

The Church Guardian.

"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, DECEMBER 2, 1880.

One Dollar a Year.

REV. JOHN D. H. BROWNE,
REV. EDWYN S. W. PENTREATH,

LOCK DRAWER 29, HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA,
MONCTON, NEW BRUNSWICK,

EDITORS.

THE Rev. Dr. Pentreath, Head Master of the Wimborne School, and late Open Scholar and Prizeman of Worcester College, has been appointed Head Master of the *Isle of Wight Preparatory School*, Ryde.

Miss Mabel May, a young English lady of rare character and accomplishments, will be the companion and assistant of Mrs. General Garfield in the White House. She is said to be a woman of unusual mental and moral stamina.

John Hall, a young English gentleman, is starting a stock farm of twelve hundred acres of land, which he purchased about two months ago in the Tiger Hill section, Manitoba, about nine miles northwest of Beausfield post office.

THE private secretary of the late Viceroy of India having forwarded to "The Princess Alice (Darmstadt) Memorial Fund" the sum of £3,660 from residents in India, her Majesty has been graciously pleased to express her sincere appreciation of this gratifying mark of loyalty to herself and of sympathy with her grief.

A STRONG petition was offered in the Diocesan Convention, in New York, praying for the abolition of special rights to pews in churches. The petitioners believe that the practice, never prevalent until within a few years, of renting pews and seats in advance smacks a great deal of sharp business. They claim that every church should belong as much to the poor as to the rich, and that a man's spirit, instead of his clothes and his money, should determine where he may sit or kneel.

A VALUABLE acquisition has been secured for the Berlin Museum, and is about to be put in its place in its galleries. It is the colossal altar of the kings of Pergamus, a work of art famous in antiquity as it is by reputation in present day. The discovery of this valuable piece of sculpture, found in fragments, is due to the German explorer, Herr Hahnemann. With great trouble the pieces have been found and joined together. The sides of the altar are embellished with sculpture in relief representing the contest between the gods and the Titans.

"AN ELDER" in the *Interior* gives his views on the slow advance of the Presbyterian Body during the past year. The fault he thinks, is in the ministers. Among other instances he cites: "The intolerable bigotry exhibited by the ministry assembled in the recent Pan-Protestant Council, who had come, many of them, thousands of miles to testify their desire to bring together the various sects of Protestant Christendom, could not muster enough Christian charity to enable them to sit down as brethren around the table of their common Master. Better far that such councils should never meet than to meet and part thus."

THE announcement of the discovery of gold in Newfoundland, which has now been officially confirmed, will serve to direct popular attention to this important Colony, which has not hitherto received that notice which it deserves; and when this is the case we may hope soon to see the popular impression dispersed that the island is little more than a land of perpetual fogs and almost perennial snow and ice. The capabilities of the island are vastly greater and more varied than is generally supposed. The coasts teem, as is well known, with fish; and in the interior are large areas of fine grass land interspersed with belts and valuable timber trees and well watered with rivers and lakes. Sheep and cattle thrive there to perfection. Geologically the island is rich in minerals, among which coal, iron, copper, and lead are foremost while to the list gold may now be added. — *Colonies and India.*

A COLPORTEUR in Japan recently sold over 1,000 Bibles in one week.

IN India, Ceylon and Butmah it is believed the number of Christians increased 200,000 last year.

THE richest men in Germany are the Rothschilds of Frankfurt, Krupp of Essen, and Bleichbroder of Berlin; and Prince Bismarck is also reckoned among the millionaires.

THE American Exchange at London reports astonishing expenditures by Americans this year in Europe, and judging from their letters of credit, estimates the outlay of 60,000 travellers at \$180,000,000.

IN no year has the emigration from Bremen attained such proportions as in the present. 74,000 emigrants have already left Bremer-haven on board the steamers of the North German Lloyd in the course of this year—four times as many as in 1879.

THE oldest house in the United States is supposed to be at Pembroke, Mass. In 1622, Mr. Peleg Barker's ancestors built a fort of stone and mortar, as defense against the Indians, and it has been used as a dining-room for years. The main building is only ten years younger.

DR. ACLAND, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford, at the annual meeting of the supporters of the Sarah Acland School for Nurses, said that he was well aware there were many cultivated Englishwomen who looked down upon the vocation of the nurse; but it was a conviction he had long held that the profession of nursing was one to which English ladies had better devote themselves than to the practice of medicine and surgery. He had not the slightest objection to the latter course; but, if they asked his advice, he would say they went into a department where their presence was not necessary, and they left one which no other person could fill, and where thousands were wanting.

IN digging the foundation for a new shaft at the rear of premises in Long-acre London, some workmen came upon a chest containing a large number of gold and silver coins of the reign of Henry VII. in a high state of preservation. Besides a quantity of miscellaneous articles, the box contained about twenty pieces of church plate and ornaments. Among these were a massive chalice, a ciborium, a monstrance, all set with precious stones; a finely carved crozier head, a lapis lazuli crucifix, a pectoral cross and chain attached, some small vessels, and what appears to have been the mitre of an abbot or a bishop. At the foot of the chalice a cross with a nimbus is engraved, and a scroll with the Latin inscription, "Ad majorem Dei gloriam."

