

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## The Board of Mission Address.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian:

SIR,—On Sunday last in all our churches was read the Address of the Board of Mission. Admirable as it is, it seems to be defective in one particular. We are not told the proportion of our income that God has commanded us to give for the support of His Church, or the amount of "offerings" required of us. The Board is not singular in this respect, for in England I have never heard of tithes, except those with which the Church was endowed in Saxon times. Enormous sums have indeed been given to the Church, but I, for one, have never been told that if we laymen, and clergy, too, for that matter, do not give a tithe of our wages or profits to God's Church, in obedience to His command, we are robbers of God. The Church seems to have forgotten all about it. Yet this was the custom in the Church both immediately before and immediately after the time of our Lord. In Malachi we read "Even from the days of your father ye are gone away from Mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto Me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of Hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet he have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts. If I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, and there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Lord of hosts."

When our Lord became the High Priest, and offered up the Lamb of God upon the altar of the Cross, and ascended into the Holy of Holies to plead for us on the right hand of the Father, He only abrogated the bloody sacrifices that He Himself had fulfilled. It was the same Church still, but under the law of grace and love, and one of the first modifications was in the law of tithes and offerings, for we read that the faithful did not say that ought they had was their own, but had all things in common. It was thus they obeyed the last command of our risen Lord, to go and teach all nations, not being satisfied to give the beggarly tenth like the Jew.

If all this is true, we may cease to wonder at the miserable state of the Canadian Church. We have been robbing God, and are "cursed with a curse." Let our Fathers in God and the Board of Missions consider whether a day of solemn humiliation, fasting, and prayer, might not so call the attention of the people to this curse as to be the means of leading them to repentance and amendment. I can vouch for the experience of several men and women who have paid God his tithe, and in every case reaped the promised blessing. One case is remarkable. He went into a far country and vowed with Jacob that as God prospered him, so he would give a tenth to Him. God blessed him, but the business failed, his failed also, and he no longer gave the tithe. After many years struggling with impecuniosity of the day, anxieties for the morrow, and consequent disease, he recommenced to give a small but fixed portion of his income, the result probably saved his life by that restful dependence on God that gives some faint conception of one of the joys of Paradise—the entire absence of "an uncertain to-morrow."

LAYMAN.

Brockville, St. Stephen's Day, 1883.

In the love of a brave and faithful man there is always a strain of maternal tenderness; he gives out again those beams of protecting fondness which were shed on him as he lay on his mother's knee.

## CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

THE *Living Church* has the following:—"A story is told of a Methodist minister baptizing an infant, and delivering a sermonette to the parents. He said: "See that you train up the child in the way that he should go; that you surround him with the best influences, and that you give him a good example. If you do so, who knows but that he may become a Christmas Evans or John Elias! What is his name?" "Jane, sir," replied the mother.

In the course of his sermon preached at the dedication of Dr. Smythies to be Bishop of Central Africa, at St. Paul's Cathedral, the preacher, Canon King, said—"What does not European Christianity owe to Africa? Who can tell the fullness of harvest reaped in Europe which Augustine sowed in Hippo? What does not the revived life in the Church of England in these last fifty years owe to the writings of Tertullian, Cyprian, Athanasius, besides Augustine, whom we almost feel to be our own? It is a thousand years and more since these lived and worked and died; but verily there is a light sown for the righteous, and in the darkness He can cause it to spring forth."

THE *Standard of the Cross* has the following:—"An aged man recently left the Dutch Reformed Society, and had become a regular attendant at Episcopal services. One day his former pastor met him, and after a kindly greeting began to rally him on going over to the "Episcopalians." "And how do you like it?" said the minister. "Oh, first rate!" replied the old gentleman. "But what do you do when you can't find the places?" "I follow the parson, dominie, just as I did when I went to your church!"

THE *Churchman* says that it is said, in sundry quarters, and the information is given with a sneer, that Churchmen in the University of Oxford are "disturbed because a dissenter has been appointed to be an examiner in Church Theology and the XXXIX Articles." But suppose the reverse of the action which Churchmen are sneered at for objecting to. Suppose a Church of England clergyman had been appointed to examine young dissenters in the Westminster Confession and Catechism, would there not have been endless diatribes on prelatical insolence and all the rest of it?

