

# The Church Guardian.

"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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One Dollar a Year.

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THE project of a second Suez Canal under English auspices is the subject of animated discussion at Alexandria.

It is proposed to dig a canal between the rivers Dniester and Vistula, and thus to bring the great southern port of Russia—Odessa—into direct communication with the important Prussian or Baltic port of Dantzic.

A HUGE mass of rock and earth fell the other day from a mountain side at Somnix in the Grisons, blocked up the course of the Jobel, an affluent of the Rhine, and converted the valley into a lake. The village of Surrhein, hard by, is in great danger.

THE *Belfast Witness* notices the returns for the four Counties of Down, Antrim, Derry and Armagh. The total population of these Counties, according to the present census, is 337,811 Roman Catholics, 245,968 Episcopals, and 437,204 Presbyterians.

A "SHOE-BLACK PLANT," a species of hibiscus, grows in New South Wales, and is frequently cultivated for the flowers which, when dry, are used for blacking boots. Four or five flowers, with the anthers and pollen removed, are applied to each boot.

THE *Dominion Churchman* calls our Synods in Canada unscriptural and uncatholic institutions, and wants a Diocesan Conference substituted for the present system, which it calls the "greatest hindrance to the progress of the Church in the Dominion."

SOME of the Bishops in England have taken to street preaching. The Bishop of Bedford at St. George's, in the East, London, before the regular service went out into the street and proclaimed the Gospel message, while at the service in the Church another Bishop preached from the pulpit.

AN Armenian paper, the *Nishak*, published at Tiflis, recounts the discovery, in the neighbouring forests, of a veritable wild man of the woods—a human being, speaking no language, completely naked, but with body, limbs, and face covered with hair. An attempt to clothe him met with no success, for he tore the things off.

THE triple granite concentric vaulting of the St. Gothard Tunnel in the quicksand formation under Andermatt, is now completed, and as the rings previously constructed remain intact, it is confidently hoped that a difficulty at one time thought to be insuperable has been conquered, and that the great tunnel will be finished by the end of October.

THE Rev. Dr. Randolph McKim, in an address before the Diocesan Convention in Baltimore, said, as one of the results of the Church of England Temperance Society, \$30,000,000 less were last year spent by the higher classes for wine than during the preceding year. It would show that the society was already a power in the land, and the fact is full of encouragement for the similar society formed in the Church in our own country.

AN International Polar Conference was opened a few days ago at St. Petersburg to settle the arrangements in regard to expeditions about to be equipped for investigating the magnetic and meteorologic conditions prevailing in the Polar regions. England is to contribute to the enterprise by the erection of an observatory in Northern Canada; America will erect stations at Point Barrow and in Lady Franklin Bay; Denmark in Upernivik; Russia at the mouth of the Lena and at Nowaja Semlja; France at Cape Horn; Norway at Bosskop; Sweden at Spitzbergen; and Austria on the Island of Jan Mayen.

THE *Jewish World* publishes the following statistics of the Jews of the world, recently compiled by the German ethnographical scholar, Richard Andree: EUROPE—Roumania, 400,000; European Russia, 2,552,539; Austro-Hungary (1869), 1,372,333; German Empire (1875), 520,575; Holland (1869), 68,003; European Turkey (before the last war), 71,372; Luxemburg (1875), 661; Switzerland (1870), 6,996; Denmark (1870), 4,290; Great Britain and Ireland (1878), 68,300; Servia, 2,000; France (1872), 49,439; Italy (1871), 35,356; Greece, (1870), 2,582; Belgium (1878), 3,000; Sweden (1870), 1,836; Norway (1875), 34; Spain, 6,000; Portugal, 1,000; Total, 5,166,326. Africa, 402,990; Asia, 182,847; America, 307,973; Australia, 26,000. Total in the world, 6,080,132. This does not include the Falashas, who number about 200,000, and other pseudo-Jews.

A COMPANY is being formed for laying a cable to Iceland. The commercial and meteorological advantages of such a line are said to be evident.

THE discovery of petroleum springs near Hannover has created a great sensation in Germany. It is believed that the new springs will be able to supply all Europe.

THE English Church missionary at Metlakahla reports marked progress within the past year. Large congregations are gathered, and the Indians from the whole neighbourhood come to the settlement for instruction. Over one hundred new houses have been built, and in all outward affairs the community has prospered. A telephone has been set in operation, and the men and women are all busily at work.

THE papacy, as might be inferred from the proceedings at the burial of Pius IX., has lost its hold largely upon the Italians. One of their own papers asks, "Are the Italians going to repeat toward the Church the history of the Jews toward Christ, with this awful difference, that the Jewish rabble did not know what they were doing, while the renegade Italians and Romans well know the crime they are committing?" Cardinal Newman, at the jubilee, said that immense numbers of Italians have left the Church, and that great numbers do not practice their religion at all.

