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The Church Standard,

LATE OBSERVER.
"PRO ARIS ET FOCIS."

Vol. I. JANUARY, 1868. No. 1.

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EN AVANT.

THE first movement of an army in the field is to throw out an advanced guard, whose duties are to examine the ground in front; mark the weakness of this position, and the strength of that; clear away obstacles on the line of march in this and that direction; post sentries as far into the enemy's country as prudence will warrant; endeavour to ascertain the number of the foe, and every movement in the ranks of the enemy; and to keep the main body so well informed, as to enable them to take up a new position, with every chance of success.

The OBSERVER has discharged this office vigilantly and well. For six months it has reconnoitred with caution and care, and we now press forward to plant the CHURCH STANDARD, as a rallying point for our friends, and a challenge to our enemies.

But let us clearly be understood, as waging no aggressive warfare. Our aim is but to defend the hearths and homes of our Christian inheritance from the attacks of open infidelity, masked

heresy, and seditious schism; to preserve and maintain unimpaired the doctrine and discipline of our Mother Church; to expose the frauds and machinations of those, who would disturb her peace and destroy her unity, without offering any equivalent; to put forth a plain and true account of her mission, and to shame her professing adherents into zeal and activity in her cause, uninfluenced by intolerance or uncharitableness; and, by all fair and legitimate means, to promulgate the beauty of her system, and the knowledge of her power for good, in the midst of worldliness, indifference, lukewarmness, or rebellion against her restraints. To this end, the correspondence of her true friends will find a place in our columns, and such local intelligence as seems appropriate to this object, whilst our reviewer will be open to receive any publications of the day, bearing on this question, and to bring to the notice of our readers such works, already published, as may help them in the confirmation of their faith and practice.

All wilful or heedless infringement of the Church's rules, either in this neighborhood, or elsewhere, will demand our notice, as also educational efforts, either allied to the Church, or antagonistic to the same; whilst topics of the day, having even a remote connection with deeper and more spiritual subjects, will be pressed into our service. In short, we shall endeavour to represent the views of the steadfast, and lead the opinions of the wavering, in a Church direction, within the limits of the book of Common Prayer, and on the basis of the Holy Scriptures; and in this we claim the support of the established, and solicit the sympathies of the less matured, who are willing and earnest in the search after truth, and anxious, in these days of indefinite profession and inconsistent practice, to fix their habitation, and apprehend their mission.