

which might have been injured by past ministerial neglect, by the action of demoralising influences, or by the inoculation of Roman or other error; and lastly, that it would tend, in a beneficial manner, to supply wants arising from such inequalities in ministerial gifts as must be found in so numerous a body as the English clergy.

"In conclusion, we are of opinion that, inasmuch as the efficiency of the Church depends mainly on the adequate discharge of the duties of the episcopal office, and as it was the design of our reformers to erect a large number of additional sees; and as the population of England and Wales has since their time been multiplied nearly fivefold—while the episcopate has received scarcely any augmentation in the last three centuries—it deserves attentive consideration, whether, for the due performance of the Church's missionary work, an increase in the episcopate is not now necessary, especially in our great centres of population."

In moving the reception of the report, the Bishop of London said, that he was far from thinking that there was an increased dread of the meeting of Convocation for the purposes of business. There was a growing feeling that there was not so much to be apprehended from the meeting of Convocation as it had been customary to apprehend. There was a feeling growing in the public mind that the measures for enforcing ecclesiastical discipline, and regulating the affairs of the Church, ought not to be proposed in Parliament unless they had been previously considered by some body which might be regarded as a representation of the great body of the clergy. Especially with regard to ecclesiastical discipline, he was quite of opinion that no measure ought to be introduced into Parliament unless previously submitted to Convocation, and it was his intention to propose that a committee of both Houses should be appointed to consider the heads of a Bill for the better enforcement of such discipline and correcting criminal clerks. He thought that the time was now come, looking at the present course of legislation—looking at the different Bills introduced, and which greatly affected the courts of ecclesiastical jurisdiction, involved their abolition, and crippled their efficiency—the time had come when they should be prepared to submit to Convocation the heads of a Bill for the correction of criminal clerks, to be introduced into Parliament by his Grace the President or by Her Majesty's Government, with the best chance of being carried, and with the certainty that, if it did pass, the clergy would have no just grounds of complaint that they had not been consulted on the matter. He did not mean to say that the majority, or even a very considerable part, of the members of the Church were quite satisfied on the subject of the meeting of Convocation; but he was quite sure that the apprehension so long felt on the subject would be considerably diminished when the conduct of the Houses of Convocation in their committees came to recollection.

The Bishop of Lincoln seconded the motion for the reception of the report, which he considered to be one of the most able and important papers ever put forth. The report was then received.

Selections.

THE PASTORAL PROFESSOR.

From the Lamp and the Lanthorn, by Hamilton.

"In the Spring of 1817, there used to meet together in a large saloon at Geneva, from twenty to thirty Students. Some of them were ardent and accomplished young men, and all of them were aspirants to the Christian Ministry. But at that time, little faith was found in Geneva. The city of Calvin and Beza was under the influence of Voltaire and Rousseau, and in the christened Paganism of its Theological Academy. "St. Plato and St. Seneca" had supplanted St. Paul and St. Peter. These young men assembled every alternate evening, and took their places at a long table, on which lay the Hebrew and Greek Scriptures, with many versions, German, French, and English. In this little college the professor was a retired naval officer, from Britain. He was a grave and thoughtful man. He had gained his ascendancy over his scholars by the interest which he manifested in their future ministry. They had no idea that the pastorate was such a responsible and weighty office; but as he spoke so seriously about the thousands of souls of which they were soon to have oversight, the solemnity of the stranger solemnized themselves. They were now searching the Scriptures daily, on purpose to ascertain the truth of God: and as unheard-of doctrines, such as human corruption, the incarnation, justification by the righteousness of another, one by one came forth

from the open volume, great was the astonishment of these youthful "Bereans." Of course many difficulties were felt, and a few objections and cavils were started: but it was only by comparing Scripture with Scripture that Mr. Haldane explained or defended its statements. "There it stands written with the finger of God," was the end of the matter; nor was there any question on which texts did not occur instant and apposite to this "living concordance." As the result, almost every one of these students became a distinguished evangelist; and in the persons of men like Gonthier and Lien, and Merle d'Aubigné, many dark places in France, Belgium, and Switzerland were penetrated by the light of the Gospel; nor is it saying too much to affirm, that, through the Evangelical Society in which it ended, the whole of French-speaking Europe is destined to feel the effects of that season's earnest Bible-teaching."

THE VALUE OF RELIGION.

From the same.

"By the confession of the world's own poet, Christianity is the religion of the sorrowful." Nothing can be truer. Christ is indeed the mourner's Friend. Christ's Word is the "Afflicted Man's Companion." And if any humane spirit would like to mitigate the distresses of his brethren; if you would fain be a son of consolation to the sons of sorrow, the kindest thing you can do is to conduct them to this source of perennial comfort. The world is full of sufferers: and if you do not meet them in the streets, city missionaries and others will soon direct you to their dwellings. There or in the public hospital, you will find them bedrid, consumptive, palsy stricken, blind, wasting away in direful diseases; and what can you do for them? What can philosophy do? What can mere philanthropy do? The one would discourse on the pain-conquering power of a resolute will, or would expatiate on the lot of mortality:—as if writhing anguish could be mesmerized by stoic saws, or a fever could be cured by fatalism. And the other, wiser and kinder, would seek for the tossing sufferer better attendance, or a purer air, or a less uneasy couch; but it is a short limit to which, when humanity has gone, it can go no farther. The best skill cannot cure old age; the rarest cordial cannot tempt the sickly palate; the purest air, the softest couch, the kindest nursing cannot conjure into health, those that are doomed to die. But in his mercy God has provided an assuagement for such misery,—an effectual antidote to the worst ingredient in the cup of woe. Visiting your poor neighbour, you will probably find that antidote already in the house, but its value is still unknown. It is your privilege to be the ministering angel, and to point out to the dying Haggar the hidden well. Putting into the words as much of Christ's own tenderness and kindness as you can, you read or repeat some appropriate passage; and, just as the scanty strength can bear it, you add here a little and there a little, and renew your visits till, in an arrested ear and opening heart, God crowns your love and answers your prayers. And those only who have seen it can tell the difference between the sick chamber where there is no hope, and one lit up with immortality—between the dull endurance or the rebellious resistance of the stricken transgressor, and the patient cheerfulness and prophetic Lazarus, whose sorry couch is spread in glory's vestibule. To that next to his highest service who preoccupies with scriptural principle a healthful youthful neighbour, and who thus secures for society a Christian citizen, as well as for Heaven a new inhabitant,—is his visit of mercy who carries to the abodes of wretchedness the tidings of great joy, and who, with the help of the Holy Spirit, reveals the secret which makes the worst pain tolerable, and the sorest affliction joyful,—which beguiles with songs the longest night, and teaches the man of sorrow always to triumph through Jesus Christ."

