

# The Church Guardian.

*Amos A. Fay*

"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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THURSDAY, JULY 31, 1879.

One Dollar a Year.

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 MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK,

EDITORS.

THE Wesleyans in England have completed their annual census, which shows, upon the whole, a net loss of nearly one per cent.

THE Rev. William Walsham How, Chancellor and Canon of St. Asaph, and rector of Whittington, Salop, has been appointed Suffragan to the Bishop of London, with the title of "Bishop of Bedford," which is in the diocese of Ely.

CANON TRISTRAM, having declined the Bishopric of Jerusalem, Lord Beaconsfield has, on the recommendation of Lord Shaftesbury, offered the appointment to the Rev. Joseph Barclay, Rector of Stapleford, Herts, and it has been accepted by him. Dr. Barclay is a well-known author, skilled in Hebrew, Arabic, and German, and the translator and commentator on parts of the Talmud. He spent four years at Constantinople before he went to Jerusalem, where he remained ten years as incumbent of Christ Church, and examining chaplain to Bishop Gobat.

THE proprietor of a religious newspaper in Upper Silesia, Prussia, announced in a late number of his paper that he had just returned from Rome and brought with him a quantity of earth from the graves of the Holy Martyrs, some of the sacred earth which St. Helena brought from Golgotha to Rome, and several packets of seeds and cuttings of plants from the garden of the Vatican. These precious objects he offers as premiums to subscribers for his periodical. He prints a religious almanac, and to persons who purchase this he promises some of the Golgotha earth, "the most sacred of all earth."

THE Ely Diocesan Choral Festival was held at the Cathedral on Tuesday. There were upwards of 4000 persons present, and the choirs were represented by upwards of 1400 voices. Bishop Woodford, in the course of his address, said—"You may hear it said that the Church of England is a religious society set up by Parliament and endowed by Parliament about three hundred years ago, at the time of the Reformation. Your visit to this Cathedral should give you an answer to such falsehoods. You have worshipped to-day in a Church which was founded six centuries before the first Parliament was called together, and for which the utmost that Parliament has done has been to suffer it to exist, and to hold still a portion of the property which, in ancient days, religious persons, out of their own goodwill, gave unto it."

At the meeting of the Presbytery of Wooster, held at Throve, Ohio, June 25th, 1879, the Rev. A. N. Alcott inquired whether a Presbyterian minister may preach an unlimited atonement for sins: viz., That God designs the atonement for all men. Or, whether a Presbyterian minister in order to be in good order and regular doctrinal standing among his people must preach a limited atonement for sins: viz., That God does not design the atonement for all men, but; that He Himself limits the application of it. The Presbytery officials replied that a Presbyterian minister must preach a limited atonement for sins and no other doctrine. Whereupon Mr. Alcott requested the Presbytery to drop his name from the roll of the body and to give him a certificate of dismissal and introduction to some other body of Christian people, which was accordingly done.

ACCORDING to a Reuter's telegram from Simla, a Russian official native envoy has arrived at Balkh, but General Hyder Khan has positively refused to allow him to proceed to Cabul.

ONCE more there is a revolution in Haiti. The New York papers publish intelligence from Kingston, according to which Port-au-Prince is on fire. Business is suspended, and several blocks are in ashes.

A LEADING religious paper urges some of its subscribers, who have been long remiss, to pay up on the installment plan, \$5 and \$10 at a time. There are some people who subscribe for a Church paper merely to encourage it, without any idea of ever paying for it.

MAJOR CAVIGNARI left Simla for Afghanistan on Sunday, and reached Cabul on the 24th inst., as Envoy and Plenipotentiary. Accounts from Cabul describe the general state of things there as satisfactory. The Ameer has no difficulties with the people.

THE Hellenic Archaeological Society has resolved to restore the famous lion of Chæronea, which surmounted the tomb of the Boeotians killed in the battle against Philip, B. C. 338, and which was blown up in the War of Independence under the idea that a treasure was concealed under it.

AN important find of Roman coins, consisting of several hundred gold and silver pieces, has been made in the neighbourhood of Zurich. They date for the most part from the second century, the Emperors whose effigies they bear being Adrian, Antoninus Pius, Verus, and Commodus.

SIR ROWLAND HILL, the inventor of cheap postage, when lately presented with the freedom of the City of London, stated the interesting fact that a letter could now be carried from Egypt or the farthest parts of Europe to San Francisco for less postage than was charged in 1839 for a letter from the Mansion House in London to his house at Hamstead, a distance of four miles.

THE *Moscow Gazette* publishes intelligence that the River Atrek, which originally entered the Caspian Sea north of Hassan Kuli Bay, twelve versts from Tchikislar, but was diverted, nine years ago, ten versts from its natural course, by the Persian Turcomans, in consequence of the Russian occupation of Krasnovodsk, has just been turned back to its old bed by order of General Lazareff, the work being accomplished by 1,500 Turcomans.

At Kieff, in the night between the 26th and 27th of June, more than 400 persons were arrested by the police and the military. A great store of weapons, revolvers, cartridges, and dynamite was found on the premises. On the following day the ecclesiastical seminary of the place was searched, the result being the discovery of a printing press, with numerous books and proclamations of a revolutionary nature. Twelve students of theology and several of their professors were deprived of liberty. A Kieff telegram reports that disturbances are taking place among the peasants in the Taratschin district, owing to a false expectation of a general repartition of the land.

