

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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"THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS. PREPARE YE THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT."

"Then cleansed be every breast from sin;
Make straight the way for God within:
Prepare we in our hearts a home,
Where such a mighty Guest may come.

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

THE Bishop of Derry's *Commentary on the Epistle of St. John* has reached an issue of 3600.

THE Bishop of London, Eng., has written the New Year's tract for the Temperance League.

At the Church of the Holy Communion, New York, on November 8th, the Bishop of New York, in the presence of the Rev. Henry Mottet and the Rev. Arthur C. A. Hall, deposed J. Lester Morton.

THE following are the present ages of the Irish Bishops:—Cork and Tuam, 56; Dublin, 62; Clogher, 65; Derry, 66; Ossory, Killaloe, and Kilmore, 70; Meath, 72; Cashel, 74; Down, 75; Limerick, 78; Armagh, 82.

It appears that the Church Association of London have decided to appeal from the judgment of the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Bishop of Lincoln's case. The hope expressed in many quarters that the judgment would be loyally accepted by all has proved vain.

LORD HALIFAX, the President of the English Church Union, issued a letter to all the district unions and branches of the Union, in which he said: 'it will be more than ever the duty of members of the Union to discourage in the future no less earnestly than they have done in the past any attempt to force unaccustomed ritual on unwilling clergy or congregations.'

OXFORD is losing Professor Sayce, who proposes to reside in Egypt that he may prosecute his studies there continuously. He will be very much missed, but it is reasonable to hope that we shall profit by his voluntary exile. Professor Sayce has already left London for Egypt, where he is expected for a time to live in a dahabieh, which he is to have built for himself on lines that will provide room for a good library.

On entering the pulpit on Sunday morning, November 30th, the Rev. R. P. Wilcox, rector of St. Matthew's, Ardwick, Eng., stated that, in deference to the judgment of the Archbishop of Canterbury's Court in the Bishop of Lincoln's case, the clergy of that Church would discontinue making the sign of the Cross at the invocation of the Trinity before the sermon and at the benediction. Further, the Manual Acts during the Prayer of Consecration would henceforth be performed—as there was no reason why they should not be—so as to be visible to the communicants. In accordance with this latter announcement the celebrant at

the Holy Communion (the Rev. A. J. Sacre), while adhering generally to the Eastward position, when he came to the words of institution turned half round, facing north, and did the Manual Acts in full view of the congregation.

BISHOP BECKWITH.—The Right Rev. John W. Beckwith, Bishop of Georgia, died at Atlanta on 21st Nov. last. Bishop Beckwith was born in Raleigh, N. C., Feb. 9th, 1831, ordained Deacon in 1854, and priest in 1855; Bishop on April 2nd, 1868.

THE Woman's Guild, of Trinity Church, New Orleans, have just placed in the church a remarkably beautiful memorial window to the late Bishop Harris of Michigan, who was formerly Rector of Trinity. The vignette represents Christ blessing the children. That particular event in the life of the Messiah was selected because Bishop Harris was much devoted to children, and was deeply interested in Sunday schools.

THE Bishop of Ossory, in a letter from Bath addressed to the *Kilkenny Moderator*, gives a most interesting account of the discovery of the real 'Pool of Bethesda.' The Bishop supplies full details sent to him by a relative, Mr. Gilman, U.S. Consul at Jerusalem. The story of the discovery of this famous pool after so many long ages is indeed a most remarkable one. The remains of an ancient church were found immediately over it, which confirms certain traditions handed down from the Fathers and ancient historians.

THE last act has just taken place in connection with the noble work which the Rev. A. R. M. Wilshere has been doing for so many years among the lepers of Robben Island, near the Cape of Good Hope, and their faithful pastor and friend has left the flock which he has so long shepherded. He has not gone willingly from the suffering people, but because bodily infirmities have made it impossible for him to continue his work among them. Under these circumstances he has resigned his office of chaplain on the island and has retired into private life, amid the prayers of his people for the alleviations of the afflictions from which he suffers.

A LARGELY attended gathering of the British colony at Paris has been held in the throne-room of the embassy, with Lord Lytton in the chair, the occasion being the presentation of the sum of £500 and a splendid silver service to the Rev. Howard Gill, who has been transferred from the Embassy church in Rue d'Aguesseau to the rectory of Tanbridge. The subscribers to the testimonial are people of all religions, who are anxious to pay a tribute of respect to the popular pastor and the founder of the Victoria Home for Aged and Destitute British Subjects whose lives are spent in France. Speeches were made by Lord Lytton, and the proceedings, which were enthusiastic, closed with a vote of thanks to his excellency.—*The Family Churchman*.

Surely there are some few fundamental

points upon which a man's mind must be absolutely made up before he ventures to take upon himself the responsibility of Holy Orders; such points, for example, as the Divinity of our Lord, or that the Church of England is in this country God's ordained medium for conveying the blessings of His grace. If on these two points a man is not clearly established, how can he maintain the position and do the work of an officer of the English Church with thoroughness and peace to himself? It is a shameful thing to exaggerate the difficulties in a man's way who has a desire for Holy Orders, but it is an unwise thing also too much to minimise them. It is not enough to justify a man in taking Orders that he has a desire to do good in his generation, and that he believes that if once a clergyman of the English Church he will have singular opportunities of doing that good.—*Church Bells*.

"CHURCH BELLS" ON SERMONS.—"Unquestionably in old days the sermon became too rigid and conventional a thing, too much of a traditional composition removed from our every-day interests and needs. If it is removed from these it becomes but an idle sound; but the modern fancy, that you restore its living effect upon us by making it smart, and, as one may say, journalistic in its aims and expressions, is about the shallowest notion which can enter men's heads. A clever preacher, who deals with every-day topics in a witty way, who tickles our ears and makes us start and laugh, is sure, no doubt, of a congregation; we flock to him and applaud him; we leave his church and chat over his witticism at the dinner table; but sooner or later we feel that we have been tricked, and rebel at his impertinences. If when we enter God's House we are not in a higher atmosphere than common, there is enough healthy instinct left in us to let us know, when the excitement is over, that the thing is wrong and contemptible. By all means let our preachers be natural, honest, straightforward; but, first and above all, let them have a deep appreciation of spiritual things; they will touch us then, but neither they nor we shall have any craving after trivial themes and a catchpenny treatment of them."

NOTICE.—The Central Secretary for Canada, of the "Ministering Children's League" will be grateful if any ladies in charge of Branches, who have not already corresponded with her, will send as soon as possible a report of their numbers and work for insertion in the Annual Report of the M. C. L.

Address Mrs. Alan Macdougall, 98 Rusholme Road, Toronto.

"BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY."

UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOUR

GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS full of the Christ-joy to all our readers!