

## CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

THE *Kalendar* says:—"To secede from the Holy Catholic Church is that schism which is classed with adultery, theft and other sins, by St. Paul, when he enumerates the fruits of the flesh. It is a grievous sin, and deadly where it is wilfully done."

THE *Churchman* tells us that *The Century* has seldom been happier in its epithets than when it calls Monsignor Capel an English specimen of what is fortunately rare in America, "The religious snob." He has been called in England "The apostle to the genteel," and in this country is reported to be surprised that the "genteel" are so exclusively Protestants. He has evidently done his best to take the lead among Americans, but beyond the Roman congregations and the complimentary curiosity of society people, does not seem to be making any more impression upon the religious life of the country than the recent apostle of knee-breeches made upon its æsthetic tastes.

THE *Standard of the Cross* thinks that Lent may be observed in a very practical way by the circulation of religious reading. The example of St. Ann's Church, Brooklyn Heights, is worthy of imitation; a table of tracts and little books is provided in the vestibule; and near by is an alms-box for the supply of this table. This is good. But no doubt personal agency is still better. Every one can influence some neighbor or friend or member of the household, at least by example, to "give attendance to reading;" every one can pass on to another passage or article in his book or Church paper which has aroused and benefitted himself.

IN the *Nineteenth Century* Canon Curteis has a paper on Christian Agnosticism, couched in the form of a respectful criticism on Mr. Herbert Spencer's recent essay on the origin of religion. It is well worth study, but we can extract but one sentence, which contains the kernel of modes and ceremonies. "If, then, any scientific man does not for himself need rituals and symbols, still let him remember how invaluable an aid these things are to the mass of mankind. Let him recollect how the purest and loftiest ideas of the Eternal lie enshrined within every form of Christian adoration, and how the most touching memorials speak in every Christian Sacrament."

THE *Richmond Advocate* tersely puts it this way:—"If you want your preachers to be gentlemen, you must furnish them with 'the sinews of war.' They cannot be Chesterfields with the income of a chimney-sweep. The family of the preacher should be placed in such circumstances as to be on social equality with the best families of his charge." We think that our contemporary is right, and we commend the words to the attention of the laity and of those who have any part in the filling of cures. Cheapness is likely to become a bane of the Church. If a man scarcely gets enough to keep the house going, how can he purchase books? We certainly do not wish to see the trade epithet "*cheap and nasty*" applied to any of our clergy or ever applied to our system.

THE *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says:—(and we hope some of our friends will clip the quotation out and put it in their note books)—"As the high authority of Bishop Lightfoot has been so confidently appealed to of late by impugnors of the doctrine of a divinely-constituted ministry in the Christian Church, it is well to put on record the following words from the seventh edition of his Commentary on the Epistle to the Philippians, p. 267:—"If the preceding investigation be substantially correct, the threefold ministry can be traced to Apostolic direction; and short of an express statement we can possess no better assurance of a Divine appointment, or at least a Divine sanction." We hope we have now heard the last of the Presbyterian views (!) of Bishop Lightfoot."

THE *New York Sun* says: "Five thousand dead bodies are yearly sent to the morgue in this city. Indisputable facts show that drunkenness sends four thousand of them there."

## OUR ENGLISH BUDGET.

THE *Liverpool Courier* says:—"A movement is on foot to provide the Bishop of Liverpool with a cope for use in the pro-cathedral church of St. Peter!"

THE ancient chapel (fourteenth century), in Mere Church, Wilts, is being fitted up for daily prayer, and for the early celebration of the Holy Communion.

It has been decided to place a recumbent figure of the late Primate in the north-east transept of Canterbury Cathedral. Mr. John Scott has been instructed to prepare a canopy.

THE Worshipful Company of Mercers have voted a sum of one hundred guineas to the Society for Promoting the Employment of Additional Curates.

THE *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says we hear that the diocese of Meath is about to lose the services of one of our most valued clergymen, who has accepted a lucrative post in Montreal.

THE Rev. William Fox, who was recently ordained by the Bishop of Exeter and licensed to the curacy of St. Aubyn's Devonport, had been a Nonconformist minister for some years.

CANON NORRIS, head master of Godolphin School, and lately incumbent of St. Mary's, Park-street, Grosvenor-square, has been appointed chaplain to the Duke of Westminster at Eaton Hall.

THE Archbishop of Canterbury, it is stated, has decided to take no steps whatever with regard to the Bishopric of Natal. His Grace will leave the South African Church to find its own way out of the difficulty.

ST. BARTHOLOMEW the Great, West Smithfield, will shortly be closed in order that it may be thoroughly restored. It is said that £30,000 will be expended on the old Priory Church.

A LARGE and commodious group of Mission buildings have just been erected by Canon Spence, the vicar of St. Pancras. They are occupied by a young men's (clerks) club, by an artisans' club, mothers' meetings, and a Mission Sunday-school for little waifs and strays.

