

The Church Guardian

— EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR: —

L. H. DAVIDSON, D.C.L., MONTREAL.

— ASSOCIATE EDITORS: —

REV. H. W. NYE, M.A., Rector, Bedford, P.Q. REV. EDWYN S. W. PENTREATH, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Address Correspondence and Communications to the Editor, P.O. Box 504. Exchanges to P.O. Box 1950. For Business announcements See page 14.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

* * SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS are respectfully requested to remit at their earliest convenience. The very low price at which the paper is published renders necessary a rigid enforcement of the rule of payment in advance. The label gives the date of expiration.

Will Subscribers please examine Label, and REMIT PROMPTLY?

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER.

Nov. 1st—ALL SAINTS.

" " —22nd Sunday after Trinity.

" 8th—23rd Sunday after Trinity.

" 15th—24th Sunday after Trinity.

" 22nd—25th Sunday after Trinity.

" 29th—1st Sunday in Advent.

" 30th—St. Andrew, A. & M.

NOTES ON THE ENGLISH CHURCH CONGRESS.

FIRST DAY.

The discussions on the first day of the Congress embraced the following important subjects:—(1.) *The Revised Version of the Old Testament*; (2.) *The Responsibility of the Church as regards the Spiritual and Moral Welfare of our Soldiers and Sailors*; (3.) *Church Work among Men*; (4.) *The Prayer Book*. The first of these subjects was handled in a masterly manner by the Bishop of Bath and Wells, who, it will be remembered, was Chairman of the Old Testament Company of Revisers. His Lordship said:—

"There is doubtless a considerable body of opinion distinctly opposed to any change in that authorized version of Holy Scripture which men have been accustomed from their childhood to receive as the Word of God. It is natural for the human mind to desire absolute certainty in the region of religious truth. But that the disposition to desire absolute certainty in the text of Holy Scripture is not in accordance with the mind and purpose of God seems clear from this, among other considerations, that the revelation of God of His Person, His will, His law, His dealings with mankind—past, present, and future, which is profitable and necessary for man to receive, and which is authentic, has been delivered in only two languages—the Hebrew and the Greek. How, then, is it the purpose of God that it should be communicated to those many families of mankind to whom those two languages are unknown tongues? It follows that it is the duty of each Church to provide for its members the most faithful translation possible of the original revelation of Holy Scripture. To assist in arriving at a more exact representation of the meaning of Holy Scripture was the task which the Old Testament Revision Company accepted at the hands of the Convocation of Canterbury, and which they have fulfilled to the best of their ability. They began their undertaking with a very high estimate of the excellence of the authorized version, and I believe they ended it with a higher estimate still. The scholarly acquaintance of the translators of 1611 with the Hebrew language, their thorough

mastership of the noble English tongue, and their elevation of thought and expression to the level of the grand sentiments which they were dealing with, became only more apparent the more closely their work was scrutinized. But we knew that it was only a human work, itself the result of revision upon revision, and still susceptible of improvement. What determined any particular rendering was not the influence it might have in favoring orthodox doctrine, or its bearing upon Church views, or any other views, but the opinion of the company that it was the best and truest expression in English of the Hebrew words before them. We acted as translators, and not as prophets. After citing several instances in which the Revised Version showed a manifest improvement on the Authorized, the Bishop concluded by expressing a devout hope that the Revised Version of the Old Testament might give a stimulus to the intelligent study of those matchless writings which holy men of God, moved by the Holy Ghost, have handed down to us, and which, by a wonderful Providence, have been preserved to our days, to lighten our spiritual darkness amid the blaze of scientific light, and to point out to us the way which leads to eternal life."

Able papers on the same subject were read by the Rev. Canon Driver, Professor of Hebrew at Oxford, who was also one of the revisers, and the Rev. F. Kirkpatrick, Professor of Hebrew at Cambridge. Several speakers followed, including Archdeacon Palmer and Canon Meyrick. The general tone of the discussion was very favorable to the Revised Version, all the speakers agreeing that it was, in some respects, superior to the old.

The subject of *Special Church Work amongst Men* was ably discussed on Tuesday evening.