A FIND of considerable interest to the city of Berne was made a few days ago at Niedersteinbrunn, in Alsace. Two men digging a ditch on the site of an old house came upon an earthenware jar containing 4,000 gold pieces. On one side is the effigy of a double eagle, with the inscription "Bercht. V., Dux Zerlin Fondator," and on the reverse appear the arms of Berne—a bear on a mound. The inscription signifies that Berchtold V., Duke of Zaeunigen, was the founder of the city. The dates on the coins run from 1617 to 1623, and they were probably hidden where they were found at the time of the thirty years' war.

THE Bishop of London lately admitted twenty laymen in the Chapel of Fulham Palace to the office of lay-readers. They were presented to the Bishop by the vicars of the parishes in which they were to officiate. The *Church Times* says that the Bishop received those presented to him nearly in the formula of the ordinal of the diaconate. The candidates then knelt before him, when he severally delivered into their hands the New Testament, saying, "Take thou authority to read and expound the Holy Scriptures where thou shalt be appointed to serve." The service then proceeded with a portion of that used in the ordination of deacons, and the Benediction having been pronounced, the Bishop delivered an excellent address to the readers on the duties of their office. Amongst those receiving the Bishop's license was a member of the council of the Church of England Working Men's Society.

It is communicated "Court News" this week it was announced the manufacturers had the honor of exhibiting to the Queen the copy of the pastoral staff of William of Wyckham, which the ladies of the diocese are about to present to the Bishop of Winchester. The authority for using such a staff is just the same rubric and no other than the "Ornaments of Church and Minister," for the faithful observance of which earnest and laborious priests have recently been put in prison. The Lord Chancellor says, above all things, the majesty of the law must be vindicated. Mr. Green is in prison for wearing a vestment, while the ladies of Winchester diocese, headed by the Queen herself, are about to present this "illegal" (the Church Association would say) ornament to the Bishop. By the way, we fear it will prove somewhat of a white elephant. First of all, it is as heavy as the old one at New College, its weight is near half a hundred weight. Unless a detective is told off to keep an eye on it, some Fagin or Bill Sykes will whisk it off to some railway station, and it will soon be back in the melting-pot. The one at New College has been considered worth two special visits from London, with a bag of wedges and "jemmies" to force open the iron safe at Oxford. The Bishop should have a lighter one to carry about the diocese, that would look more congruous with his robes. This very massive and gorgeous staff would look quite out of place in a plain church, although fitting enough in Winchester Cathedral, in the hands of a richly-coped Bishop. The Chaplain had need to be a muscular Christian; 40lbs. or 50lbs. is no trifle to carry any distance. Is it likely William Wyckham took such a ponderous staff about his diocese on his mule or palfrey?—*Church Times*.

Six thousand tradesmen now close their places of business in the St. Roch Quarter in Paris on the Lord's Day.

KING DAVID had an "Agnostic" in his mind when he wrote, "The fool hath said in his heart, 'There is no God.'" "Agnostic" means a "fool," a "know-nothing."

At Thurso, on a recent Sunday, Bishop Eden administered the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the Episcopal form. No Episcopal service had been held there since 1681.

THE report of the Police in charge of the South Kensington Museum states that over a million and a quarter of persons have visited the museum without a single case of theft or drunkenness being recorded.

A TREE, described by Pausanias 2,200 years ago, has just been destroyed by some careless gypsies who were camping under it and set it on fire. It was 160 feet high, and at the base ten feet in diameter. At a man's height it had a circumference of 25 feet, and of 240 feet where the branches were longest. There is still left in the Peloponnesus another tree nearly as large, but younger by six centuries. The latter is a plantain, while the destroyed tree was a cypress.

THE *Indian Churchman* of the 16th of July, says:—A new phase of the "Sermon" question has appeared in the suggestion that a clergyman should invite such of his parishioners as have the requisite ability and culture, to write sermons for him, which he, should he approve of them, is to read from his pulpit. This idea is put forth, and has been practically carried out by Mr. Jas. A. Aldis, formerly head master of La Martiniere, Calcutta, and now of the Walsall Grammar School. The subject chosen by Mr. Aldis was "Christian Communion with the Departed," on which four sermons were written and read from the pulpit by the Vicar of St. George's Church, Walsall.

THE Vicar of Greenwich tells the following of Dean Stanley: The Vicar was talking to him about the difficulties of parochial work. Said the Dean: "No one feels up to his work. I have always thought that a Dean should have three qualifications, none of which I possess. First, I think a Dean should know something about music; and I am absolutely ignorant of the subject. Secondly, I think a Dean should know something about architecture; I know nothing about it. Thirdly, I think a Dean should know something about the management of business; I am always thankful when our audit is over, and we have not come to some grievous mishap."