THE assertion is made sometimes by Roman Catholics that the apostolic succession has not been preserved in our Church. Those who assert this without thorough examination are wilfully ignorant of the truth. Those who fully examine and then assert it are guilty of falsehood. Candid Roman Catholics, such as Lingard the historian of England, declare the fact of the successive ordination of bishops among us to be undoubted. The truth is that our Church has kept so much more carefully a good record of the consecration of our bishops than the Church of Rome has that when a pervert from our Church took orders in the Church of Rome, a learned Roman Catholic declared that Mr. —'s English orders were *historically better* than his Roman orders." Pope Pius the Ninth invited the English bishops as well as the Greek bishops to take part in the Vatican Council. Why should he have done this if they were not indeed bishops? So much for the admission of adversaries. — *Church Messenger.*

ACCORDING to an estimate of the New York *Journal of Commerce*, the number of Jews in the world slightly exceeds seven millions, distributed as follows: Russia, 2,621,000; Austria, 1,475,000; Germany, 512,000; Turkey, 100,000; the Netherlands, 70,000; Great Britain, 60,000; France, 50,000; Italy, 35,000; Spain and Portugal, 4,000; Sweden and Norway, 2,000. There are half a million in the United States, of whom about 70,000 live in New York. In Asia there are about 200,000, of whom 20,000 are in India and 25,000 in Palestine. Nearly 100,000 reside in Africa, the bulk of whom are to be found in Algiers.

CHURCHMEN ought to distinguish clearly between that which is of the Faith and that which is only opinion. Man's life is too short, and the work to be done is too important to spend time or strength in controversy as to non-essentials. We believe that those of another generation will wonder how Christians of this kind could have been so blind and narrow as to fight and wrangle, and divide, and sub-divide on mere matters of opinion. There is no good reason, to-day, why all Christians who accept the Creed should not come together and dwell together in unity of faith, of work, and of worship. Our generation is not ripe for it. By denominational pride and prejudice, the eyes of many are so holden, that they do not see the folly or admit the sin of the "unhappy divisions" that now separate those who are alike devoted to a common Lord and Saviour. Let us hope that those of a near-coming day, will be wiser than those of this. We believe that for all who love God and man, the great question of all questions will soon be, How can we heal the wounds of Christ's Mystical Body? How can a broken-up and divided Christendom be one again? — *Living Church.*

ADVENT.

"BEHOLD, I come quickly—hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."—Rev. iii., 11.—This is the application that Christ Himself makes of the announcement of His Coming. It is His Advent message. How practical it is! He calls attention to the future, but only as it were to rivet our thoughts more firmly on the all-important work of the present. Perhaps, while we are occupied in defining the meaning of obscure passages on the Second Coming, and discussing the claims of differing theories, we are letting go the very things that that Coming is intended to teach, and without which we must surely stand "ashamed" at the last.

THE great question in view of all that is to be, is simply this—Are we holding our own, or are we keeping the heights God has enabled us to gain? In other words, are we growing, making progress in our spiritual life? If not, we are not making the preparation for His Advent that He Himself requires. He would have each day tell on our lives; each contribute to the one great purpose of progress.

IT is not easy to keep at our best. The tendency of our nature is to a lower level, and it is this constant downward inclination that makes the necessity for constant self-denial. No sooner do we gain a height than we begin to descend, unless we continue to "hold fast" the grace that enabled us to rise. Then, indeed, we are ready for new victories, and so will make yesterday's gain the stepping-stone to higher heights. The danger lies in carelessness. We think we are secure, and begin to take liberties with ourselves. The descent may be gradual, but it is sure. Because this danger is so imminent, so common to Christians at every stage of their progress, this special message of warning has been thought necessary. It calls for a voice from Heaven—and the risen Christ Himself speaks: "I come quickly; hold fast that thou hast, that no man take thy crown." — *Parish Visitor.*

IN a recent paper read before the Royal Geographical Society, Rev. Chauncy Maples, of the Universities Mission in Eastern Africa, tells how at Matola he met a native who had on his shoulder an old coat, mouldy and partially eaten away, but evidently of English make and material. On asking where the coat came from, he was told that it was given him by "a white man who treated black men as his brothers, whose words were always gentle, and whose manners were always kind, whom as a leader it was a privilege to follow, and who knew the way to the hearts of all men." It proved to be Dr. Livingstone's coat, and this was the rude African's description of the great missionary explorer. He had kept the coat for ten years in memory of the giver. The incident reveals not only the character of Livingstone, but also that of the African. These savages have hearts, and men should find the way to them.

BISHOP KELLY.

