

A memorial brass to the late vicar of Margate, the Rev. W. Bellars, which has been placed in the parish church, was unveiled lately. A new bell, which has been placed in St. Barnabas Mission Church as a memorial to the late vicar, was dedicated on the Festival of St. Simon and Jude.

Lady Elizabeth Villiers has sent a cheque for £400 towards the fund now being raised for the restoration of the west front of Peterborough Cathedral. Her ladyship's donations towards the maintenance and restoration of the historic fabric amount altogether to close upon £4,000.

At the Anglican Missionary Conference, to be held in Maritzburg, South Africa, shortly, the Holy Eucharist is to be celebrated on the opening morning in as many of the languages spoken in the Province as possible—that is, Dutch, Kaffir, Zulu, Sesuta, Bechuana, Tamil, concluding with a celebration in English.

On All Saints' Day, after evensong, when the sermon was preached by the Archdeacon of Essex, the Bishop of Colchester dedicated some new work which has been recently carried out in the Church of St. Saviour's, Walthamstow. Amongst other things, the floor of the chancel and sanctuary have been laid with mosaic.

At the early celebration, on the day of the enthronement of the new Bishop of Rochester in his cathedral, the dean dedicated a magnificent frontal presented by himself. The frontal was designed by Mr. C. E. Kempe, worked by the ladies of Rochester under the superintendence of Mrs. Hole and mounted by the Sisters of Clewer.

The ancient parish church of St. Mary and All Saints, Kidderminster, has been restored to something of its pristine beauty and magnificence through the generosity of Mr. J. Brinton. The clerestory windows have been filled with stained glass in memory of the late Bishop Claughton, who was vicar of that town for 27 years.

The Very Rev. Hamilton Townsend, M.A., Dean of Achonry, died at the Deanery, Coolaney, Ballisodare, recently. The late Dean was very popular, and was well known, both in England and Ireland, as a champion of Protestantism, a pulpit orator, and an attractive platform speaker. He took a deep interest in the Irish Church Missions Society, and devoted much time to the advocacy of its cause.

The ancient parish church of St. David, Llanthony, which stands within the precincts of the old abbey, has been recently partially restored at a cost of £700. Great pains were taken to preserve all objects of interest. During the excavation of the nave and porch floors several pieces of pottery and glass were found, most of them being about three hundred years old. During the work of excavation a very curious thimble was found.

The Bishop of Winchester recently consecrated a new church at Bccombe, near Bournemouth, which has been erected at a cost of £14,000. It has sitting accommodation for 1,100 people. The vicar is the Rev. S. A. Selwyn, formerly vicar of St. James', Hatcham. Dr. Bridge, organist of Westminster Abbey, presided at the organ on this occasion. The mayor and corporation of Bournemouth were present at the opening ceremonies, clad in their robes of office.

All those to whom King's Chapel, Cambridge, is dear, will be glad to hear of the restoration of another window just completed, namely the one immediately above the south door. The result is decidedly successful, although the window itself is not so fine as those on the north which had lately been repaired. It represents, in the lower portion, some of the legends connected with the death of the Virgin, the upper lights being as usual occupied with analogous scenes from the Old Testament History.

The special dedication festival of St. John's Church, Isle of Dogs, was kept this year with unusual splendour. The Bishop of Stepney, in an imposing service of dedication, solemnly blessed several magnificent additions to the ornaments of the church, which included a richly carved series of choir stalls, an altar in a beautiful memorial chapel, which forms a part of the church, and a fine series of frescoes on the west wall above the font. The service closed with a solemn *Te Deum*.

The great hall block of the Church-house will be completed by the end of this year, and the Upper and Lower Houses of the Convocation of the Province of Canterbury will hold their next group of sessions in the temporary rooms on the ground floor of the building, which have been fitted for their use. The Duke of York has consented to open the great

hall on some day towards the end of January. This hall, which will hold from 1,200 to 1,500, will be available for Church meetings after the date of the opening ceremony.

The whirligig of time brings strange revenges. Before the Reformation the chapel of Gray's Inn had a stained glass window representing St. Thomas of Canterbury; but by an order of May 16, 1531, Henry VIII., "consideration being had of the King's command that all the images of Thomas Becket, sometime Archbishop of Canterbury, in any windows, either of churches or chapels, should be obliterated, it was ordered that Ed. Hall, then one of the readers of this house, should take out a certain window in the chapel wherein the picture of the said Archbishop was gloriously painted, and place another instead thereof in memory of our Lord praying in the wilderness."

On the day before his enthronement, the Bishop of Rochester was presented at his house with a pastoral staff, by those members of Keble College who had graduated during his wardenship. The presentation was made by the Rev. J. O. Johnston, Principal of Cuddesdon College, and Mr. A. E. Bernays, one of Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools. At the enthronement on the following day, the aged verger, Mr. Miles (who is the *doyen* of vergers—no pun intended, though he is dean's verger—having been at the cathedral as man and boy for exactly seventy years), was confined to his bed, and therefore unable to be present. The bishop expressed his regret at Mr. Miles' absence, and specially sent him his blessing through Canon Pollock.

Canon Hawkins, of Newport, Monmouth, has just completed his ninety fifth year. To a Newport pressman he has given some interesting recollections of his early days, dating back to the battle of Waterloo, and embracing the rise of Byron's fame, the issue of Scott's novels, and the old coaching days. He has lived under four sovereigns—George III., George IV., William IV. and Victoria. His sight was failing when he gave up the living of Newport, thirteen years ago, but it had remained about the same up till now. Thirty years ago he was ill and had to leave his living, but he went to Clifton and got well in about three years, and since then he has been fairly well, though during the past twelve months he has suffered from muscular rheumatism.

