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Hodgson, has outlined a scheme of religious faith and doctrine, founded on intuition and experience. The standpoint assumed is one which discards the idea of any purely objective authority to which, in the first instance, appeal must be made in support of what is accepted as Divine truth. We may dispute this arbitrary standpoint, of course, but what cannot be disputed is the writer's sincere and earnest attempt to strengthen our faith in the Christian religion.



The Month.

MAY is the great month for the gathering of the various religious societies of every sort and condition. Each year sees advances made, wider interest shown in the work and organization of religious societies, and corresponding increase in missionary enterprise. We may conveniently begin our brief *résumé* by calling attention to the ninety-fifth annual meeting of the

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—The chair was taken by Sir Thomas Fowell Buxton, Bart., G.C.M.G., Vice-President. We find from the detailed report that the issues by this Society have been as follows :

	1898-99 as compared with 1897-98.	
Bibles 803,236	... 840,550
Testaments	... 1,218,348	... 1,373,434
Portions	... 2,457,855	... 2,173,168
Totals 4,479,439	4,387,152

The total announced at the last Anniversary was the highest ever attained by the Society, but this year has surpassed it by 92,287 copies.

As regards finance, the total receipts have amounted to £219,966. This splendid result represents increased effort and corresponding expenditure, especially in the foreign field.

CHURCH PASTORAL AID.—The report of this excellent Society was distinctly encouraging, and was listened to with constant interest by the audience, who loudly applauded the references made to the definitely Protestant character of this Society. The closing address was given by Prebendary Webb-Peploe. The chair was taken by the President of the Society, Mr. J. H. Buxton.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The annual sermon was preached at St. Bride's by the Bishop of Worcester. The first part of the service was read by the Rev. H. E. Fox, the second by an Indian delegate, the Rev. S. Nihal Singh. At the meetings during the week there was a considerable shrinkage in the attendance, owing to the influence of the Centenary proceedings of three weeks before. The *feeling*, however, was excellent, especially at the great annual gathering in Exeter Hall; and

Mr. Fox's general review of the year was very warmly received. It appears that while there was an adverse balance on March 31 of just over £30,000, the grand total of receipts for the year amounts to all but £380,000. Sir John Kennaway, the Bishop of Hereford, and the Bishop-Designate of Mombasa were among the speakers. The evening meeting in Exeter Hall was far better attended than the morning one. The enthusiasm and earnestness were most marked.

CHURCH ARMY.—The Church Army celebrated its anniversary by a series of meetings from May 1 to May 4, which were attended by a large number of clerics and laymen. The Bishop of Rochester gave the address at the United Communion of the workers in Westminster Abbey. The Honorary Secretary, Rev. W. Carlile, made an earnest appeal, at the annual meeting in St. James's Hall, for £159,000 required for the current year's work. Over £2,500 was given or promised at the meeting.

S.P.C.K.—The annual meeting was held on May 7 in the great hall of the Church House, over which the Archbishop of Canterbury presided. The gathering was a large one, and thoroughly representative. The Secretary (Rev. E. M'Clure) was able to give a cheering account of the finances during the past year; during the past two years the total receipts had amounted to rather over £113,000. The Archbishop, in the course of his speech, emphasized the valuable educational work of the Society, "which entirely identified itself with the general duty of providing full instruction for the children of the Church."

LONDON JEWS' SOCIETY.—Sir John Kennaway presided over the annual gathering on May 7 in Exeter Hall. We gather from the Secretary's report that there has been a distinct advance during the past year in the operations undertaken by this admirable Society; that the funds show a satisfactory increase; and that there has been not a little to encourage the supporters of the Society during the past year. Along with this we note that the General Mission expenditure has been steadily on the increase. Unless, therefore, the work is to be curtailed, people must be liberal towards this Society, which, through good report and evil, has stuck to its principles, and deserves our support.

RELIGIOUS TRACT SOCIETY.—On May 5, in the presence of an enthusiastic audience, the Society celebrated its hundredth annual gathering. We are glad to see from the Secretary's Report that the centenary fund amounts now to close upon £50,000. The Master of Trinity, Dr. Butler, made a most effective and telling speech, in which he touched upon the obloquy which the R.T.S. and kindred societies had been obliged to face at the start; and Canon Fleming, after moving his resolution, made a hit when he declared that the grand old Society had never been afraid of its three R's—Ruin, Redemption, Regeneration. On Tuesday evening, May 9, the Lord Mayor held a reception at the Mansion House to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the Society.