"WHAT ANSWER SHALL I GIVE."  
*A Series for the Living Church, by the*  
 REV. R. W. LOWRIE.

PREFACE.

REQUESTED to lend a helping hand, I offer no excuse for these contributions. If I were to make any, it would be that, notwithstanding all our publications concerning the Church, ignorance still abounds, not only outside of her fold, but among not a few of her own sons and daughters.

A lady once asked me if the Episcopalians wished or allowed visitors to use the Prayer Book during service. I told her that I thought they did!

A person once remarked to a friend that the Episcopal clergy "ought to preach good sermons, as the Bishop wrote them all for them." His idea of a Bishop was a person to write sermons for all his clergy!

A lady—an educated Normal School teacher—once remarked to me that she had understood that the reason the Episcopal clergy were "such poor readers" was, though they had to read the Scriptures to the people, "this was the way they took to keep them from being understood by them!"

A gentleman—a nominal Churchman—once communicated to the world, through the columns of a weekly paper, the astounding fact that at so-and-so, "on Christmas Day, the resurrection of our Lord was duly commemorated according to the beautiful liturgy of the Episcopal Church," Christmas and the Resurrection!

A prominent gentleman, "a senior warden," once solicited me to explain to him how there could be forty days only in Lent!

The columns of a very respectable paper, not long since, commenting upon a departed friend of my own, expressed the consoling conviction that his soul was now "peacefully reposing in the shades of Gehenna!" The writer had evidently heard both of Hades and of Gehenna; but it certainly was not a case where "Greek met Greek."

I may add that in these articles I shall draw heavily upon the writings of older and wiser men, in order that, if I do not speak *cum permissu superiorum*, I may at least speak, in a degree, *cum auctoritate*.

I.

"IS NOT YOUR CHURCH VERY ILLIBERAL?" Not on this earth is there a more liberal and charitable body than the Church. She does not ask, What Shibboleth do you speak? She does not ask you to profess a degree of holiness which you do not possess. She has only a brief and simple Creed. She asks for solemn resolutions, upright motives, and the best you can, by God's grace, do. She has pardon for the erring, and restoration for the starving. She stands on the impregnable ground of the Historic Past. She enjoys the Divine promises of the Perpetual Presence. She can afford to be liberal. She can afford to exercise the broadest charity.

The Church has not manufactured its Creed and taken out a patent on it! We have no sectarian peculiarities. We did not come into existence for the purpose of promulgating some one specific dogma—some segment of truth—elevating and emphasizing that at the expense of all

others. A society is bound to stand up for society-opinions. The Church has no "opinions." She has only the simple historic Creed that the ages have given her; a creed of facts, not a conglomeration of fancies; not things we hope may be so, or may not be so, accordingly as they happen to be positive or negative. What Scripture says, she says. What Scripture means, she means. And so it comes that she has no distinctive peculiarities of doctrine. Whims, and fancies, and "opinions," and "views" are possible to a society. They are impossible to a Church.

Says a western Bishop of fearless speech: "As the years go by I find that my own theology grows more simple. I crave more and more the heart of a little child to sit at Jesus' feet and learn His lesson about Our Father, I know that I have deeper longing for Christian fellowship and for the reunion of all who love Jesus Christ. The way to that union looks hard and difficult. There are unkind words to be taken back—alienations to be healed, and heart burnings to be forgiven. Some blessed truths may comfort us. Every branch of the Church admits the validity of the baptism of all who have been baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost."

And so I repeat that our branch of the Church is the broadest in Christendom. A priest can ask a candidate for baptism only his belief in the Apostles' Creed, and a pledge of obedience to God's commands by His help.

I have but little fear of contradiction—none of intelligent denial and rebuttal—when I say that the Church gives her children more liberty than any other religious body, leaving the exercise of it to the conscience. Things forbidden by God are sinful in themselves; always sinful; sinful everywhere. The things which he has not forbidden may be sinful or not. It is as they are used. Arbitrary rules cannot measure the Christian man or woman's Christian duties.

Says the Bishop before quoted: "The Church says that no man shall be accounted or taken to be a lawful Bishop, Priest or deacon in this Church, or permitted to exercise any of said functions, except he be called, tried, examined, and admitted thereto, according to the form which she has prescribed, or hath had Episcopal consecration or ordination. The Church simply declares, as does every other Christian body, who are duly authorized to minister at her altars. She has never in any council or decree passed judgment upon others. She gladly recognizes the fact that the Holy Ghost dwells in multitudes of hearts who are not members of our branch of the Church. In every service her prayer is that "all who profess and call themselves Christians, may be led in the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of Spirit, and in the bond of peace." Her voice is ever pleading with her children that they may have that love which will say, "Grace and peace be with all those who love the Lord Jesus in sincerity and truth."

"Show me the Church which exercises a broader liberality; a fuller charity," says Bishop Lay, on the subject of the Church being ready with generous terms of unity. "Anglican Communion does not desire as some suppose, to force her own exact type upon the whole Christian world. Witness how she has forborne to embarrass the old Catholics with officious help, and how general the conviction,