FROM private letters received there seems to be a wonderful stir among the missions of South Africa, very similar to what has been going on in India. Protestant bodies seemed to have laboured for years, and then their converts turn spontaneously towards our English branch of the Church Catholic. Work is opening out and growing faster than the Church can find folds and shepherds, without any touting or proselytising, or controversy, for the Church has been most careful to eschew all these and to avoid collision, yet individuals in considerable numbers, and congregations, are asking chief pastors to accept them, and asking on the ground of what the Church has to offer—her Catholicity as distinct from a man-made sect; her Liturgy; her Sacraments; her Apostolic Orders.

## RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

THE Rev. Paxton Hood, the well known Congregationalist minister, has been "driven forth," as he says, by the tyranny of his deacons, and has gone to America. Speaking at a farewell gathering, at which he was presented with a purse of £200, he said that the Church of England was the shrine and home of spiritual and ecclesiastical freedom. None of the sects were free, most Dissenting ministers being too dependent upon the deacons for them to dare to be independent. From whence came our best books—books which stirred, which taught—the books of criticism and exegesis—the books of the scholar, the poet, the novelist? Did they come from the Dissenting community at all; especially did they not come from the Church of England? And where could a man stand so well as in the Church of England—pulpit and say that which he dared to think and feel, without the necessity of being challenged, as soon as he got into the vestry, by some arrogant and ignorant deacon?

## FOREIGN MISSIONS.

### MADAGASCAR.

The Mission in Madagascar is a Mission to the Heathen. It is now more than sixteen years ago since our Church Missionaries first arrived in that large island. They were sent to the Eastern coast to work amongst a people who knew nothing of the wondrous Redemption worked for man by Christ our Lord. But let me tell you a little about the Island, and more about the Coast. Madagascar is about a thousand miles in length by about three hundred in breadth. It is inhabited by many tribes, of which I will only mention three:—the *Hova*, the *Betsimisaraka*, and the *Sakalava*. Inland the country is high, with lofty mountains and deep valleys, and the wide rivers go winding about before they empty themselves into the sea.

Our Missionaries first hired a native house, and then began to learn the native language. Then they used their house as both church and school, got the little ones together to be taught, and formed a small congregation. In time they built a neat little church, and their hearts were glad when their first convert was baptized by the name of Mary Celeste. She was a poor slave girl, but she had a good mistress, who afterwards gave her her freedom, and she is now a happy worker in the Mission, doing all she can to bring other women to enjoy the blessings of which she has been made a partaker.

Several years after, the Mission was extended to the capital where the Queen and Government reside, and a Bishop and more Missionaries were sent out from England.

We have three chief stations on the coast, to each of which out-stations are attached. These country stations are still worked by Native Catechists, all of whom have been instructed by the Missionaries themselves. The churches as a rule are very simple, being built of leaves and rushes on a strong wooden framework; but they are very cool—a great advantage in such a very hot country; and when they are neatly adorned they look very nice.

The Catechists are young native men who were once little boys in the Mission School, or lived with the Missionary in his house. Jacob Ikemaka was once a little slave boy, the property of a native Princess. He asked his mistress to be allowed, when quite a small boy, to go to the Mission School at Tamatave. The mistress thought it would be a very good thing to have one of her slaves well able to read and write, so she gave him permission. After he had been at school some time he wished to be baptized, so he was prepared and baptized, not at Tamatave, however, but in the little church which had been put up in his own village, amongst his own people! Jacob is now free, and is the Catechist in his own village amongst his own people, doing his work under much difficulty, quietly and nobly. I will not say more about him; but I know you would like to see his bright happy face in church or school, and see how perfectly he manages his big and small children! Another is John Shirley, who has been brought up by the Mission ever since he was quite a child. He, too, was a little slave boy, fearful of the white Missionary when he first saw him; but he has well repaid all the labour and pains taken with him, and is now one of the very best teachers, by example and otherwise, on the coast. He is still a slave, but kind friends in England have sent out money for his redemption from slavery, and he hopes and longs to be always engaged in the Church's work amongst his own people.

Our Missionaries are too few to be placed even in every large town; but really good, able, native teachers are always welcome, and through them the Gospel message will find its way to many a place which cannot be the home of the Missionary. Roughly speaking, there are a million souls on that coast, and they all look to the Church as their teacher.

We hope that by now a lady is residing at Tamatave, whose zeal and power in the work will be blessed with much success amongst women and girls. She hopes to be able to start a good Boarding-School for the children, where they may be withdrawn from scenes which would break an English mother's heart, and be brought up in purity. Such a light lit there will throw its rays of purity far into the surrounding darkness.

We ask you to help us in this work. Remember the words, "The prayer of a righteous man availeth much," and be not slow in prayer. You know not in what fulness your prayers may be answered; and if you are not permitted to see the answer now, the glorious ingathering of souls in that Day will show that they have been heard. Who knows but that one prayer may be the means of saving many?