FROM an advertisement which appears in the *Durham Advertiser* it appears that Bishop Lightfoot's Church Extension Fund has already reached the sum of £30,000.

CANON BODY has resigned the living of Kirkby Misperton, York, in order that he may carry on Mission-work in the northern diocese. The vacant living, which is in the gift of the Earl of Faversham, is worth £1,000 per annum.

THE Queen has been pleased to confer the Canonry of St. Paul's, vacated by the elevation of the Rev. Dr. Stubbs to the see of Chester, on the Rev. H. Scott Holland, Senior Student of Christ Church, Oxford.

ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL is a great centre of spiritual activity, and this year shews even an increase of activity. Every day during Lent there will be a mid-day service, when a sermon will be preached by some well known preacher. There will also be sermons on Wednesday and Friday evenings, and the daily mattins and evensong as usual.

THE Bishop of Lichfield, in an earnest address, which he has requested his clergy to read to their people, on the subject of confirmation, invites all who are twelve years old and upwards to become candidates. Last year the right rev. prelate held 182 confirmations, and confirmed 13,384 persons, or 1,207 more than in 1882.

THE unusual occurrence of forbidding the banns is recorded in two separate instances on Sunday in the diocese of Manchester. One was at the Church of St. Benedict, Ardwick, the "impediment" being the minority of the would-be-groom; and the other at Blackley parish church, where the objection raised was that the gentleman seeking matrimonial bonds was 82 years of age, and had given no consent to the publication of the banns. Both cases were for the "third time of asking."

## Book Notices, Reviews, &amp;c.

"Doctrine and Duty; or Notes on the Church." Sermons Occasional and Parochial, by the Rev. Geo. F. Cushman, D. D., Assistant Minister of Emmanuel Church, Brooklyn, N. Y. New York: Thos. Whittaker; Halifax, McGregor & Knight. \$1.25.

This is a volume of sermons, twenty-five in all, upon a variety of topics, many of them referring to the history and doctrines of the Church, and all of them written in a Churchly spirit. Volumes of sermons have greatly multiplied within the last few years. We hope it does not mean that the clergy are drawing on others instead of working up their own discourses, but rather that missions under lay readers and families in out of the way places are being benefitted by having a book of good sermons to read. Dr. Cushman's sermons will be found useful for these purposes.

"The Spirit of Missions" for March, the publication of the Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions of the United States, is, as usual, crowded with information about the Domestic and Foreign work of the Episcopal Church, with the contributions lately received for these objects.

"Our Little Ones" for March is one of the very best numbers that have appeared, and we cannot speak too warmly in its favor.

Annual Statement respecting the Canadian Pacific Railway, by Sir Charles Tupper, Minister of Railways, is Dr. Tupper's Speech before the House of Commons on the important subject of which it treats.

Mr. Francis Lathrop, who had much to do with the decoration of the new Metropolitan Opera House, has prepared for "The Manhattan" a design for a new cover, which has been approved of and will be placed at once in the hands of the engraver. The April number of "The Manhattan" will be a gallery of portraits of Edwin Booth, presenting him in two scenes of "Hamlet;" in two scenes of "Richelieu;" as Iago, Othello and Lear, the last-named being engraved from a picture by Jervis McEntee. The frontispiece will be a half-length of Booth, engraved by Velten.

"The Pulpit Treasury" for March is worthy of its name. Dr. Buckley furnishes the first sermon, and there is a sketch of his life by the Editor. Dr. M. R. Vincent gives an Installation Sermon, Dr. W. M. Taylor an Easter Sermon, and Dr. Hovey an article on Saul and the Witch of Endor. There is a Funeral Service by Dr. MacIntosh, and Leading Thoughts of Sermons by Canon Liddon, Bishop Simpson and Dr. Flagg. Other articles in the different departments are by President Gregory, Bishop Foss, President Bascom, Dr. T. L. Cuyler, Professor Brown, Drs. C. Stanford, H. M. Scudder and McKenzie. The magazine deserves its growing fame. \$2.50 per year; clergymen, \$2.00; single copies, 25 cents. E. B. Treat, publisher, 757 Broadway, New York.

"The Homiletic Monthly" for March presents a full, varied and interesting table of contents, suited to the tastes and wants of the large and cultured class of thinkers and workers which looks to it for mental stimulus and instruction. We note a change in the sub-title of the work, indicating a wider range of topics, the Review element, in fact, in addition to the Homiletic, devoting space to brief, condensed articles on living questions relating to the Bible and its true meaning, and applied Christianity, specially prepared by many of our most distinguished scholars and writers for this Monthly. The leading sermon in the present number is an able and eloquent one by Dr. Deems, of New York, on "Paul at Athens." Price \$2.50 a year; 25 cents a single number. Funk & Wagnalls, 10 and 12 Dey Street, New York.