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN.—It is satisfactory to learn that continued success attends the labours of the Missions to Seamen on behalf of our

sailors. For many years the Society has rendered excellent service, and has done much to improve the moral and spiritual welfare of our seamen, whilst its efforts have always been attended with the best results. The past year was one of the best the Society has ever had. The income reached a higher figure than it had ever done before, and the results of the work were most encouraging. The annual meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday afternoon, April 26, at St. James's Hall, under the presidency of Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., who lately returned to England after resigning the Governorship of South Australia.

The papers have been full during the past month of the Court of the Archbishops held at Lambeth to try certain cases of disputed ritual. The holding of this "Court" is in accordance with the directions of the Prayer-Book; and, though it has no power to enforce its decisions by fine or imprisonment, it possesses the sanctions of a spiritual court. The evidence cannot here be summarized (it deals with the whole question as to the legality of the ceremonial use of incense), but it has been curiously interesting. "If," says the *Spectator*, "it can secure the loyalty and obedience of the clergy, the court will, we believe, be able to do all that is necessary for the restoring of order to the Church." We *hope* all this, too; but, for the moment, it is wise to suspend judgment.

An influential deputation, including the Duke of Rutland, waited on May 1 upon the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, at Lambeth Palace, when a memorial signed by about 10,000 persons was presented. The document referred to the crisis in the Church, and expressed confidence in the Bishops in relation to it.

The second reading of the Church Discipline Bill was thrown out by the Commons on May 9, partly owing, no doubt, to Government intervention, partly also because the House of Commons has no wish to act rashly in such a serious matter. The Bishops must be given time—we would say, ample time—in order to adjust the conflicting claims of the various "Church parties." Would that such a term were impossible in a national Christian Church! Unhappily, "party," party cries, party bitterness, and party tricks, are manifesting themselves everywhere; yet the duty of faithful Churchmen is obvious—namely, a steady adherence to the Scriptural principles of the Reformed Church of England, and an absolute refusal to be dictated to by wirepullers in the interest of any clique.

A joint conference of all sections of the Church of England, except, of course, extreme sacerdotalists, met at the Royal United Service Institution, Whitehall, on April 28, and unanimously adopted a series of resolutions in favour of maintaining the Protestant and comprehensive character of the Church, and condemning the Mass and the Confessional. It was

a remarkable meeting in every way, thoroughly representative of the Church of England in its comprehensive and constitutional character. The speech by the Bishop of Hereford was most able and thorough. We are glad to note that the *Record* of May 5 published a complete account of this meeting.

Her Majesty has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Right Rev. George Carnac Fisher to be Bishop Suffragan of Ipswich, in the Diocese of Norwich. Dr. Fisher was Bishop Suffragan of Southampton until 1898, when family reasons compelled him to retire.

The Rev. Handley Carr Glynn Moule, D.D., Norrissian Professor of Divinity, has been elected to the Professorial Fellowship at St. Catherine's College, Cambridge.

We are sorry to see recorded the death of Mr. H. O. Wakeman, M.A., Fellow of All Souls, at the early age of forty-six. His "Introduction to the History of the Church of England," though written from a distinct Anglo-Catholic standpoint, is as brilliant a piece of *historical* writing as we have had recently.

Sir E. Green and Mr. M. E. Sanderson, of Kettlethorpe Hall, have each promised £1,000 to the fund for the enlargement of Wakefield Cathedral, and Mr. Percy Tew has promised £500. The fund now exceeds £11,000. The work is intended as a memorial to Bishop Walsham How, the first Bishop of Wakefield.

The new volume of *Essays on the doctrine and position of the Anglican Church*, which we announced in the May number of the *CHURCHMAN*, is now nearly ready. It will probably be issued under the title of "Ecclesiastical Essays."

NEW BOOKS.

Life of William Morris. By J. W. MACKAIL, M.A. Longmans. In 2 vols. £1 16s.

The Reformation Settlement. By Canon MACCOLL. Longmans. 7s. 6d. (Second edition.)

[The first edition of this book was sold out almost immediately after publication.]

Reminiscences. By JUSTIN MCCARTHY, M.P. Chatto and Windus. In 2 vols. £1 4s.

The Break of China. By Lord CHARLES BERESFORD, M.P. Harper Bros. 12s.

