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English Jottings.

THE death of Dean Church is the extinction of a great clerical and literary light, for he was most truly described as "the most perfect flower of English scholarship and Christian culture among all our living men." Throughout his long life, Church was beloved by all who knew him; and he is the only prominent man among Mark Pattison's contemporaries at Oxford who is not abused or derided in the late Rector of Lincoln's snarling Memoirs. It was really a great triumph for Church that he should have earned the hearty admiration of a man so different from himself in every possible way as Pattison, who, although Church won an Oxford fellowship at an election when Pattison was among the rejected candidates, actually described his successful rival as having so much "moral beauty" in his character that he could not grudge him his victory, and he also praised with enthusiasm Church's rare abilities and accomplishments.

Dean Church was the most retiring of men. He refused canonries and bishoprics over and over again when he was rector of Whateley, a little parish in Somersetshire; and, in 1871, Mr. Gladstone (who had then been one of his intimate friends and one of his greatest admirers for thirty years) had the greatest possible difficulty in inducing him to accept the Deanery of St. Paul's. It proved a most successful appointment, for the quiet country gentleman discovered himself to be a most admirable organizer and administrator, and he was "thorough" in everything which he undertook. It was impossible for anybody to quarrel with Dean Church, but he had an iron hand under his velvet glove, and he was a man of very keen insight.

The opening of this year witnessed another move towards the introduction of intercolonial penny postage. Three Treasury warrants were gazetted, reducing the rate of postage to 2½d. between Great Britain and (i.) West Coast of Africa, (ii.), British Guiana, Windward and Leeward Islands, and (iii.), Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. It is only the Colonies themselves that stand in the way of a further reduction, as it would probably mean a large deficit in the post office balance sheet for several years to come. In the long run it would almost certainly pay.

There is some hope yet of seeing decent sketches in our Fashions' books. The present deadly flatness of the figures is due to the painful fact that many young ladies think they can draw, while very few can, and these few are not likely to be found on the staff of a ladies' paper. Mr. Henry Blackburn is starting a school in London for "Instruction in Drawing for the Press," in which he proposes to teach young ladies to draw clearly, firmly, and neatly, in pen and ink. May his shadow never grow less!

LE BON MARCHÉ.

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APOLOGY FOR WOMAN.

We 'low that woman war made from a rib
 Of Adam's, but shucks! Her brains
 Are higglety-picklety, kos odds and e-ends
 Fixed up from his remains;
 But - the Lord made 'em.

It war by accident, though, we air thinkin';
 He can't be proud of the job
 With sech tongues as they have been given
 Ter gossip an' scold an' sob;
 But - the Lord made 'em.

It war a woman, ye know, who gossiped
 In Eden with Satan hissef;
 They're just plump sure to spread all the news
 An' make it 'fore they're lef';
 But - the Lord made 'em.

Taint safe to trest wimmin with nuthin';
 Tell everythin' they know;
 For they hain't got no sense ter reason
 An' do change their minds so;
 But - the Lord made 'em.

They sets tharselves up on principle,
 Frustratin' of the men;
 'Gainst jestic and emy enjoyment.
 Nine of 'em out o' ten;
 But - the Lord made 'em.

They're so unreasonable, thar answer is
 "Because 'tis" to every why.
 Some acts one way, an' some another;
 We 'uns can't track 'em - don't try;
 But - the Lord made 'em.

They give thar advice ez confident
 Ez if nuthin' here on yearth
 War half as precious, an' think it's spirin'
 That we 'uns shake with mirth;
 But - the Lord made 'em.

Yet- talk of foolin' - why a spindlin' snip
 O' a gal will fool a man
 That's six feet high an' two hundred poun'
 About emythin'. She can;
 For - the Lord made 'em

Eugene Field.

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