says:—"There is come into circulation a sinister, treacherous perversion of church decoration. It is a vain, counterfeit simulation of church decoration. It is an empty, luxurious snow of mere sumptuousness; it is costliness without consecration, splendor without evangelic intention. The thought gathers no suggestion or inspiration, the heart no fervor or reinforcement—there is nothing for spiritual insight, or nothing to invigorate faith. It is the profane intrusion of the huckster or tradesman—artist—the upholsterer, the professional dabbler in stuffs, colors, "harmonies," and artistic properties. There is a fashion in all such trumperies, and poms, and vanities, and forsooth, the Lord's people henceforth shall worship quite *a-la-mode*."

THE *Church Messenger* says:—"Some of our Church contemporaries seem to conceive that the object of their editorial existence is to dispute with one another. That must be a singular constituency among Christians which can take pleasure in such a course. If they do not, should they be corrupted or nauseated? If they do, should they be pandered to and fed upon such unsavory food though they like it?"

THE *Rock* says:—"Speaking of pulpit talent, how is it that in these days there are so few who can preach well? It is said that education has become so general, and men read so much more than formerly, and books of a higher standard are in greater circulation, that the laity are as learned, if not more so, in many instances, than the clergy. This can hardly account for the dearth of able pulpit orators. There is no use in denying the fact that unless a man is born an orator he seldom, if ever, becomes one no matter how hard he works. Oratory is not the stringing together of a number of sentences, "like orient pearls at random spread;" it consists in uttering weighty thought in simple language with a clear and incisive delivery."

THE *Richmond Advocate* says:—"A new agency for good is opened wherever a religious newspaper is introduced. It will be felt in that household, in the parsonage, in the entire community. The preacher will be helped in his preaching. It is a fearful hard work to instruct, interest, and lead to a higher life, a common-reading people."

THE loftier and purer a man's life is, says the *Sunday School Times*, "the more likely are his minor faults to be brought into unpleasant prominence. No one would think of remarking the fact that the leopard has spots, but let a single spot become visible to the naked eye on the disk of the sun, and the whole world would be talking about it."

THE *Southern Churchman* says that the early church fell into the error of believing that the time of Christ's second manifestation was nearer than it was.—Our liability is to fall into the reverse error and cease to watch for it because we have ceased to expect it. Against the first error St. Paul warns in 1 Thess. ii. 2-5. St. Peter warns against the second error in his second epistle iii. 3-8; to both which we refer the reader. The great object of the church now is to prepare men for this second and final manifestation of Christ. And it should be the object of every Christian to prepare himself for it, so that when Christ comes he will not be ashamed to meet him.

OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

PRAYERS for the safety of General Gordon have been offered every Sunday in All Saints' Church, Cairo, since his departure.

CANON BODY has resigned the living of Kirkby Misperton, Yorks, in order that he may carry on mission work in the northern diocese.

THE Earl and Countess of Enniskillen have recently presented a handsome font to the parish Church of Cleenish, diocese of Clogher.

It is proposed to erect a monument at Cambridge to Thomas Gray, the poet of the "Elegy in a Country Churchyard."

Of the twelve Bishops who were present during the debate on the vote of censure in the House of Lords, only four remained to vote; and of these the Bishops of Hereford and St. Albans joined the majority, while the Bishops of Exeter and Asaph followed Lord Granville. The list of pairs showed the Bishops of London and Oxford as against the vote of censure.

RESPECTING the growth of London, the Census Commissioners point out that "the population has almost exactly doubled itself in the course of forty one years, whereas the population of the rest of England has taken fifty-seven years to multiply in an equal degree."

THE Bishop of London has arranged with Bishop Titcomb, formerly Bishop of Rangoon, to act as coadjutor, under his commission, in the superintendence of English Chaplaincies and congregations in Northern and Central Europe.

THE King of Servia has conferred the order of St. Saba First Class upon the Rev. W. Denton, vicar of St. Bartholomew, Moor Lane, in acknowledgement of his writings on behalf of the Christians of the East.

THE effectionate regard in which the late Mr. Lowder was held has been commemorated by the erection of a clergy-house at St. Peter's, London Docks. The Memorial Fund reached the sum of £6,242, to which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners added a grant of £1,500, making a total of £7,742, with which a number of debts have been cleared off and the house built. The work proved, however, to be unusually costly, and the total expenditure has been £8,314.

THE fact that several female children have lately died of undue pressure of the brain, through overwork prescribed by Board Schools, and that last week a boy committed suicide because of inability to pass a coming examination, have impelled several statesmen to demand a government enquiry into the injurious system of cramming.

