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# 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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### ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

**A GOOD SIGN.**—The "Official Year Book of the Church of England for 1887" reports that the annual average number of candidates confirmed in the nine years ending with 1883, compared with the corresponding number for three years ending with 1886, shows a gain of 22½ per cent.; and if we compare together the annual average for the three years before 1875 with that for the past three years the gain is no less than 47 per cent.—a figure which shows that the growth in the number of confirmees is outstripping the growth of population by nearly four to one.

**ANOTHER WITNESS.**—The new English Church of All Saint's, Rome, was opened, we believe, for worship on Easter Day. It is not completed, as two-thirds of the tower remain to be built, and the chancel floor, pulpit and reading desk are only temporarily constructed of wood. The expenditure has been, so far, £6,000 for the site, £6,000 for the foundations, £10,000 for the brick and stone work of walls, and £6,000 for marble fittings and roof, etc. Nine painted glass windows are ordered at a cost of £600, given by various members of the congregation. The funds being exhausted, the chaplain has been obliged to advance £3,000.

**PRESIDING BISHOP OF P. E. CHURCH.**—By the death of the venerable Bishop Lee of Delaware, Bishop Williams, of Connecticut, becomes the Presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Of him the *Hartford Courant* says: "It never had a worthier."

[Those who had the privilege of meeting with and hearing Bishops Williams when in Montreal some years ago will endorse this sentiment of the *Courant*.]

**BISHOP JAGGAR.**—A newspaper correspondent, writing from Florence, Italy, says: "The Right Rev. Bishop Jaggar, of Southern Ohio, is here, with his wife and daughter. He has been in ill health for a long time, but is much benefited by the climate of Florence. He still holds the bishopric of (Southern) Ohio, no successor having yet been decided upon. He is not permitted by his physicians to read books or newspapers, and he amuses himself by studying painting. The Bishop is a great favorite in his diocese, and his friends will be glad to learn of his improvement."

**GOOD RECORD.**—During the week preceding Easter, Bishop Potter made about twenty visit-

ations for the purpose of Confirmation, in the course of which he confirmed no less than one thousand persons, a record unprecedented in the annals of the diocese.

**A WORTHY BAND.**—At Christ Church, Brooklyn, the Rev. Dr. Bancroft, Rector, saw a glad sight on Easter Day. When the time came for the reception of the Holy Eucharist, sixty-seven young men advanced to the sacred Table, and shared "the continued feast." They had formed themselves into a band or guild for the furtherance of the work of the Church and the cultivation of the life of God in their own souls, and now together, on Easter Day, received the holy Sacrament. It was a glad sight and full of future promise; it is to be wished it were not unique.

**STATE SERVICE.**—The *Times* says it is understood that on the 22nd of May, the Sunday after Ascension Day, the Speaker and the House of Commons will attend St. Margaret's, Westminster, and that the preacher will be the Bishop of Ripon. The last occasion on which the House of Commons attended in state was on the 4th of May, 1856; but the occasion which is best remembered was the 21st of March, 1855, when Canon Melvill preached before the House during the Crimean war.

**A HELPFUL SUGGESTION.**—Holy habits and helpful lessons learned in any special season should be treasured up and practiced all through the year—all through life. Our Christian life should not be like the tide which regularly ebbs and flows—reaching high-water mark at one Easter time only to fall back again when the next Lent moon rises—but rather like the deep strong current of a river, which may have its more quiet eddies and its rapids, but still never ceases in its onward flow. The holy seasons of the Church should be like inflowing streamlets, increasing the strength and volume of our spiritual life. Without special prayer and effort there is danger of a reaction and stagnation.

**ST. CUTHBERT.**—The twelve hundredth anniversary of the death of St. Cuthbert, on the 20th of March, 687, was made the subject of commemorative services throughout Durham and Northumberland. Canon Dixon was selected as special preacher in Durham Cathedral, which was originally built as a shrine of the Saint whose bones are buried there.

**GOOD FRIDAY IN ENGLAND.**—There was a great increase in the number of London and suburban churches in which the Meditations on the Seven Words from the Cross formed a special service from 12 to 3 on Good Friday. The general rule seemed to be to say Morning Prayer at an earlier hour, and to conclude the Ante-Communion Office and sermon by noon.

**CLERICAL MUNIFICENCES.**—The Rev. Dr. Saul, of Philadelphia, noted for his frequent and liberal gifts to various departments of Church work, has signified his intention to give immediately to each Domestic Missionary Bishop, \$1,000, to be held as an invested fund

by the Board of Managers of the General Missionary Society of the Church.

**CONSECRATION.**—The Rev. Mr. Talbot, bishop-elect of Wyoming and Idaho, is to be consecrated soon, so as to begin his work about the first of July.

**THE Bishop of Nebraska says:**—No person should be presented for Confirmation without some knowledge of the Church Catechism. The Church expects the clergy to examine the candidates in this exposition of doctrine. A small class well instructed, and able "to give a reason for the faith that is in them," is a greater gain to the Church than a larger number who scarcely have been told what Confirmation is and the Scripture proofs for the solemn rite and the benefit which they may expect to receive from it. Never was it more necessary that there should be positive and definite truth inculcated.

**OF GENERAL APPLICATION.**—We observe in the reports of dioceses not remote from Nebraska, that there are rectors of large parishes who are actively engaged in mission work in their own city or in towns adjacent to their cures. We wish very earnestly that every priest in this diocese would be looking around him for an opportunity to extend the Kingdom of God, by establishing a mission or holding regular services in some neglected neighborhood. We cannot expect very much from the laity if the clergy do not lead in this word of missionary effort.

**CANON KNOX-LITTLE** has, it is announced, sufficiently recovered to resume his term of residence at Worcester Cathedral. The Canon's friends hope that ere long he will be well enough to fulfil some of his old-standing preaching engagements.

At Worcester Cathedral under the direction of Dr. Gott, the new Dean, Holy Week was observed with great solemnity, and the use of special music was made an impressive feature in the services. In addition to the ordinary daily service (Matins and Evensong) a special service was given at eight p.m., after which a portion of Bach's *Passion Music* was sung on the first four evenings, followed by an address by the Rev. Canon Creighton, appropriate to the particular passage of the music sung. The music was sung by the regular Cathedral choir, the Voluntary choir, and members of the Festival chorus, Mr. Done, the veteran organist, conducting. On Good Friday the services succeeded each other in the Cathedral from half-past seven a.m. throughout the day, many of the clergy remaining within the walls of the sacred building until the doors were finally closed at ten p.m. The services opened with an address by the Dean at half-past seven, and at nine o'clock Matins and Holy Communion followed. From noon to three p.m. was occupied by the devotion of the "Three Hours' Agony," with a second address by the Dean. At half-past six came Evensong, with a portion of Handel's oratorio, *Messiah*, and a sermon by the Dean.