

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

THE following is what the Bishop of Lichfield says about a late Rector of his diocese:—"Under his charge, day by day in that parish of toiling workers for daily bread, a little company of the faithful have gathered together morning and evening to offer up their daily sacrifice of prayer; to plead for those who could not plead for themselves; and to hold up the hands of the parochial clergy by daily intercession for them and for the whole Catholic Church. In addition to this, there was the faithful observance of holy days and seasons; the multiplication of sermons and of Holy Communion; and, in short, the loyal development, in various forms, of Church work and Church life." What better obituary notice could any Rector have than this?

THE *Church Times* says:—"The Catholic Faith is so called not merely because it is the faith of the Holy Church throughout all the world and throughout all the time, but because it includes all truth. Most heresies and false religions are founded upon, or include, some more or less distorted verity; but the Catholic Faith contains everything that is rightly taught in every other system."

THE *Christian Advertiser* says:—"Real religion carries its vitality into the experience of every-day life. Sham religion may appear well on Sunday, but it doesn't stand the troubles on Monday, the anxieties of Tuesday, and the temptations of Wednesday. We need the sort that throws its hallowed charm over the whole life; so that our words and actions shall speak always of the power of Jesus to save and to keep in perfect peace. It is this kind of religion that impresses our fellow men and draws them to Christ."

THE *Guardian* notices in a leading article the great danger arising from the growing local separation of rich and poor in town parishes, and with this separation there comes another separation of which we have heard so much in the late "bitter cry of the outcast poor." The *Guardian* says the association of parishes, rich and poor, has peculiar advantages of its own. It helps to organise, and to direct by the wisdom of practical experience, the desultory and often ill-considered action of individual benevolence. It gives it the strength and encouragement of fellowship, by association in it of those who are already united by the bonds of familiarity and neighbourhood. It brings the labours of beneficence very simply and directly under the influence of Christian principle; and it makes them distinctly a part of the ministrations of the Church, as such, to the spiritual and temporal welfare of the community. Nor is it difficult to understand that, in reflex effect, it blesses the parish "that gives" at least as much as the parish "that takes," by furnishing scope and opportunity for that energy of Christian charity without which no life, individual or corporate, can be sound and vigorous." It then goes on to show the great usefulness of the right harmony of various forces of unity and beneficences in the association of parishes rich and poor. Rich parishes at present prefer to send their offerings to all parts of the world, and to enjoy their own luxurious services, rather than assist in any possible way the "household of faith," the Lazarus at their very doors.

THE *Living Church* says:—"Any intelligent man can preach, short, edifying, extemporaneous sermons, suited to a mixed congregation. Let him however, never trust to the "inspiration of the moment;" let him prepare his sermon and know beforehand he has something to say, and just what; and when the time comes, proceed to say it in a plain sensible way, and his words will not go unblended."

DR. VINCENT advises that parental authority be used in the matter of studying Sunday School lessons at home, as is done to compel attention to arithmetic and grammar. At any rate, the lesson should be studied and then committed to memory. Parents, as a rule, are altogether too lax in this matter.

OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

THE Bishop of Chester has made a representation to the Crown, through the Archbishop of York, that he desires to retire from the see, under the provisions of the Bishops' Resignation Act, 1869.

THE Chester correspondent of the *Times* announces the resignation by Bishop Kelly (who for the past five years has been assisting the Bishop of Chester) of the archdeaconry of Macclesfield, and the appointment as his successor of Canon Gore, vicar of Bowdon.

THE Rev. Dr. O'Brien incumbent of St. Patrick's Hove, Brighton, who died recently, has bequeathed the Church in which he officiated to the inhabitants, with a request that it may be constituted the Parish Church of East Hove. It had cost the Rev. gentleman upwards of £20,000.

THE Rev. W. C. Reid, Rector of Coppenhall (the mother parish of Crowe), has intimated his intention of refusing the Communion to a parishioner who married his deceased wife's sister, after the Rev. gentleman had forbidden the banns.

THE friends of the Bishop of Ely have been made unduly anxious by recent statements, with regard to his health. His lordship has been advised to go about as little possible in the cold weather, but he is carrying on the ordinary work of the diocese.

THE coldest weather in the year falls on the average in the second week of January, but the papers teem with notices of the "ethereal mildness" of the season. Primroses and other spring flowers are common in many districts, and in the Vale of Llangollen fruit trees are in bloom. Tourists are able to scale the mountains without difficulty—feats which, when previously attempted at this time of the year, have been attended with loss of life. A huge pile of stones on the Beddgelert side of Snowdon marks the spot where a traveller, endeavouring to cross the mountain, perished in the snow. The gorgeous sunrises and settings are still lingering on with undiminished splendour.

