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## The Month.

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THE news from the seat of war has been distinctly encouraging during the past few days. Lord Roberts' advance to Modder River was announced in London on February 10, and less than a week after he was enabled to telegraph that General French had relieved Kimberley after its four months' siege. Now that such a strategist as Lord Roberts is at the front, seconded by Lord Kitchener, we may hope that the advance to Pretoria will be rapid. Meantime, we regret to know that Ladysmith and its brave garrison under Sir George White are still closely beleaguered.

On February 11, in both Houses of Parliament, the Government unfolded their much-looked-for plans for the strengthening of the British military forces. The *Times*, commenting on these, says: "It is not too much to say that the prevailing feeling in the country after hearing the Government proposals for improving our military position is one of disappointment at the omission from Mr. Wyndham's speech of all reference to the steps to be immediately taken for the more vigorous prosecution of the war. It was avowedly an emergency speech, yet the emergency we have primarily to deal with was scarcely so much as referred to."

On Sunday, February 11, the special form of prayer issued by the Archbishops in accordance with a Royal Mandate was used in most of the churches in view of the present war. There has been some talk of observing Ash Wednesday as a general fast, but this is unlikely.

The Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of the famine-stricken districts in India has already reached £70,000. Her Majesty the Queen has sent £1,000 to the fund.

The following members of the Lower House of Canterbury Convocation have been nominated to serve on the Joint Committee on Ecclesiastical Courts: The Prolocutor, the Dean of Christ Church, the Dean of Windsor, the Archdeacon of London, the Archdeacon of Oxford, the Archdeacon of Berks, the Archdeacon of Exeter, the Archdeacon of Taunton, Bishop Barry, Canon Bright, Canon Hutchings, Canon Bristow, Canon Overton, and Canon Tetley.

At a meeting of the Bishops of the Irish Church held recently in Dublin, under the presidency of the Primate, the Very Rev. Henry Stewart O'Hara, D.D., Dean of Belfast, was elected Protestant Bishop of the United Dioceses of Cashel and Emyl, and Waterford and Lismore, in succession to Dr. Daley, resigned.

The Archbishop of Canterbury consecrated the Rev. James Johnson as Suffragan Bishop of the Niger, in the Chapel of Lambeth Palace, on Sunday, February 18. Mr. Johnson is a learned and eloquent negro clergyman, who has worked nearly forty years for the Church Missionary Society. He will be the third "coloured" member of the Anglican Episcopate, to which he has been elevated by special request of his fellow-countrymen.

The University Summer Lectures to the Clergy will be given this year at Cambridge, from July 16 to 28. The opening meeting will be on the first-named day at 8.30 p.m. There will be three lectures each morning, and a fourth lecture each afternoon or evening. The courses each week

your Bishop for nearly twenty years, I am about to resign a post which years and failing health at the age of eighty-three told me I was no longer able to fill with advantage to the diocese or to the Church of England.

I have resigned my Bishopric with many humbled feelings. As I look back over the years of my episcopate, I am conscious that I have left undone many things which I hoped to have done when I first came to Liverpool. I am equally conscious that the many things I have had to do with—meetings, ordinations, confirmations, and consecrations—have been done very imperfectly. I only ask you to remember that I was sixty-four, and not a young man, when I first came here, and to believe that, amidst many difficulties, I have tried to do my duty. But I am thankful that our God is a merciful God.

I can truly say that my approaching separation from Liverpool will be a heavy wrench to me. I shall never forget you. I had ventured to hope that I might be allowed to end my days near the Mersey, and to die in harness; but God's thoughts are not as our thoughts, and He has gradually taught me, by failing health, that the huge population of this diocese requires a younger and stronger Bishop.

Before I leave you, I ask you to accept a few parting words from an old minister who has had more than fifty-eight years' experience, and during that time has seen and learned many things. It is written, "Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom" (Job xxxii. 7). Let me, then, charge all the clergy whom I am about to leave behind me never to neglect their preaching. Your districts and population may be comparatively small or large, but the minds of your people are thoroughly awake. They will not be content with dull, tame sermons; they want life, and light, and fire and love in the pulpit, as well as in the parish. Let them have plenty of it. Never forget that a lively, Christ-exalting minister will always have a church-going people.

Last, but not least, cultivate and study the habit of being at peace with all your brother ministers. Beware of divisions. One thing the children of the world can always understand, if they do not understand doctrine: that thing is angry quarrelling and controversy. Be at peace among yourselves.

May God bless you all!

To the many lay Churchmen whom I shall leave behind in this diocese (knowing far less of them than I should have done if I had come among them a younger man) I can only send my best wishes, and add my prayers that this diocese may have God's blessing, both in temporal and spiritual prosperity. Cling to the old Church of England, my lay brethren—cling to its Bible, its Prayer-Book, and its Articles. Let no charitable institution suffer. Consider the many poor and needy. Support missionary work at home and abroad. Help the underpaid clergy. Never forget that the principles of the Protestant Reformation made this country what she is, and let nothing ever tempt you to forsake them.

In a little time we shall all meet again—many I hope on the King's right hand, and few on the left. Till that time comes I commend you to God and the Word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among them that are sanctified.

I remain,

Your affectionate Bishop and lasting friend,

J. C. LIVERPOOL.

