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University and other Sermons. By the Rev. H. M. BUTLER, D.D. Cambridge: Macmillan and Bowes. Pp. 351.

The Master of Trinity has added to our obligations to him by publishing in this volume eleven very beautiful University sermons, and sixteen which are historical and biographical. Amongst these latter we find estimates of Augustine, Aidan, Bede, Anselm, Edward the Confessor, Whitgift, William Wilberforce, Lord Shaftesbury, President Garfield, Waterloo, General Gordon, Balaclava, Dean Stanley, Dean Vaughan, the Vaughan family, and Mr. Gladstone. The Master has a special charm of style, and the thought is on a level with the best Church of England teaching. His calm and eminently Christian tone will be found very helpful in these times of trouble and disquiet.

Caird's University Sermons. Macle hose and Sons, Glasgow. Pp. 402.

The Principal of Glasgow University was, in the opinion of many, the ablest and most eloquent preacher of our time. The appearance of this collection, edited by his brother, the Master of Balliol, will be welcomed by the whole theological world. We have here nineteen sermons preached before the University on the profoundest subjects, the treatment of which is powerfully stimulating both to faith and devotion.

Maxims of Piety and Christianity. By Bishop WILSON of Sodor and Man. Edited by the Rev. FREDERICK RELTON. Macmillan and Co. Pp. 169.

Messrs. Macmillan are bringing out a valuable series of standard theological works called "The English Theological Library." The general editor is Mr. Relton, the able and learned Vicar of St. Andrew's, Stoke Newington. Mr. Relton quotes in his preface a very high appreciation by Matthew Arnold of the *Maxims* of the famous Bishop of Sodor and Man. The work has been considerably neglected, but has now the advantage of a careful reproduction by a sympathetic editor, with very interesting and appropriate notes.

In His Steps. By C. M. SHELDON. Sunday School Union, Ludgate Hill. Pp. 265. Price 6d.

This admirable story is worthy of all the attention that has been paid it. The idea is not new, but it is worked out in a manner that must attract universal notice. The advantage of a story is that it shows how people in real life might be expected to act when such considerations as the book presents are put before them. The story is a commentary on the very true remark of the Mohammedan refugee from Khartoum, who said, "If all Christians were like Gordon Pasha, all the world would be Christian." It is a very high and difficult ideal, but Mr. Sheldon shows that it is not impracticable. The book is calculated to do much good.

The Month.

WE have to announce that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners are prepared to receive, on or before December 1, 1899, offers of benefactions of not less than £100 each in capital value towards making better provision for the cure of souls, with a view to such offers being met by the Board with grants of capital sums, during the spring of 1900. It must be clearly understood that the means at the Commissioners' disposal for meeting benefactions are much reduced, and that the Board do not undertake to meet all the offers which may be made. The distribution of these grants will be made subject to the usual regulations.

The Commissioners are also prepared to receive offers of benefactions of not less value than £2,000 each, in favour of parishes or cures containing populations of six thousand and upwards, with a view to such benefactions being met by grants, not exceeding sixty pounds (£60) per annum in each case, to be appropriated towards the maintenance of assistant curates. The grants can only be very few in number, and will be subject to the ordinary conditions.

We are pleased to notice the announcement of Dr. H. C. G. Moule's appointment to the Norrisian Professorship of Divinity, Cambridge. We have every reason to believe that this appointment will not involve his resigning the Principalship of Ridley Hall.

On Wednesday, March 1, the London diocesan branch of the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund held its second annual service at St. Paul's. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended in state, with other members of the City Corporation, and several representatives of City companies joined in the procession, which formed in the south aisle and afterwards moved to the west door, where the Bishop was received by the Dean and Chapter. About one hundred and twenty robed clergy also attended. The preacher on this occasion was the Dean of Canterbury, the Archbishop having pleaded the cause last year. There was a very large congregation, many standing throughout the service. Dean Farrar's sermon was a powerful and eloquent appeal on behalf of the poorer clergy of England, and was listened to with unusual interest. During the singing of the hymn, "Light's abode, celestial Salem," a collection was taken by students from St. John's College, Battersea, the offerings amounting to £390 4s.—nearly £100 more than last year.

The Government have re-introduced their sensible Bill for dealing with the question of Secondary Education. A Board of Education of the same character as the Board of Trade or the Board of Agriculture is to be constituted. The proposals are of a modest and tentative description, and would, if carried out, go a long way to improving the education of the country.

The Truro Cathedral Building Committee has accepted the tender of Messrs. H. Wilcocks and Co., of Wolverhampton, in £34,000, to erect the nave and western towers up to the nave roof, as a memorial of the late Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Benson having been the first Bishop of the restored See of Truro.

The Memorial issued by the E.C.U. on the ritual crisis was duly recited at the meeting of Union delegates—nearly 1,000 in number—which took place in London on Tuesday, February 28, at the Cannon Street Hotel. Lord Halifax presided. The Memorial was, after being signed, forwarded to the Queen, and another copy was sent to the Archbishop of Canterbury. It has already raised a considerable amount of criticism, and signs are not wanting that it may ultimately lead to a secession of certain E.C.U. members. The substance of the "Ultimatum" may briefly be summarized thus: Complete independence in matters of doctrine, discipline, and ceremonial, of the Civil Power, whether Parliament or Courts; complete liberty to practise any pre-Reformation usage which is not explicitly forbidden; no deference to be paid to the fact that these usages have been discontinued since the Reformation; deference to be paid to bishops only in so far as they can prove that what they forbid is forbidden in so many words of the Prayer-Book; and that a "Catholic," and not a Protestant interpretation of the Prayer-Book be upheld.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in his recent speech at the Church House on March 10, made the following pertinent allusion to the present ecclesiastical troubles: "He deprecated," to use his own words, "the sort of earnestness which made people so hot. Whatever improvements were wanted would be best obtained by being calm and quiet; and, in his opinion, the quiet people, who were simply praying to God for the right guidance of His Church at this moment, were much more near doing the right thing than those who filled the columns of the papers with the cherished speculations which probably they had been brooding over for years." At the same time the quiet attitude does not always arise from patient persistence in well-doing. People are often quiet simply because they are either slack or indifferent.

