

THE MONTH.

THE much-canvassed and eagerly-expected Birmingham Congress is over, and may be adjudged a success from every point of view, certainly as regards attendance and interest, and doubtless, as it must be left to time to prove, in practical value and real usefulness. It will be seen from the following comparative statement that Birmingham stands very high indeed in point of numbers :

RETURN OF TICKETS.

| Year. | Town. | Members. | Day. | Evening. |
|-------|---------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------|
| 1882 | Derby | 3,219 | 779 | — |
| 1883 | Reading | 3,640 | — | — |
| 1884 | Carlisle | 1,967 | 793 | 137 |
| 1885 | Portsmouth | 2,141 | 1,493 | — |
| 1886 | Wakefield | 1,999 | 1,254 | — |
| 1887 | Wolverhampton | 2,567 | 641 | 474 |
| 1888 | Manchester | 4,450 | 1,531 | 411 |
| 1889 | Cardiff | 2,348 | 691 | 542 |
| 1890 | Hull | 2,303 | 1,023 | 575 |
| 1891 | Rhyl | 3,269 | 34 | — |
| 1892 | Folkestone | 3,343 | 827 | 361 |
| 1893 | Birmingham | 4,371 | } About 3,500 day and evening. | |

Also some of the depôts, it should be added, have not yet sent in their reports of sales. However, the expenses in connection with the Congress have been so high that some call will have to be made on the guarantee fund, while it is suggested that the guarantors should pay in full, and that the balance, amounting to several thousands of pounds, should be given to the fund for establishing a Birmingham Bishopric. The Congress made a great impression in Birmingham. On the whole, an advance was shown in the spirit of toleration, forbearance, and mutual respect. Bigotry flamed up when the Bishop of Worcester enunciated the views of Jewell, Whitgift, Bancroft, Andrewes, Hall, Cosin, and Laud ; but it was only for the moment. The scene with the self-appointed monk was quite extraneous to the system of the Church of England. The balance of effect chiefly verged towards moderation and evangelical principles. The chief figure in sermons, addresses and working-men's meetings, apart from the Primate and the president, was the eloquent and learned Arch-deacon of Westminster.

On September 20th the Bishop of Chester laid the foundation-stone of a new National School for boys at Northwich, which is being erected at a cost of between £3,000 and £4,000. In the course of an address he said those who took the broad and liberal view of education and tried to secure religious as well as other training for their children laboured under disadvantages. The money which they, as parents and ratepayers, paid was not allowed to be used for that education towards which their consciences very plainly pointed. They must, however, bear up stoutly, remembering that those members of the Church of England and others who had clear and tenacious views on that subject asked no special privileges, but merely wished for fair play all round.

The Bishop of Newcastle Fund for Church Building on the Tyne-side, which was started ten years ago, and which had for its object the raising of £100,000 in the decade, has nearly fulfilled its purpose, having collected £98,820. In addition to church building, the fund has made itself responsible for the stipends of several clergy in charge of conventional districts. The fund comes to an end on December 31st next,

when it is hoped the Diocesan Society will be in a position to take over much of its work.

The Bishop of Liverpool's recent appeal for a fund for the extension and enlargement of Church schools in the diocese has met with a liberal response. New and enlarged schools are already being proceeded with in the neighbourhoods of Southport, St. Helens, Wigan, Litherland, Kirkdale and Walton Breck.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has nominated the Rev. George Albert Ormsby, M.A., Vicar of St. Stephen's, Walworth, to the Bishopric of Honduras. The Bishop-designate is the eldest surviving son of the late Mr. Justice Ormsby, and was educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he took Hebrew, Syriac, and Chaldean prizes. He has held the livings of Jarrow-on-Tyne and Rainton, in the diocese of Durham. For four years he was Organizing Secretary of the Rochester Diocesan Branch of the Church of England Temperance Society, and is Early-morning Lecturer at St. Swithin's, London-stone. He was appointed to his present living, St. Stephen's, Walworth, in 1885.—*Record*.

The vacancy at the Church Training College for Lay Workers, Stepney, caused by the resignation of its warden, the Rev. Paul Petit, who has been chosen to succeed Dr. Deed as Chief Secretary of the Additional Curates Society, has been filled by the appointment of the Rev. Ernest R. Ford, M.A. The College has met with marked success since its establishment by the S.P.C.K. in 1889. It began with seven students, and there are now twenty men resident under training for parochial work as Scripture Readers and Evangelists. Mr. Ford, who was Curate of St. Matthew's Parish, Barnwell, Cambridge, from 1887 to 1891, has for nearly three years been working as Sub-Warden of the College, and is a man of energy and moderation.

On St. Matthew's Day, 1891, the foundation-stone of the new permanent church of St. Matthew's, Northampton, as a memorial to the late Mr. Pickering Phipps, was laid by the Bishop of Peterborough, and again on last St. Matthew's Day, his lordship consecrated the edifice. This church, which, with the site, cost £40,000, has been erected by the family of the deceased, they carrying out his original intentions in a more extended form.

Through the liberality of Mrs. Blanshard, of Leamington, a new church and vicarage have been erected at West Seaton, near Workington, Cumberland. For some years a large population has been springing up on the north side of the river Derwent, and the need of church accommodation has often been commented upon. Now that blot has been removed through the instrumentality of one lady, whose old home, Camerton Hall, is close by. Not only has a church and house been built, but Mrs. Blanshard has handsomely endowed the living.