OUR many readers, Clerical and Lay, in Newfoundland, as well as many of the Clergy and Laity of Canada, will be interested in the following item which appeared in last week's *Guardian* :—

"Consequent on the creation of the new diocese of Liverpool, the diocese of Chester has been formed into two archdeaconries, styled respectively the archdeaconries of Chester and Macclesfield. To the latter of those the coadjutor Bishop of the diocese has been appointed. Bishop Kelly is a late Scholar of Clare College, Cambridge, and graduated in 1854. In 1857 he became coadjutor to Bishop Feild, of Newfoundland. Having served in this capacity for several years, he was subsequently himself appointed Bishop of Newfoundland, but resigned in 1877."

Bishop Kelly, whose abilities as a preacher are of a high order, and who is in the prime of life and vigour, will, we doubt not, prove a valuable coadjutor to the Lord Bishop of Chester as Archdeacon of Macclesfield. His Lordship will allow us to wish him many years of great and extended usefulness to the Church in his new position.

Foreign Missions.

INDIA.

ABOUT THE AFGHANS.—II.

Letter from the Rev. T. P. Hughes, B. A.

As there seemed to be no immediate prospect of our Government allowing an English missionary to visit Cabul, I decided to send my native brother, the Rev. Imam Shah, to that city.

It would be premature, and would certainly compromise the British Government, at the present time, to attempt any direct evangelistic work in Cabul. The object, therefore, of Imam Shah's visit has been specially for the benefit of a small but interesting community of Armenian Christians residing in that place.

I felt that these Armenians had a very special claim upon our Peshawar Church Mission, for all of them who had been baptized had been baptized by clergymen of the Church of England. Several of them were personally known to me, and one of them had received a good education in the Peshawar Mission School.

Under these circumstances, I determined, in consultation with my colleague, Mr. Jukes, to send our excellent native clergyman, the Rev. Imam Shah, on this mission. He most cheerfully consented to undertake the somewhat hazardous journey. His letter will, I am sure, be read with interest by Christian people in England and America, many of whom, perhaps, never knew of the existence of this little beacon of Christian light in the midst of the Afghan capital.

T. P. HUGHES.

CABUL, Aug. 14.

"I arrived at the city of Cabul on the 6th of August and I have been most kindly received by the Armenian Christians. I am sorry to say one of their number died only three weeks ago. There are now four families here, consisting of fourteen souls in all—four men, eight women, and two children.

The Armenians came to Cabul with the Emperor Nadir Shah, and it is said that they then numbered one hundred families. For a long period the Armenians held good positions under the Afghan Government, and one of the Armenian ladies is the widow of the late Ancoer Azim Khan, and mother of Sardar Ishaq Khan. And even now there are signs of former respectability, although they say they are in very reduced and straitened circumstances.

When they first arrived at Cabul they had a priest with them, and four priests in succession were sent from Persia to minister to them. The last of these died in Turkestan, on his return journey. He was a man of piety, and when he died he told his two disciples, who were with him, that, although he left his body in Turkestan, his spirit would go to "the Holy Jerusalem." Of the hundred families who were at one time in Cabul, some have died in that city, some have settled in Peshawar and in Hindustan, and have died there, whilst others returned to Persia, until at last the community is reduced to this little flock of fourteen souls; but they appear to be living together in love and Christian unity.

The Armenians say that several Afghans have been secretly Christians at heart, and that some of these secret believers have been buried in their Christian cemetery.

This cemetery I visited soon after my arrival. It is a considerable piece of land surrounded by a low brick wall, and entered by a gate. Upon most of the tombs there have been inscriptions, and the symbol of the Cross, but they have been much defaced, whilst some of the slabs have been carried away by the ruthless Afghans.

The little Armenian church, in the Dala Hisar (or Royal Fort), is a small building, and very dark. It is entered by a long, dark passage. It has only one window, and consequently the church is lighted with lamps both day and night. The chancel is about twelve feet square, and the Communion table at the end is about eight feet high. It has an altar, with twelve candles upon it. Three copies of the Gospels, carefully wrapped up in silk, have been placed upon the altar, and are evidently regarded with great reverence. They are esteemed most sacred, and are never touched; but by one of the Christians who seems to have some special commission for this duty.

The vessels for the celebration of the Holy Communion have all been carefully placed in a recess in the wall, and it has been bricked up and sealed, ever since the last priest left them, very many years ago.

On Sunday last (the ninth Sunday after Trinity), I baptized four of the Armenians, and, God willing, I shall baptize four more on Sunday next.

Every morning I have daily prayers in the church (using the Persian translation of our liturgy), and on Wednesday evening I had also a service, and preached in Persian.

On Sunday next I hope to administer the Lord's Supper—that is, if the Armenians wish me to do so. But as I brought no vessels with me, I shall ask them to open the sealed recess in the wall.

God willing, I shall start for Peshawar next week, and I must reserve all further news until I see you.

It has not been considered advisable for me to walk about the city much; but I have been several times to the chief bazaar, where trade seems to be flourishing.

IMAM SHAH,

Pastor of Peshawar, Afghanistan.