TURKEY—HEALTH OF THE TROOPS.—The Cholera has appeared among the troops at Varna, but the English forces are as yet tolerably free from it. Sixteen French soldiers have died from this terrible scourge out of twenty-five who were attacked by it. A good deal of sickness prevails among the Turkish and Egyptian troops. There has been some mortality among the cavalry at Devno also, and the chaplain performed six funeral services among the two cavalry brigades last week. A sergeant of the 8th Hussars, who had been suffering for some time from an affection of the head, committed suicide by drowning. The poor fellow, who was one of the best non-commissioned officers in the regiment, is greatly regretted. Several officers are invalidated, and will be sent home by the

first opportunity—among them, Messrs. Balfour and Alexander of the Rifle Brigade. Lord Dupplin, who has been seriously ill, is now much better; but it is said that he also will be obliged to go to England. Dr. MacDonald, who has been sent in to the general hospital, is also somewhat better. Thirteen officers of the Guards are unwell, but not seriously so. The diarrhoea is also too prevalent. Nearly everyone has it in his turn. The quantity of apricots ("Kill John") and hard crude fruit which are devoured by the men may in some degree account for the prevalence of this debilitating malady. The commissariat bread is not so good as it used to be and speedily turns sour; but the officers are taking steps to remedy the evil by the erection of ovens in which the bread will have more room to swell. As a general rule the French bread is lighter and better than our own.

VARNA, JULY 26.—The cholera has crept from the camp into the town, and, as is usual on its outbreak, has exhibited great malignancy. On Monday it broke out in the camp of the Light Division. Upwards of twenty men died in twenty-four hours. A sergeant of the 88th was taken ill at seven o'clock, and was dead at twelve o'clock. The 23d Regiment suffered especially, and it may readily be imagined that great dismay prevailed at such sudden and fatal illness. On Monday evening Brigadier Airey gave orders that the division should parade the following morning with baggage packed, &c. Several fresh cases of cholera occurred during the night, and on Tuesday the division to our great joy struck tents and marched off from Devno to Monastir, a village about eight miles further on, where they pitched their camp on a fine piece of land amid scrub and brushwood. The first division has suffered from both cholera and typhus.

CONSTANTINOPLE, JULY 29.—It is with much regret that we announce the appearance of cholera of a malignant form in the army and among seamen in some of the vessels in the Bosphorus. For some weeks cases of diarrhoea have been common, and the more cautious have abstained from fruit, vegetables, and such like unwholesome productions. During this time, and especially for the last fortnight, cases of decided cholera were known to have occurred amongst the allied troops; but it was hoped that the malady might rest there, and that the forces might be spared any more serious affliction. However, on Monday last, the disease commenced its ravages on the most frightful scale among the troops. Although the visitation has not yet been serious, there are signs that it may any hour take an equally appalling form. For several days almost every stranger has been attacked with a malady, which is not cholera, yet may evidently soon lapse into that disease, and no small alarm has been occasioned by the severity and wide extent of the visitation. Two or three deaths have taken place in the vessels in port, but as yet no account of a fatal case on shore has transpired. The vast quantity of melons, unripe plums, and cucumbers, which are exposed on every side, seem likely to invite the disease; and, should it make its appearance in a form as malignant as at Varna, there can be no doubt that its effects will be severe among the lower classes. The deaths in the army have risen to a most serious amount: it is stated that already nearly two hundred have perished, and when it is considered that the pestilence has only just begun, it becomes of importance to take instant means to check the evil. Perhaps, no slight part of the disaster is owing to the idle and stationary life of the troops. Indian officers, accustomed to deal with armies in hot climates, have asserted all along that sickness would attack the army if kept for weeks unemployed within its lines, and that the only way to keep the men healthy was to give them constant employment, and something of the excitement of war.

The Society for Irish Church Missions have sustained a severe loss by the death of Mrs. D'Arcy the wife of the excellent clergyman of that name, of Clifden, Cornemara. By her sole exertions £1100 or £1200 per annum were collected for the cause she had so much at heart. Her record is as high. The agents of this society are most energetic in every corner of the island to propagate the truth, and are very frequently roughly handled at the instigation of the priests. Not many days since a number of men were tried at the Wexford quarter sessions, for those riots at Ennis-corthy which had been raised to put a stop to the preaching and the teaching of the society's agents. The work of conversions from Rome, however, is prospering, despite all opposition and hostility. The Bishop of Cashel confirmed a few days ago nearly two hundred converts at Doon-glebs schoolhouse, which makes nearly five hundred confirmed persons who have been brought out of Romanism in that locality alone during the last few years.