Mr. Washington, Incumbent of Portman Chapel, has issued a circular to his congregation, in which he says: "It is with very deep regret that I write to tell you that, after much prayerful consideration, I have decided on relinquishing the charge of Portman Chapel at the close of the present year. For some time I have been conscious that I have not been equal to the unavoidable strain of the work in connection with our Church and district. Besides this, my dear wife's health has proved to be unequal to bear the constant demands upon her strength. We believe, therefore,

that God is guiding us to undertake parochial work in the country. It has been very hard for us to come to this decision, and it will be a very real sorrow to us both to give up work amongst you all. For nearly two years we have been closely associated with Portman Chapel and its various agencies. It has been a time of much joy to us both in the work of the Lord, and we shall never forget the tender, loving sympathy and hearty co-operation which you have shown us throughout. In regard to the future, I have every confidence that the trustees will appoint as my successor one who will carefully preserve the continuity of Evangelical Church teaching which you have always heard from the pulpit of Portman Chapel, and maintain the active organizations which are at work in connection with our Mission-hall and district. Unite with us, dear friends, in prayer that this step which we are being led to take may result in the furtherance of our Master's work and the advancement of His glory.'

A well-informed correspondent sends to the *Guardian* the following notes on the general question of the *Coal Strike*, made after conversation with masters and men :

"*A (Masters' Side)*.—The trouble is greatly caused by the enormous development of coal-getting power under the following heads:—(1) Migration of labourers from agricultural districts to mines: there are 40,000 more men in pits than a few years ago; more coal is produced in a day now than in a week ten years back. (2) Machinery (to a small degree). (3) Opening of new pits (to a very great degree). *N.B.*—(1) No new pit can get its coal on the market without underselling current prices. (2) This brings prices down to such a low figure that many pits are worked at a loss. (3) Some pits are so wet that pumping adds to cost of getting coal 50 per cent. *B (Men's Side)*.—(1) The strike fund amounted to £180,000 when the strike began. So large a sum made the men overrate their strength. *It lasted four weeks.* (2) The masters were practically obliged to force the 'lock-out'—it has never been a strike—in order to establish *the discipline of the pits*, which had got as bad as it could be. So even the men admit. The strike fund is now broken, and the trade of the whole country will be vastly improved and rendered secure for some ten years and more. The suffering has been borne splendidly. All pits will probably be working within four weeks' time. *C (Relief has been given to Children)*.—In elementary schools (a) breakfast; (b) dinner when required. *Result*—Lessons and work in schools much improved. *N.B.*—(I.) Children after receiving breakfast have (1) paid as much as one shilling into school penny bank; (2) Parents have sent school-money even though children have been on breakfast-list; (3) Parents in full work have refused to pay fees because of breakfast being refused to them. *N.B.*—(II.) All photographs, all drawings of poverty-stricken districts are misleading. The 'strike' was long prepared for both by masters and men. It was known by authorities to be impending in February last, if not before. All relief given to adults has been worse than thrown away. The men-on-top and pit-bank men have suffered much. Neither masters nor miners have suffered to any degree."

Mrs. Bartle J. L. Frere, of Twyford House, Bishop Stortford, has given £1,000 for the purpose of founding a hospital at Bishop Stortford, in memory of her late husband. Sir Walter Gilbey has promised to give the site, and a sum of about £500 has been subscribed by residents in the district towards maintaining the hospital.

The Earl of Leicester has presented £2,000 to the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital, in addition to a previous endowment of £15,000. Mr. W.

Waring, of Taverham Hall, Norfolk, has transferred to the hospital £1,000 of railway stock. The same institution has become a reversionary legatee to the extent of £1,000, under the will of the late Rev. W. F. Thursby, some time Rector of Castle Rising.

Obituary.

WE greatly regret to record the death of the Rev. William Joseph Smith, M.A., Vicar of St. John the Evangelist's, Kilburn. Mr. Smith left home on Saturday morning, August 19th, to spend a brief holiday in the neighbourhood of Manchester, where he had a large circle of friends. He arrived at the house of the Rev. H. J. Meres, Rector of the Stowell Memorial Church, Salford, about three o'clock in the afternoon, and a few minutes after he was seized with a fit of an apoplectic nature, and died before medical aid could be obtained. He had arranged to preach on Sunday at St. Thomas's, Pendleton, of which parish he was incumbent for twelve years. Mr. Smith was formerly Hastings Exhibitioner of Queen's College, Oxford, took his degree in 1864, was ordained in the same year to the curacy of St. John's, Fitzroy Square, and two years later he went to St. Stephen's, Avenue Road. He was perpetual curate of St. Thomas's, Pendleton, 1873-85, and in the latter year was presented by the Church Patronage Society to St. John the Evangelist's, Kilburn. Soon after his appointment to St. John's, Mr. Smith accepted the editorship of the *Rock*, and he also contributed largely to other religious periodicals. He was one of the selected speakers at the forthcoming Church Congress in Birmingham on "The Church and the Press." Mr. Smith was association secretary to the Church Missionary Society 1868-73. He leaves a widow and several children.

The death is recorded, at the age of fifty-nine, of the Rev. John Mee Fuller, M.A., Vicar of Bexley, Kent, and for ten years Professor of Ecclesiastical History at King's College, London, and Examining Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. He was taking a holiday at Ilfracombe, and on Wednesday morning died suddenly when out for a drive with his wife and son. Mr. Fuller was Fellow of St. John's College Cambridge, Cross University Scholar (1858), Kaye's University prizeman (1863), and First Class in the Theological Tripos (1859), having taken his degree in 1858. He was ordained in 1860 to the curacy of Christ Church, Ealing, and, after serving curacies at the Grosvenor Chapel and St. Peter's, Eaton Square, he was Editorial Secretary of the S.P.C.K. 1870-4, becoming in the latter year Vicar of Bexley. Among his works are contributions to the "Speaker's Commentary" and the S.P.C.K. "Commentary."

The death is recorded, at the age of seventy-one, of the Rev. Edward John Selwyn, M.A., for twenty years Rector of Pluckley,