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TO SUBSCRIBERS.

On account of an unusual press of matter we have been unable to acknowledge the receipt of Subscriptions by a change of the date on the Address Label of the papers—which is the only receipt we give. The change of dates will be made the 1st of next month.

We beg to remind the large number of Subscribers who have not forwarded their subscriptions to do so immediately.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1881.

THE Church Congress, to be held in Newcastle in 1881, has been fixed by the Lord Bishop of Durham for October 4—7.

The Queen and Mr. Gladstone now never meet, if the latter can avoid it. Her Majesty makes no secret of her preference for Lord Beaconsfield.

The death is announced of the Rev. Mackenzie C. E. Walcott, who has been so well known in the antiquarian world. He was author of a large number of antiquarian and ecclesiological works.

The Church of St. Edmund the King and Martyr, situate in the centre of Lombard street, was re-opened on Christmas eve, after having been closed for four months for restoration. The church has long been known for its short mid-day services.

The Rev. W. J. Knox-Little who has just returned from a visit to this continent, met his congregation on Sunday the 2nd inst. at St. Alban's, Manchester. He occupied the pulpit in the evening, when the building was crowded.

On the 2nd instant, the Offertories at Croydon Parish Church were given to the Assistant Clergy. They realized £178. The Archbishop of Canterbury was present in the morning, when the sermon was preached by the Rev. C. H. Grunday, Secretary to the Bishop of Rochester's Fund.

The first Cathedral service at Liverpool was held in the Pro-Cathedral on Sunday the 2nd instant. The congregation was good, but not crowded. The new choir consisting of twelve boys and six men, entered the church from the western vestry, followed by the Honorary Canons, the Bishop last, attended by the Archdeacon of Warrington as his chaplain. Matins were sung by the Curate, and the Lessons read by two Canons. The Bishop preached on 1 Cor. xv. 57, 58. Arrangements are in progress for daily service.

On Christmas day, at Lesnewth, Cornwall, the choir of nine boys were cassocked and surpliced for the first time. The services were bright and hearty.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury has recently consecrated a handsome new chancel, chancel aisle, vestry, and organ chamber, added to the district parish church of St. James's, Croydon.

The fine old church of St. Clement Danes, in the Strand, where Dr. Johnson worshipped so often, had its Christmas services conducted in a very superior manner. At the early celebration there was a large attendance.

The Venerable Robert Wickham, Archdeacon of St. Asaph, has recently died at Gresford Vicarage, at the age of 78. He was brother-in-law to the late Dr. T. Vowler Short, Bishop of St. Asaph, who gave him the Vicarage of Gresford in 1847. He was the author of some sermons and other works.

The celebrated Mr. Mechi, to whom Agriculturalists are laid under so many obligations for his annual reports as to the results of high farming at Tiptree Hall Farm, Essex, has recently died at the age of seventy-eight years. He had become insolvent. High farming, however, did not ruin him, but the failure of a bank in which he had invested large sums of money.

The following clause occurs in a conveyance of a site to private trustees for the use of a parish in the diocese of Lichfield:—Upon trust to permit the same for ever hereafter to be used and appropriated as a burial-ground or place of interment for the dead having been at the time of the death parishioners and inhabitants of the said parish. Provided, nevertheless, that no interment therein shall be conducted otherwise than in accordance with the rites and ceremonies of the Church of England, and by the vicar of said parish or other clerks in the Holy Orders of the said Church with the sanction of such vicar.

The Rev. James H. Du Boulay, of Southgate-hill, Winchester, Commissary in the England of Bishop Kestell Cornish, says:—"The arrival of the Bishop of Madagascar with his party at Tamatave will be welcome news to many who have been remembering him during the long and troublesome voyage. He writes happily of the new workers who have accompanied him; but he needs, alas! four priests instead of one merely, to maintain the mission at its former efficiency. The departure of Archdeacon Chiswell, on furlough, at the moment of the Bishop's arrival, leaves but four English-ordained missionaries (besides the Bishop) in Madagascar; of which number one is in charge of the college, two will be at the capital, and one on the coast. The time is come to pray earnestly—as the need is urgent, and indeed vital—that two or three priests, who are ready to risk and sacrifice something for the sake of the Gospel, may choose this mission as involving more of sacrifice perhaps than others. The work will be done in God's time; but are there not two or three who feel even now that they are free to undertake some great work, and to whom this urgent need may seem to be a call?"

In St. James's, Hatcham, the number of communicants was 123 on Christmas day. The previous Christmas could only number 90.

At St. Stephen's, Lewisham, there were 577 communicants on Christmas day. The church is so overcrowded that an additional building is much needed.

Snow storms have occurred over Great Britain and Europe generally to an almost unprecedented extent. Nothing like the snow drifts has been seen in England since 1814.

The Empress of Austria has taken Combermere Abbey, Cheshire. Her Majesty will be accompanied by a large retinue of servants, and between twenty and thirty horses.

In Lichfield Cathedral, a day of devotion for clergy will be conducted by the Rev. G. Body, on Thursday, February 17th. There will be an opening address on Wednesday evening and early celebration on Friday.

The house and grounds within the Minster precinct at Southwell, formerly the palace of the Archbishops of York, have been purchased by the Bishop of Nottingham from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, for presentation as an additional endowment to the See of Southwell.

The Bishops of Salisbury, Ely, and St. Albans, have spoken out very strongly as to the increasing dangers arising to the Church in consequence of the policy which the Archbishop of Canterbury has pursued with regard to the Public Worship Regulation Act.

The Editor of the "Tithe Commutation Tables" states that each £100 of tithe rent charge for the year 1881, will amount to £107. 2s. 10½d., which is about 2½ per cent. less than last year. The average value of £100 tithe rent charge for the forty years elapsed since the passing of the Tithe Commutation Act, is £108. 8s. 10½d.

Lord Penzance has given judgment in the case of the Rev. Richard Askew, rector of Little Stonham, in the diocese of Norwich, England, who had admitted a charge of drunkenness, but pleaded extenuating circumstances. For a previous offence of the same kind the defendant had been suspended by his bishop, and Lord Penzance now suspends him for one year.—Had the clergyman been a Ritualist, Lord Penzance would have sent him to jail.

We learn from our Correspondent in California that the missionaries in that diocese, up to the middle of December last, had not received a cent from the Mission Fund since July, though the grants are supposed to be paid monthly. People in Canada and the Eastern States think California is a land of gold, but this state of things shows that everyone does not come in for his share of the wealth. The Church notwithstanding is holding on, and at several points in Southern California—Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Anaheim, and San Gabriel—increased life is being stirred up.