

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

THE *Standard of the Cross*, noting the great activity in Church movements all over England, says:—"The best feature of all this is the breaking down of old partisan divisions which the work everywhere indicates."

THE *Christian at Work* thinks the marriage service ought to be amended. Instead of requiring the newly wedded pair to promise to keep together "so long as ye both shall live," the clause ought to be amended to read "or until ye are duly divorced." That would have saved 1,789 ies in New England alone last year.

DR. DIXON, a distinguished English Wesleyan minister, gives the following testimony concerning the Church of England, in a letter to *Zion's Herald* of Boston:—"Be not startled; but there is more true religion in the Church of England than anywhere else in the country. This Church is the only Christian body which is making progress in evangelical labors and prosperous advances."

THE *Episcopal Register* says that America is the Bethlehem of the modern world, if we take the literal meaning of the Hebrew, "the house of bread."

THE *New York Independent*, which is by no means a strait laced paper, takes earnest exception to fairs, bazaars, hot suppers, soirees, festivals of all sorts as part of the work of the Church of Christ. "The financial and the spiritual necessities of the Church have been too long divorced. If we had a more steady and healthy spiritual life we would be able to dispense with the somewhat, if not altogether, carnal method of raising money for church necessities. Liberality and spirituality are closely allied, and when money can only be come at by an appeal to the 'base necessities of the stomach,' or to 'the lust for pretty things,' it is an almost certain sign that the life of the Church is at a very low ebb." This is worthy of note.

A CORRESPONDENT in the *London Guardian* says that the Church must take interest in all leading questions of the day, and not be so anxious to revile the leaders. He says:—"If the Church is to fulfil her Mission in modern society, her members must be prepared for many new phases of activity, and they must conquer that foolish way which has been too common among them of protesting and objecting and casting mud at all fresh onward movements."

OUR contemporary, also speaking of the need of extra effort in mission services, says: "In such efforts we must realize the masterful use of irregular agencies. The student must labour among his books; the theologian must look to the foundations, and with his architectonic comprehensive knowledge keep our lives orderly and straight; the controversialist must defend the outworks; the priest at the altar must watch the sacred fire on the hearth of the citadel; the pastor must educate and exercise the faithful; the Church must be cherished as the home of the children. But besides all this the Mission-room must enlist and discipline its irregulars, and trained hands must go forth with weapons of the hardest steel and the most approved capacity to carry the war into the enemy's country, always maintaining in unbroken continuity the line of communication with their base of operations, the Church."

THE *Church Times* thinks that the duty of Churchmen is to be prepared both for attack and defence from aliens to the Church; and that this can best be done by showing that Christianity is in fact, as well as in theory, the true religion of humanity, the religion which teaches universal love to man as the fruit of entire devotion to God. Our contemporary goes on to say:—"It is for this reason that we see with joy any evidence of increased faith or zeal. It is not that we desire more power or influence for the Church, but we know that the more zealous and influential she is, the more will be done to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom, and to diminish the fearful sum of human woe."

OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

THE Venerable George Muller, who has just completed his seventy-eighth year, started on the preceding day for an evangelistic tour in India.

It is especially noteworthy, that 230 of the Hebrew race have taken Holy Orders in the Mother Church of England and ministered at her altars, many of them men of prominence, some having risen to the Episcopate.

HIS Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, in a speech delivered by him at a Special Grand Lodge of the Mark Degree in Freemasonry, held at the Freemasons' Tavern, is reported to have said that "as long as religion remained engrafted in the hearts of the Craft of our country it (that is, the Craft) was certain to flourish, and they might be assured of it that when religion in it ceased the Craft would also lose its power and its stability."

THE *Monthly Magazine of Inverness Cathedral* gives the following description of the pastoral staff which it is intended to present to the Primus,—"The shaft is of ebony, while the crook, the tabernacle work below it, the foot, and some ornamental bands which encircle the staff at regular intervals, of of silver gilt. Within the crook itself and entirely spanning it, there is a silver-gilt cross of Celtic character, enriched with amethysts and topazes; and below the crook there is grouped around the shaft a series of five canopied niches, elaborately ornamented, containing severally the figures of St. Peter, St. Andrew, St. Ninian, St. Augustine of Canterbury, and Andrew de Moravia. This arrangement illustrates the Apostolical succession as it has been handed down to and in the Church of Scotland to the present day."

SIR H. BRUCE MEUX, has just built a handsome tower, at considerable cost, to the parish church of *Overton*, Wilts. It contains a peal of six beautiful bells.

MR. MORFON SMALE, M. R. C. S., L. D. S., has been appointed Dean of the School attached to the Dental Hospital of London. Mr. Smale is a prominent member of the Medical Guild of St. Luke.