A very interesting tribute to the memory of the last Bishop of Chichester was recently paid in a Jewish synagogue in East London. A report states that, as is the custom among the Jews during services of this description, the Ark, containing the scrolls of the law, was draped in black, and black candles were burned in lieu of the ordinary white tapers during the ceremony, while the name and titles of the deceased bishop were written in white characters on a black ground and placed in front of the Ark. The members having assembled in silence, two letters of thanks for birthday congratulations from the late Dr. Durnford to Mr. Cohen were read, as was also a short address praising the late bishop's sympathies and acknowledging the liberal treatment Jews receive in England.

At the re-opening of the chapel last year, the Bishop of Marlborough called attention to the fact of five Primates having been students of the Inn, and an offer was made to the Benchers, by one of the barristers of the Inn, of High Church proclivities, to replace the Becket window. The new window, which is now in position on the north side of the Communion Table, is from a design exhibited in the Royal Academy of 1894, by Mr. O. V. Ostreban, and represents Becket as Archbishop and Lord Chancellor. Above the figure, which occupies more than half the space of the lancet window, are the towers and outline of Canterbury Cathedral, and beneath is the scene of the Archbishop's murder, with figures of monks engaged in prayer. A suitable Latin inscription records the removal of the old window and its restoration by the donor, Mr. H. C. Richards, M.P.

The beautiful Church of the Holy Rood, Carnoustie, Scotland, has been enriched by the insertion of stained glass in the east window in memory of the late Charles Monk Lingard Guthrie, by his brothers and sisters. The window was unveiled and solemnly dedicated by the Primus on a recent Sunday. At the Holy Communion the celebrant was the Rev. H. J. W. Head, priest in charge. The Primus preached from St. Luke xxiii. 28—"To-day shalt thou be with Me in Paradise." The subject chosen for the window is the "Crucifixion." The figures are all in white, and the necessary richness has been obtained by colour behind the figures and in the handsome border surrounding the lights. The following text runs beneath the group—"Quemadmodum desiderat cervus ad fontes aquarum—sitivit anima mea ad Deum fortem vivum." At the base of the lights is

the memorial inscription held by an angel—"Carolus Monk Lingard Guthrie de Carnoustie, nat. 1859, mort. 1893. Requiescat in pace. Amen"; and at the end of this is a shield bearing the arms of the deceased.

Correspondence.

All Letters containing personal allusions will appear over the signature of the writer.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

N. B.—If any one has a good thought, or a Christian sentiment, or has facts, or deductions from facts, useful to the Church, and to Churchmen, we would solicit their statement in brief and concise letters in this department.

The Late Mrs. Alexander.

SIR,—In an Irish newspaper kindly sent me by a friend, was marked a letter written by the present rector of the parish in the county of Tyrone, of which the Bishop of Derry was formerly Incumbent. In the year 1850, Mrs. Alexander came there as a bride, and it is of her noble work in Termonamongan that the Rev. Wm. Vernon writes. In a previous article the editor of the *Irish Times* had said: "Truly hers was not the life of the dreamery votary of verse, but was passed in the daily exercise of an exquisite sensibility for the needs and comforts of a remote Irish parish. Many a gleam of golden sunshine would she kindle as she entered a desolate home where penury and sickness struggled for the mastery. No inclemency of weather, or distance to travel, or visits of friends, were permitted to interfere with the ministrations of condolence, counsel, or charitable help." Your many readers will, I am sure, be pleased to have the addition of the present rector printed in your columns. The example of this equally saintly and gifted woman cannot be too widely made known to the Church. Mr. Verney writes: "The following facts, elicited from those who still remember Mrs. Alexander's work in the parish, fully corroborate what you have written. My churchwarden has told me of her visits to an old woman afflicted with paralysis, and seeing that she had not sufficient bedcovering, she took off her shawl and wrapped it around the poor sufferer. From the same source I have heard of her daily visits for six weeks to a woman suffering from cancer, and of how lovingly and tenderly she every day for those six weeks dressed the sore. Ellen Hoynes, a Roman Catholic, the woman referred to, is still living in the neighbourhood, and in all probability owes her life to the loving care then bestowed upon her. The parish clerk still remembers her carrying soup and other nourishment to the sick and poor in the most remote parts of the parish and in the most inclement weather, and often has he seen her returning from her ministrations of loving and practical sympathy wet through. I cannot refrain from mentioning another case differing from the above, which shows the great interest she took in all classes of the parish. She sent a man to school whose education had been somewhat neglected in his youth, and gave him a weekly allowance towards his maintenance out of her own purse, and when he had made sufficient progress Mrs. Alexander procured an appointment for him as national school teacher. As beautifully put in her exquisite hymn, 'There is a green hill far away,'

She trusted in His Redeeming Blood,

And tried His works to do.

"Time would fail one to tell of all her work and labour of love here. The good she did, the help afforded, her gentle, loving, self-denying ministry in this parish will never be known 'until the day break, and the shadows flee away.'"

Need I apologise for sending you the above?

T. BEDFORD JONES.

The Rectory, Brockville.

"Roman Absurdities."

SIR,—As you seem to have considerable space to devote to "Anglican Fallacies," so-called, perhaps you will not object to affording your readers the perusal of some "Roman absurdities." My interest was aroused some weeks ago by a short article in the issue of the *Canadian Freeman* (Kingston, Ont.) for 11th September, 1895, purporting to be a partial statement of the "wonderful strides" the Catholic (?) Church had made during the present century. The *Freeman*, which is regarded by many as Archbishop Cleary's organ, stated that the statistics it gave were compiled by Mgr. Loubet, a French missionary; that they were authentic, and that they spoke for themselves. As they were the first actual figures relating to the question of Roman progress which had come under my notice, I determined to verify them if possible, and I now propose to give you the result of my investigations, though, of course, as part of the article refers to half-civilized