THE Rev. F. N. Law, rector of Lee, is, it is stated, about to erect a boy's orphanage at Kilburn, adjacent to that for girls, of which a new wing was opened last week in memory of his wife, Lady Adele Law. Miss Lucy Phillimore is making an appeal for the East London fund of the Sisters of the Church Extension Society, who manage these orphanages, and those restaurants for the poor and trucks of warm food taken to the Docks and Tower Hill have aroused such interest.

REV. Goodrich Langley, rector of Somersham, draws attention, in a letter to the *Essex Standard* to a marriage announcement which he thinks almost unique in one respect, viz., that the principal officiating clergyman (Rev. B. Edwards) is ninety-six years of age this year, and is the "Patriarch Presbyter" of the whole clergy of the diocese of Norwich, having been rector of Ashill, Norfolk, since the year 1813, a tenure of one living, perhaps, unequalled in all England.

THE Bishop of Winchester has just taken a step which shows how determined his lordship is to throw the weight of his high office and of his personal influence on the side of temperance. The Right Reverend Prelate has, it appears, for some years permitted a local team to use a portion of his park at Farnham for cricket-matches. He has just intimated to them that this privilege will be withdrawn unless they give up the practice, hitherto carried on, of allowing intoxicating liquors to be sold during the progress of the games.

Book Notices, Reviews, &c.

"The American Church Review" for February, 1884. New York American Church Review Association. \$3 a year.

The editor keeps up the high character of his admirable review, and we hope his arduous labours are meeting with that success which they so well deserve. We do not believe our clergy can afford to do without this ably conducted monthly, and we warmly recommend it to their notice.

"The Sideral Messenger" for March, conducted by W. W. Payne, Northfield, Minn., U. S. A. \$2 a year.

A really valuable scientific magazine, at a very low price.

"Manual of Scientific Butter Making," by W. H. Lynch, printed by order of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario.

On behalf of our farmers and dairymen, as well as in the interest of that large section of our people—the consumers of butter—we wish we could afford to circulate 10,000 copies of this excellent Manual, which should be in the hands of all who engage in butter making. Our different legislatures should make a grant to have it circulated among the farmers of the several Provinces. It is full, complete and exhaustive, and its careful study would soon show itself in the improved quality of the butter.

"Christianity Triumphant." By J. P. Newman, D. D., LL.D. The triumphs of Christianity—what a theme for an able and eloquent writer such as Dr. Newman is known to be! Nothing could be more needed, in these sceptical times of ours, than just such a review as is here given in short compass and popular style. Dr. Newman has given us an overwhelming array of facts on the subject, and facts appealing to the common-sense of the masses, not merely to learned philosophers and theologians. Like arrows, barbed with wit, aimed with skill, shot with power, they fly far and strike deep. Young men and women especially need to read this work. It is not a dull, turgid, metaphysical tome, but a clear and animated statement of what Christianity has done and is doing for the world. Published by Funk & Wagnalls, 10 and 12 Dey Street, New York. Paper 15 cts. S. F. Huestis, Halifax.

"Littell's Living Age." The numbers of *The Living Age* for March 1st and 8th, contain *The English Church in the Eighteenth Century, Quarterly*; *The Uncertainties of Science, London Quarterly*; *Fray Gerundio—a Clerical Don Quixote, Church Quarterly*; *A Walk to Coomassie, Nineteenth Century*; *Sir Theodore Martin's Life of Lord Lyndhurst, Blackwood*; *The Character of Dogs, English Illustrated Magazine*; *The Pottery Districts of Fiji, Leisure Hour*; *The True Story of Adam Bede, Sunday Magazine*; *Chinese Gordon, and Recreations of Men of Letters, All the Year Round*; *Christianity and Politics, Spectator*; *The Defence of Canton, China Mail*; with installments of "A Wizard's Son," "The Baby's Grandmother," and "Valerie's Fate," and the usual amount of poetry.

"The Official Year Book of the Church of England," issued under the sanction of the Archbishops and Bishops of the English, Irish and Scotch Churches, and by the Convocations of Canterbury and York, and published under the direction of a representative Committee by the S. P. C. K. This is the second year of this valuable publication, and presents features which will make its yearly advent a necessity, and its presence most welcome in every clergyman's library. Its contents are so full and so valuable that the only wonder is that it was not in existence years ago. We gladly bear testimony to the admirable manner in which it is edited and published.