ON the same question the *Church Times* pithily puts it in this way:—"It would be interesting to know in exactly what light the Latitudinarian and the Dissenter regard the English Churchman. Apparently, they think he is a spittoon or a doormat, for there is no insult or indignity to which they seem to think they need scruple about subjecting him. We need not ask how Roman Catholics would take a proposal to appoint a Protestant to examine their co-religionists in the Creed of Pope Pius; or how Wesleyans would stomach a Churchman as examiner in the writings of John Wesley; or how Baptists or Independents would receive a high Anglican examiner in the Westminster Confession. The bare idea would put them in a perfect fever of rage, and, we will add, just indignation." Our readers will remember that Mr. Horton's nomination was very properly rejected by Convocation, by a vote of 556 against 155. Certainly a very decisive vote on the subject.

THE *Interior* is of the opinion that Monsignor Capel has miscalculated the intelligence of the people, and that his mission, if he has any, to the United States will prove a failure. "He may do," it says, "as a chaplain of the Pope's household, but as a public teacher he relies on the ignorance of people, and insults their intelligence."

THE *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says:—"On every side the evidences are increasing, which go to show that the Papacy is losing ground in Europe, and not least in our own island, where Rome is being humiliated day after day by being dragged at the heel of Secularists and Revolutionists, and where the shaking of civil and ecclesiastical authority is going on at one and the same time. The impotence of the Pope to establish

order, or get his mandates honoured, is certainly a new feature in this country, and the more thoughtful and religious-minded members of the Roman Catholic Church are viewing the prospect with dismay. The day is approaching, beyond all doubt, when, for better or for worse, the priestly element will cease to be a factor of any real importance in Irish politics.

## OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

THE old historic foundation of Sion College, London, is to be removed from its old site to the Thames Embankment.

At Lincoln, during a late gale, some stone on the parapet of the large tower of the Cathedral fell with a heavy crash.

It has been resolved to erect a marble bust of the Earl of Shaftesbury in Exeter Hall. Mr. Belt has been commissioned to execute the work.

THE Rev. Canon Stubbs, D. D., has been appointed a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery, in the room of the late Lord Somers.

SOME of the Extreme Evangelical clergymen in Dublin have refused to act under the Committee recently appointed to carry on the proposed mission next Lent in the City of Dublin and its suburbs.

THE Bishop of Bedford has delivered at Bethnal-green one of a series of free lectures which are to be given on Wednesday nights during the winter. His lordship's subject was "Simple Talk upon Sun, Moon, and Stars."

THE celebrated female Sanscrit scholar, Pandita Ramabai, has embraced Christianity in England. The *Jam-i-Samshad* regards it as a serious blow to the cause of female education that a Hindu lady who had delivered lectures on it should take this step.

THE death is announced of Mr. Richard Newsam, J. P., and D. L., for the county of Lancaster, specially known as a bountiful patron in the erection and endowment of churches, schools and other beneficent institutions. The amount he has given to the churches of the town is about £20,000.

THE Seatonian Prize at Cambridge University, given annually to such master of arts as shall compose the best English poem on some sacred subject, has been awarded to F. S. Arnold, M. A., King's.

THE Reading Church Congress Committee has held its final meeting, the Bishop of Oxford in the chair, and a resolution making a call upon the guarantors of 27½ per cent. was agreed to.

A CIVIL List pension of £100 has been conferred upon the Rev. C. Cuthbert Southey, the only son of the poet, and the author of a *Life of his father*, published in 1850.

THE Liberation Society seem to be preparing for a very active campaign against the Church of England in Wales. They have resolved on the following measures for carrying it on:—Organization, Publications, Public Meetings, Petitions to Parliament, and a special Welsh Fund.

THE important benefice of St. Mary's, Hull, vacated by the preferment of Canon Scott to Leeds, has been offered to Dean Bromby, of Tasmania.

THE Bishop of Lincoln has recognized the services rendered by the Rev. Arthur J. Ingram to the dioceses of Lincoln and Lichfield in his zealous and successful endeavours to promote the foundation of the new bishopric of Southwell, by appointing him to a prebendal stall in Lincoln Cathedral.

ALTHOUGH little more than twelve months have elapsed since the Bishop of Rochester put forth his appeal for raising £50,000 as a Church Building Fund for South London, no less than £42,123 have been already subscribed, three churches have been built and consecrated, and others are in process of completion.