As an instance of the extraordinary expansion of some of our northern towns, and of the corresponding need of further developing the Church life to meet growing religious needs, we note that the board of management of the Leeds Church Extension Society have recently issued an appeal to the Church people of that city for the sum of £100,000 to be raised in ten years. It is urged that the Church in Leeds is faced by an extremely serious problem, and attention is called to the fact that between 1865 and 1885 the sum of £125,000 was provided irrespective of money collected from other sources. The population in 1885 was 333,000; at the end of 1898 it was estimated at about 426,000—an increase of 93,000. It is pointed out that 50,000 more church sittings and seventy-four more clergy are urgently needed. The church accommodation at present is 12.9 per cent. of the population, and this should at least be doubled. At present the number of parochial clergy is 139. There is now church accommodation for 43,517, and in mission churches and rooms for 11,430.

In view of the forthcoming "May meetings" in London, some of the principal railway companies have officially notified to the religious societies the reduction of fares to be granted to the representatives attending these gatherings. These concessions have recently been made by the railway companies, after years of agitation.

No less than 2,000 of the "Russian pilgrims" have already reached Winnipeg. On arriving at the port, the wayfarers broke into a hymn, and Prince Hilkoﬀ offered up a thanksgiving to God for their safe voyage. Their name, Dukhobortsi, means "those who strive in the Spirit," and though they are unwilling to engage in the wars of the world, they are quite ready to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered unto the saints. It is believed that the present Tsar and the Empress-Mother have been touched with compassion for them, and thus permission has been obtained for them to leave Russia.

It was while acting in the service of his country that Lord Herschell died in America, and, as a national honour to the memory of so distinguished a man, the first part of the Office for the Dead was performed in Westminster Abbey, on March 21, in the presence of an immense congregation. Political opponents were as conspicuous as political friends of the deceased.

CHURCH ARMY.—The Bishop of Bristol will preside at the annual meeting of the Church Army in St. James's Hall, on Wednesday, May 3, and the Bishop of Rochester will give the address at the United Communion of Church Army evangelists and mission nurses in Henry VII. Chapel, Westminster Abbey, on the morning of the same day. The Bishop of Salisbury will preside at a great public meeting in St. James's

Hall in the evening, on "The Church's Duty to the Outcast." The Bishop of Hereford, Sir T. Fowell Buxton, Bart., and a large number of members of Parliament, and clergy of "all schools of thought" in the Church, will be present and speak, as "the Council of the Army is specially anxious at the present time to press home upon the public what the Church is doing throughout the whole country for the outcast and destitute, and to emphasize the fact that in the carrying out of this work of helping the helpless, homeless, and hopeless to help themselves the Church Army knows no creed."

BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY.—At the Guildhall, early in March, the annual meeting of juvenile collectors of this Society was held, under the presidency of the Lord Mayor, who attended in state, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Mr. Alderman and Sheriff Alliston, and Lieutenant-Colonel and Sheriff Probyn. There were also present Mrs. Isabella Bishop, the well-known traveller, Prebendary Borrett White, Mr. C. R. Kemp, the Rev. Dr. Wright (editorial superintendent), Major-General Hutchinson, the Rev. J. Gordon Watt, the Rev. E. H. Pearce, and the Rev. J. Thomas. The Lord Mayor said that they had met to celebrate the ninety-fifth birthday of this valuable Society, whose useful work had extended to all parts of the world. Since its formation, in 1804, it had paid away £12,500,000 in connection with the translation and circulation of the Holy Scriptures. Upwards of 151,000,000 copies of the Bible and New Testament, or portions of them, in three hundred and forty different languages, had been issued from its various depôts.

APPEALS, GRANTS, AND BEQUESTS.

We would draw attention to the fact that the Irish Church Missions, in announcing 1899 as the Jubilee year of the Society, are appealing for jubilee gifts in aid of its work. The committee have issued a short statement of the present position of the Society, showing that while the work has steadily pushed forward, and now, by manifold agencies, reaches practically the whole Roman Catholic population, yet the ordinary income, exclusive of legacies, falls short of the expenditure by nearly £9,000 a year.

The appeal made by the Bishop of St. David's last autumn for £1,750, on behalf of the diocesan fund for the augmentation of small benefices, has resulted in a response of £4,127, which, together with £170 from the "Bull Fund," brings the income of the fund up to £4,297.

The Rev. Herbert H. Dibben, Rector of St. Michael's, Brierley Hill, is making an effort to restore the Parish Church, which is in a dilapidated condition. The cost will be £5,000, towards which he has about £4,400 already promised, and he very wisely wishes to obtain the money to avoid involving the parish, which is a poor one, in debt. At present there is a deficiency of about £600, and if this cannot be obtained, some very necessary part of the work must be left undone.

The trustees under the Birmingham Churches Act have, with the sanction of the Bishop of Worcester, decided to make, out of the funds arising from the sale of Christ Church, the following grants for church building in the rural deaneries of Birmingham, Aston, and Northfield: St. Luke's, £4,000; Aston St. James, £500; Stechford, £500; St. Barnabas, Balsall Heath, £1,000; for a new church at King's Heath, £1,000; and for a new church at The Cotteridge, £2,500. They have also granted a sum for the site of a second new church in the parish of Sparkbrook.