

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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Warning.

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ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

THE confirmations in England last year numbered 217,500; in 1878 the number was 150,000.

TOWARDS the Bristol Bishopric a sum of nearly £50,000, has been subscribed and a residence provided.

TEMPERANCE sermons were preached last year in 500 churches in Ireland, and the special offertories amounted to £310,13s.

In the Convocation held in Oxford in June, the honorary degree of D.D., was conferred upon His eminence the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Cyprus.

It is stated that in Berkshire there are seventy parishes, with a population of 20,000, in which there is not a single Nonconformist place of worship.

At his recent confirmation at Newport, Mammouthshire, the Bishop of Llandaff confirmed twenty soldiers belonging to the Duke of Cornwall's Light Infantry.

It is stated that the Ven. William Lefroy, Archdeacon of Warrington, who has been appointed to the deanery of Norwich, started life as a compositor in Dublin, and was subsequently sub editor of the *Irish Times*.

THE Rev. Hyma Redgrave, for over three years minister of the Congregational Church, Algernon Road, Lewisham, has announced his decision to enter the Church of England. He is to be ordained by the Bishop of Rochester.

THE class-meeting, an indispensable condition of membership with the Methodists, is evidently doomed. At the Conference of the Methodist New Connexion no less than 123 out of 152 members voted in favour of a relaxation of the present stringent conditions.

ARCHEOLOGISTS will be interested to hear that just outside Sophia the walls of a tiny ancient church have been discovered. The interior is, as yet, entirely filled with earth, and interesting excavations are expected to be made, the church being supposed to be the famous old sanctum *sanctorum* in which, in the year 343, the Council of Sardica was held.

Two new windows are about to be placed in the English Church at S. Petersburg, of which the Rev. A. E. Watson is chaplain, the one a Jubilee window given by A. F. Clark, Esq., the other in memory of the wife of C. Woodbine

Parish, Esq., for many years a member of the congregation, and greatly beloved by the numerous English residents in the capital.

At the Trinity English Ordinations 514 men were ordained, Oxford led off this year—which is an unusual circumstance—with 168. Cambridge followed with 145; then came Durham 34; London, 31; Dublin, 16. The minor colleges supplied the rest. There were only a few literates. The answering of the C. M. S. students from Islington College was reputed to be above the average.

CONFIRMATION OF AN EX CALVINIST PREACHER. The Bishop of Landaff confirmed, in the palace chapel, last week, the Rev. John Williams, until lately a Calvinistic Methodist minister. Mr. Williams is now working gratuitously as a lay reader in a populous parish in the diocese, and will probably be accepted as a candidate for deacon's orders in September. On leaving Trevecca College he was placed first in the final examination. Mrs. Williams, wife of this gentleman, was confirmed at the same time.

THE Anniversary Service of the Girl's Friendly Society was held at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Eng., on Thursday, June 27th, at 11.30 a.m., when there was a Celebration of the Holy Communion with a sermon by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Shrewsbury. The Annual Conference of Branch Secretaries took place the following day at Grosvenor Hall. The Dean of Worcester gave the opening address, and very interesting papers were read on the work of the Girl's Friendly Society for Girls in Workhouses and Orphanages. The latest returns of the Society, as appeared by the Annual Report read at the Conference, are as follows:—Members, 121,263; Candidates, 23,020; Associates, 27,174; Branches, 980. The Society's work exists in 5727 parishes of England and Wales.

AN amusing story is told of the Hon. and Rev. John Stafford Northcote, third son of the late Lord Iddlesleigh, who is leaving Upton Pyne for St. Andrew's, Ashley-place, Westminster. Mr. Northcote—as we stated last week—was one of the most hardworking and zealous of Dr. Maclagan's host of curates when the Bishop was vicar of St. Mary's, Kensington. One of the works Dr. Maclagan gave to his curate was to inquire at all the houses in certain parts of the parish as to the spiritual condition of the servants of each house, and he described often how on one of the first occasions after he began his census he rang at the door of a large house in Queen's-gate, which was opened by a magnificent butler and two tall footmen, who remained listening while he explained the desire of his spiritual master to know whether the footmen had been confirmed. The butler listened attentively, and then surveying Mr. Northcote, who is a very small man, with great disdain, replied, "I will mention the fact to her ladyship, who will see that he never think that his proper his done," and shut the door in his face.

THE BISHOP OF CHESTER ON RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.—Addressing the Chester Sunday-school Teacher's Association at Eccleston, the

Bishop of Chester said these were days in which a certain number of popular writers and speakers, moving from a certain quarter, were constantly dinning into their ears that day schools need not necessarily teach religion, because the Sunday-school system was so admirable. Looking at the number of scholars in the Sunday-schools of the Church and various Nonconformist bodies, they set this forward as a proof that our day schools might have the religious element, so to speak, safely left out of them. He was sure those present would be the very first to set their faces like a flint against such a dangerous fallacy and misrepresentation as that. They knew that Sunday-schools could supplement the day schools, but they would be the very last to wish to see them supplant and become the substitute for day school. They knew they could not carry on the teaching of religion under the same favourable conditions as those afforded by day schools, and therefore Sunday-school teachers could be confidently reckoned upon as being among the most staunch and enlightened champions of their religious system in the day schools.

ON Thursday, 27th June, the Bishop of Exeter entertained a thousand Sunday-school teachers of all rank and ages at his episcopal palace. The party was organized by the Rural Deans, who were present, and several other clergy. The good Bishop gave all an affectionate welcome. Dinner was served on the lawn, beneath some of the fine old trees. After partaking of this repast, the party were invited to walk through the grounds, and also to visit the Palace, the whole of which was thrown open for their inspection, and nearly everyone availed himself or herself of this opportunity of viewing this most ancient and interesting edifice. At 3 p. m. the party attended service in the Cathedral close by, when special psalms were sung, and the Bishop gave a very telling address, founded on the text, 'The love of Christ constraineth us,' with special reference to Sunday-school teachers. The nave was well-nigh full of earnest worshippers. After the service the party was conducted round the Cathedral in detachments, several gentlemen and ladies being stationed at different points in order to give information respecting the building and the monuments. At five o'clock the company returned to the Palace grounds, and partook of tea and coffee, after which they separated, having spent a most enjoyable day.

PLINY, in his celebrated letter to Trajan, when referring to Christians, spoke of them as singing hymns of praise to Christ as God. Pliny was right. There is no doubt that the early Christians did worship Christ as a Divine being. Paul speaks of them as calling "upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord." Stephen, when dying, said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." (Acts vii. 59.)

CLEAR the window of the soul of cobwebs, spider webs, and unbelief and sin; that through the crystaline atmosphere, you may look through the Gate into the Heavenly City.—J. R. Macduff, D. D.