LATELY the lightning conductor on the spire of Chichester Cathedral was struck and fused. The Dean has had the matter inquired into by several eminent electricians, and the result has been to establish the fact that the conductor had not been constructed of sufficiently heavy materials.

CANON WICKENDEN, of Stoke Bishop, who recently died, has left £2,000 to the Archbishop of Canterbury, £2,000 to Miss Benson, his daughter, and the remainder of his fortune, £40,000 to numerous godchildren, amongst whom are the Archbishop's son, and another member of his family.

THE report of the London Hospital Sunday Fund states that the collections made at places of worship amounted to £31,851, 5s. 4d. The *Nonconformist* has analysed it with the following result:—Church of England, £23,567; all others, £8,284, 14s. 1d. The chief amounts included in the last named total are—Congregationalists, £2,239, 18s. 1d.; Wesleyans, £1,106, 1s. 0d.; Baptists, £1,097, 4s. 10d.; Jews, £921, 17s. 3d.; Presbyterians, £580, 6s. 2d.; Roman Catholics, £439, 10s. 4d.; Unitarians, £245; Society of Friends, £115, 6d. 11d.; Methodists Free Church £52, 17s. 11d.; Primitive Methodists, £28, 10s. 0d. And yet the sects bark at the Church of England.

HERE is another instance. The annual summary of British contributions to foreign missions, compiled by Canon Scott Robertson, shows that the total of the financial year 1882-83 exceeds that of the previous 12 months by nearly £100,000. The summary is as follows:—Church of England societies £500,306; Joint Societies of Churchmen and Nonconformists, £154,813; English and Welsh Nonconformist, £348,175; Scotch and Irish Presbyterian Societies, £176,362; Roman Catholic Societies, £11,519. Total contributions for 1882-83, £1,191,175.

Book Notices, Reviews, &c.

THE "American Church Review" for December 1883 contains three distinct articles. One by Dr. Morgan Dix on his friend, the late Dr. Ferdinand C. Ewer, will be found particularly interesting and suggestive. Dr. Wilson contributes an excellent article on "The Recent and Supernatural Origin of Man, considered from a purely scientific point of view." And the Rev. S. D. McConnell has a timely and strong article on "The Church and the Negro." Besides these there are a large number of notices of recent literature, among which are several reviews of books bearing upon the history and contents of the Old and New Testaments, and other subjects of interest and value to both the clergy and laity. American Church Review Association, New York. Price \$2.00.

"Not My Way," a tale by T. M. Browne. Thomas Whittaker, Bible House, New York. For sale at MacGregor & Knight's, Halifax. Price \$1.00. This work has already been received by the press in a very favourable way. It is a simple story, carefully wrought out and written, of life in an English Parish. The work, as is proper, has its high-toned moral, and will be found useful for parochial libraries. The tale was originally written for the columns of the *CHURCH GUARDIAN*; but now, in its pretty form and binding, it will take its place, on book shelves, with honour among works of its class.

"The Pulpit Treasury" for January is fully up to the mark and, as its publishers say, comes freighted with the good things of theology and home and heart culture, and with a welcome guest to the pastor's study, the S. S. superintendent's and teacher's library and the family circle. E. B. Treat, publisher, 757 Broadway, New York.

"The Centennial Christmas" is the name of the Christmas supplement to the *St. John, N. B., Globe*, and is a very attractive publication, reflecting great credit on the enterprise and printing facilities of that paper. It is filled with ably written articles suitable for the season, in poetry and prose, and shows what may be accomplished in these directions in the Lower Provinces.

"The Spirit of Missions" for January is full of interesting particulars of the missionary work of the Church in the United States. The value of this publication in affording information, and thereby stimulating interest and securing funds for the work, must be very great; indeed it is understood that it has been largely instrumental in creating and developing the remarkable missionary spirit which is now so conspicuous in our Sister Church.

"The American Antiquarian and Oriental Journal" has from a quarterly become a bi-monthly magazine. The number before us, like its predecessors, is full of the most interesting and valuable articles on archaeological and antiquarian subjects. The issues of this important periodical are all of permanent value, and should be in the hands of the members of our learned societies. Jameson & Morse, Chicago. \$3 a year.

Funk & Wagnall's Standard Library, No. 104 and 105, have been received from S. F. Heustis, Granville Street, Halifax. No. 104 is entitled "With the Poets," by Canon (now Archdeacon) Farrar, and contains a very charming selection of English poetry, a collection, we venture to say, not excelled by the more pretentious and expensive books. A valuable preface from the pen of Dr. Farrar is, as the publishers say, alone worth the price of the volume. No. 105 is "The Life of Zwingli," by Jean Grob, and gives a very full history of the life of the Swiss Reformer. The Standard Library for 1884 offers special inducements. Twenty-six books, well selected and of general interest, for \$4 a year. We hope, in the interest of pure reading, that the circulation of this library will immensely increase the coming year.