THE Rev. Canon Saumarez Smith, Principal of St. Aidan's College, Birkenhead, has consented to act as Commissary, in England, for the Bishop of Montreal (Dr. Bond).

NOTWITHSTANDING the efforts of Dissent and irreligion, 83 per cent. of the population of London still resort to the Church for marriage.

THE Prince of Wales will lay the foundation stone of the new work at Peterborough Cathedral.

THE Fancy Fair at Palmerstown, the residence of the Earl of Mayo, got up by the ladies Eva and Florence Bourke, to pay off the debt on St. John's Church, Kill, was a great success, and realized all that was necessary.

DURING the levelling of the road on the south front of Lincoln Minster, a figure, probably a gargoyle, at some time on the fabric, was unearthed, and in the wide open mouth a human skull was firmly fixed.

It is satisfactory to learn that if the plan of founding the See of St. Heliers be carried to a successful termination, there will be no difficulty in obtaining a Church in that town (that is, and city that is to be) as a Cathedral for the Bishop. The largest Church in the island, St. James's in St. Heliers, capable of holding two thousand persons, and erected in a commanding and central situation, surrounded by handsome precincts and ample school buildings, may, with all probability, be secured as the seat of the see.

A HANDSOME reredos has been placed in St. James's Church, Clapham Park, by Mrs. William Hooper, a member of the congregation, as a memorial to her husband, the late Mr. William Hooper, of Beechwood, Clapham Common.

THE German Emperor has communicated to Her Majesty's Government his readiness to nominate a clergyman for the See of Jerusalem, which has so long been vacant.

MR. GEORGE STRUTT, of Belper, has given

£500 towards the completion of the Palace at Southwell. Mr. Strutt had previously subscribed £1500 towards the endowment of the See.

FOR the fourth year in succession, the Dean of Bristol received on New Year's Day, from an anonymous donor a note for £100 for the improvement of the western entrance of the cathedral.

THE Bishop of Hereford has reopened the Church at Wellington, near Hereford, after renovation of the chancel. His Lordship gave a Bible for the lectern with the following inscription:—"James Bishop of Hereford, to the flock at Wellington, over which God hath made him overseer."

THE gift of the Cornish children to the new Cathedral at Truro, is to be, appropriately, the font. A fund has been already inaugurated, and steps are being taken to make a collection in the Sunday schools throughout the Diocese.

A NEW church at Pulford built on the site of the old edifice at a cost of £8,000, defrayed by the Duke of Westminster was recently consecrated for worship by Bishop Kelly.

Book Notices, Reviews, &c.

"The Spirit of Missions" for February presents the missionary work of the American Church to its readers in a way that must gain their confidence and support. We could wish that this publication were largely circulated in Canada. It would help us forward in our own work.

"The Sacrament of Regeneration. The Doctrine of Holy Baptism." By Rev. Chas. Forest, M. A., (Bishop's College, Lennoxville,) late Rector of Williamsburg, and Canon of St. George's Cathedral, Diocese of Ontario, Canada. Published under the auspices of the St. Lawrence Clerical Union.

We believe this was first read before the St. Lawrence Union, afterwards it was issued as a supplement to the "Church Eclectic," and now appears in pamphlet form. The treatment of the subject is admirable, and shows a complete grasp of the important doctrines involved. We wish it a large circulation, and hope the clergy will procure and carefully read it.

"Our Little Ones" for February is in every way charming, equalling, if not excelling, its past record. We wish it unbounded success.

"The Art Union" for January. Vol. 1, No. 1. This is a new publication, "brought into existence," so the prospectus says, "by the Association of Artists, whose name it bears"—the "American Art Union," and one of the objects of this society is that of publishing "an illustrated monthly art journal, of which a leading feature will be the contributions of the Artist members, both in the form of papers and illustrations." The initial number before us is quite a striking one, attractive and interesting both in its illustrations and its letter press, and if as well sustained in the future must ensure for it a very large circulation. The price is \$3 a year. Address "American Art Union," New York.

Messrs. A. D. F. Randolph & Co. announce as in preparation for publication in May, 1884, Dr. Mombert's edition of "Tyndale's Pentateuch" of 1530, now for the first time reprinted in separate form, collated with the edition of 1534, in the Baptist College, Bristol, England, with "Matthew's Bible" of 1537, the "Bible" of Stephanus of 1528, and Luther's "Pentateuch" of 1523. This edition is further enriched by the Marginal Notes of Luther and John Rogers, as a contemporary commentary, and Prolegomena by Dr. Mombert.

"Littell's Living Age." The numbers of "The Living Age" for January 19th and 26th contain the usual amount of interesting and valuable reading matter, selections from the leading Reviews. \$8 a year. Littell & Co., publishers, 31 Bedford Street, Boston.