

The Church Guardian.

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.

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RESTORATION OF THE JEWS.

The war clouds on the Eastern horizon rivet Christian eyes to the sacred hills so dear to the Jew, so holy to the Christian, so precious to the Moslem. It is in vain to theorize as to the Ottoman Empire. The impending dissolution of Mohammedan rule in Europe has been again and again predicted, but in some way the Turk has managed to maintain his hold as an important factor in European politics, that the great powers cannot afford to ignore. Egypt is now the centre of political entanglements, and it is important to England especially, as commanding the road from Europe to India. But from time immemorial, Canaan has been always involved in Egyptian complications. And whenever the Crescent is arrayed against the Cross, and there is a possible termination of Mohammedan tyranny, the hope of both Jew and Christian is directed to the gathering of the Israelites from the lands of their exile, and their restoration to the land of their fathers. The future of Palestine is identified with the restoration of the Jews. The prophets are full of descriptions of this promised future. It is the will of Jehovah, not the merit of the nation. However few at first, they will form the nucleus of a strong nation. Restored from the north, south, east and west, through the efforts of the Gentiles, after the land has been desolate many generations, the twelve tribes will be reunited, the land redistributed, the temple rebuilt, universal peace established, nation not to lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.

The restoration of the Jews to their own land is of vast political importance. Within a radius extending from Jerusalem as a centre, are to be found the sites of all the grand empires of ancient times. The eagle eye of Napoleon I. saw that it was the key to the empire of the world, and he marshaled his legions to possess it.

It is also desirable from a commercial standpoint. Ancient history records the vast commerce of Phœnicia, that mother of mighty colonies. And into Tyre, the port of Palestine, in the days of Solomon, poured the wealth of the ancient world, "Silver was in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar wood as sycamore."

And still it is destined to be the converging point of the great lines of the world's commerce. From the mere force of geographical conditions, the great centre of trade in the future must be located in Palestine. No wonder then that Jewish hearts beat high to think of that future when the long exiled nation shall be restored to its home, once again blossoming as a rose. Why should it be thought a thing incredible that God will restore Israel to their own land? Has not a new Greece been born? Has not a new Italy come into existence? Is Palestine now a land of desolation? We know that in the past it was one of the best cultivated and most fruitful lands of the earth. And travellers, such as Lindsay, declare the country from Tiberius to the Red Sea naturally fertile in the extreme, and capable of producing everything required. It is the general testimony that good government is all that is required to make the land of Palestine the garden of the world, and the most desirable place for the Jews to locate.—*Episcopal Register.*

BISHOP Whipple in his Convention address said: I know the sore temptations which come to the

clergy, the weariness and loneliness of missionary life; the anxious care which comes of a scanty support; the hope of relief from writing sermons, and the thought that some one else can do better. I know of no success which was not won by the united labor of men who knew how to work and wait. Brethren, we do not go to minister to saints, but to save sinners. It will be very like heaven when you find a cure which has in it no selfish, self-willed, fault finding folk. Such people lived in the primitive church; and it was of them that St. Paul said: "I tell you weeping, they are enemies of the cross of Christ." We have no right to abandon the field committed to our care, unless plainly called away by the Providence of God; unless incapacitated for ministerial work, we have no right to turn aside to secular pursuits. The vow of holy orders is upon us; and this vow will be the measure of our accountability in the judgment.

EVOLUTION AND CHRISTIANITY.