The first paper was read by the Rev. G. Everard, who, after pointing out instances in which young men had, after their own conversion to God, been permitted to do a great work for Him in the world, asked, "How may we hope to gain them?" and answered the question by drawing attention to the need (i) of a direct aim, and (ii) of faithful workers, animated by love and sympathy, shown forth (1) in the pulpit; (2), with regard to difficulties of belief; (3), in the home-life; (4), in circumstances of special temptation; (5), in business temptations; (6), in the desire for self-improvement and success; (7), in musical taste; (8), in recreation; and (9), in Christian enthusiasm. Mr. Everard specially urged brotherliness as the great qualification needed in workers amongst young men, who can be drawn, but never driven. Lieut.-Colonel Everitt stated the want of this same sympathy on the part of the clergy to be the cause of the defection of the bulk of young men from the Church, and recommended the establishment of Homes for Young Men in the form of Residential Clubs, the formation of more Church Guilds, and the increased influence of women brought to bear on young men.

SECOND DAY.

WOMAN'S WORK.—The morning of the second day was devoted to the *Work of Women in the Church*, which was discussed under the aspects of (a) Sisters and Deaconesses; (b) Rescue Work in Towns; (c) The Girls' Friendly Society.

Mr. Pares having given an interesting statistical account of the work of Sisters and Deaconesses in England, Canon Thynne pointed out the way and the spirit in which women could take part in the efforts now being made to reclaim their lost sisters. Mrs. Townsend then spoke of the preventive work of the G. F. S., a Society now numbering more than 115,000 Members and Associates. The Bishop of

Oxford spoke strongly in favor of Sisterhoods, and deprecated the spirit of controversy which had arisen between their method of organization and that of Deaconess Institutions. The Rev. R. C. Billing, speaking of rescue work, protested against the recent action of the *Pall Mall Gazette*, and said that the quiet labors of pure-hearted women could do far more for the reclamation of the fallen than could be done by public disclosures of evil. The Bishop of Carlisle witnessed to the good done in his diocese by the G. F. S.

EVANGELISING AGENCIES.—On Wednesday afternoon the Dean of Manchester opened the subject of Evangelising Agencies, and specially upheld the work of the Church Army, the aims and modes of working of which were then described by the Rev. W. Carlile. Mr. R. Foster represented Lay Readers, and showed how much could be done by their agency if they were welcomed by and allowed to co-operate with the parish priest. Mr. H. A. Colville testified to the success of lay efforts in the diocese of Lichfield, where 700 working men had recently attended a Festival Service in the cathedral, and seventy colliers had on another occasion come to a prayer-meeting at three o'clock in the morning, at their clergyman's invitation, that being the only time at which they could attend a service. The Rev. C. M. Owen spoke of his experiences amongst the deaf and dumb, and urged that no diocese should be without a special organization to meet the needs of this class.

THE CHURCH AND EMIGRATION.—The evening meeting in the Lecture Hall dealt with the responsibility of the Church with regard to emigration. The Bishop of Newcastle, who presided, spoke strongly in favor of emigration to the colonies, and of the preventive work of the emigration of children under proper superintendence. The Rev. J. F. Kitto thought that the clergy had a great responsibility laid on them in the matter of emigration; for they ought neither to assist unprincipled persons to emigrate, nor yet to send out any persons without seeing that they were in some degree fitted for the life to which they were going, and in possession of a certain amount of knowledge about that life. All the speakers also spoke of the need of great care on the part of the Church lest those whom she assisted to emigrate should thereby be sent outside the limit of her ministrations.

THE CHRISTIAN LAW OF MARRIAGE.—On Wednesday afternoon an important meeting of the Marriage Law Defence Association was held. Lord Henry Scott, M.P., presided.

Earl Beauchamp moved a resolution pledging the meeting to oppose any alteration in the Marriage Law of England. He did not believe the proposed alteration of the law had made any advance in the interests of the people, and he had carefully watched the reports of election meetings, and he had not seen many candidates asked questions upon it. He advised those present to adopt the Scotch course of "heckling" their candidates, and procuring promises to support the existing law. The noble earl pointed out how, in countries where changes had been effected, other restrictions, not only as to marriages of affinity, but marriages of blood, could not be maintained. In every Diocesan Conference the present law had been supported, though here and there a few eccentric individuals have urged an alteration, only with the effect of being defeated by an overwhelming majority. If a change in the law should take place, those who despaired and relaxed exertions (which with care and prudence might be successful) would have much with which to reproach themselves. The Right Hon. A. J. Beresford Hope, M.P., seconded the