The Rev. Henry Waco, in an article in the *Expositor* on "The Present Position of Evolution, and its Bearings on the Christian Faith," has a suggestive passage on the use of miracles as a proof that God has interfered from time to time in the order of the universe. He argues—"If we who are men under authority, finite and imperfect beings, can, nevertheless, interpose for moral and intelligent ends in the course of nature and of human life, it must be possible for GOD to exercise a similar interposition." Dr. Waco then goes on to say—"Are we asked, where is the plain and sensible evidence which might be expected in a matter of such consequence to prove, even to the senses, that God does interfere for the purposes of the moral government of man? Our answer is ready. We point to the miracles recorded in the Scriptures, and in the first instance to those recorded in the New Testament. Those miracles were avowedly wrought in great measure for this very purpose—that of revealing to men the hand, and will, and power of God acting for their individual guidance, help, and salvation. They were exhibitions by extraordinary methods of that which is ever going forward by ordinary methods; and in this sense they are among the most precious credentials of revelation. The God who did the works which our Saviour wrought while He was upon earth cannot but be capable of all that personal control of even the minutest matters which concern us, of the very hairs of our heads, which our Lord attributed to him. There is no answer to this argument, except the tacit assumption of too many minds embodied in the avowal of M. Renan and the sceptical school of the Continent—that miracles cannot be believed in because we see no sign of them in the course of things around us at present. But on what reasonable ground can the past experience of mankind be regarded as of less value on a point like this than its present experience? What would become of the doctrine of evolution itself, if the evidence of past ages were to be excluded? The very objection to that theory, which was admitted to be most formidable by Mr. Darwin, was, that in the present order of nature the links which form the connexions between the various species are no longer to be discerned; and this difficulty has been met by the discovery that those links existed in remote ages in the forms of creatures of whom no living trace now remains. We appeal similarly to the evidence afforded by the experience of man in the past, at the great crisis

of human history and development. Then, at the very moment it was needed, supernatural gleams of light flashed through the twilight in which we ordinarily live, and they have illuminated to all future time the mysterious heavens around us."

MELANESIA.

A new triumph of Christianity in the South Seas.

The present Bishop Selwyn, of Melanesia, seems to inherit the moral courage of his late father as well as his tact. And it is mainly through him that a new era has begun in the intercourse of the British Government with the savage islanders of the South Seas. The common mode of dealing on both sides has hitherto been that of the *lex talionis*. 1. Depredations have been committed by ships' crews upon the Islands. 2. The Islanders have retaliated upon the first white men who thereafter came within their reach. 3. British cruisers have in turn bombarded the Islands and destroyed the inhabitants as far as possible.

In this mode of warfare, scarcely less savage on the one side than the other, Bishop Patteson, not to mention many others, became an innocent victim of revenge, thus making expiation for the crimes of his countrymen.

About a year ago, the Commander and five seamen belonging to H. M. S. Sandfly, were massacred in revenge by the natives of a small Island in the Solomon group. Bishop Selwyn had at that time in his school on Norfolk Island several boys belonging to that Island. He resolved to try his powers at intervention, and attempt to effect a settlement by a more excellent way. When, therefore, Commander Bruce, of H. M. S. Cormorant, visited the Island, he found that the Bishop had preceded him, and with no little risk of his own life had succeeded in persuading the Chief to surrender the actual murderers, one of whom was his own son.

According to the official statement quoted by Mr. Trevelyan in the House of Commons, the ringleader was delivered up and executed. "Then the Bishop came on board, bringing with him the chief and his son, likewise the watch of Lieutenant Bower and the weapons of his crew, as well as the skull of the poor officer, which had been kept as a trophy. The son, who was only sixteen years of age, was spared, but has been retained as a hostage for the surrender of the other murderers, one of whom, the man who actually shot Lieutenant Bower, has since been captured."

Commander Bruce in his Report continues: "I have the honour to bring most prominently before your notice the assistance I received from Bishop Selwyn, without whose great influence over the natives, as well as his energy and courage in landing unarmed on Kalakona's Beach, when that chief was surrounded by armed men, whom no efforts of ours could have brought from his lair in the bush, and without whose assistance it would have been impossible to achieve the result, certainly not without great destruction of life and property. The people in that region have been greatly impressed by the judicial character of the proceedings, as compared with all that has gone before it."

"I believe this to have been the first instance," says Mr. Trevelyan, "in which one of these cases has been dealt with in a manner that can give any hope for the diminution of violence and outrage in the future; and I think that much credit is due to Commander Bruce, and nothing short of gratitude to Bishop Selwyn."—*Foreign Missionary.*