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The Month.

THE Rev. Montague John Stone-Wigg was consecrated as Bishop of New Guinea on February 2 at Adelaide Cathedral.

Sir Algernon Peyton has presented the Rev. S. S. Walton, curate of St. Mary's, New Wortley, Yorkshire, to the valuable living of St. John's, March, which is worth about £1,000 a year with residence.

A meeting of the executive of the Church Committee for Church Defence and Church Instruction was held in the offices at the Church House on March 4. The Earl of Selborne presided. There were present Lord Balcarras, M.P., Mr. A. G. Boscawen, M.P., Lord Cranborne, M.P., the Hon. Victoria Grosvenor, Sir Charles L. Ryan, K.C.B., Mr. W. E. M. Tomlinson, M.P., and the secretary, Mr. Martin Tilby. The committee considered the arrangements for the annual meeting of the general committee on Monday afternoon, March 28, at which the Archbishop of Canterbury will preside, and Lord Cranbrook, Lord Selborne, the Dean of Norwich, Sir Francis Powell, Bart., M.P., Mr. A. G. Boscawen, M.P., and others, will speak.

The London correspondent of the *Liverpool Courier* says that Lord Penzance is about to resign his office of Dean of the Arches.

"We much regret to learn that the Rev. Dr. Waller, Principal of St. John's Hall, Highbury, has broken down in health, and has been ordered to rest for six months. Those who know the good work he has done at St. John's Hall will join in prayer that his health may soon be completely restored, and that he may be able to resume his important duties in training Evangelical men for the ministry."—*English Churchman*.

A crowded meeting, convened by the Royal National Mission to Deep Sea Fishermen, was recently held in the Egyptian Hall at the Mansion House, where the proceedings were opened by the Lord Mayor, who was supported, among others, by the Archdeacon of London, Sir Terence O'Brien, Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, Dr. Grenfell, and Mr. T. B. Miller (the chairman of the mission). The Lord Mayor made an earnest appeal in aid of the mission.

By the removal of the Rev. Isaac Hawker from the vicarage of St. Luke's, Plymouth, to that of Ironbridge, Shropshire, says the *Western Morning News*, the borough will lose its fourth oldest incumbent, Mr. Hawker only being junior to Rev. G. R. Prynne (St. Peter's), Rev. F. Barnes (Trinity), and the Archdeacon of Totnes (St. Andrew's). He was appointed in 1870 to his present living.

St. Paul's Cathedral was on the afternoon of March 2 filled with a large congregation, the occasion being a special service in connection with the Queen Victoria Clergy Fund. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs attended in state. The Archbishop of Canterbury preached on the poverty of the clergy and the necessity of such a fund as they had assembled to support.

In connection with the Bi-centenary Commemoration of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, a special service was held on Tuesday

morning, March 8, in St. Paul's Cathedral, when the Archbishop of Canterbury preached. At another service in the evening the Dean of Norwich was the preacher. In the afternoon a meeting was held in the Guildhall. The Lord Mayor presided, and among the speakers were the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Lord Chancellor, the Bishop of London, and Lord Stanmore.

Perhaps the most important feature of the recent proceedings of the two Houses of Convocation was the general emphasis laid in both Convocations on the necessity for giving the laity a really representative and effective voice in the councils of the Church, as an indispensable preliminary to the Reform of Convocation and to the attainment of some measure of self-government.—In the Northern Upper House the Bishop of Durham said it was impossible to disguise the fact that the Convocations and Houses of Laymen had very little weight. In view of the possible legal representations of the laity, he moved the appointment of a joint committee to consider the qualifications of electors.—The Bishop of Liverpool said that Convocation would not have the respect of the House of Commons unless the laity had representation there. If that could be obtained, it would be the greatest possible blessing to the Church of England.—The Bishop of Manchester said that Parliament dare no more snub a Church that had got the tremendous force of lay opinion and feeling at its back, than it dare snub the Crown.—The Bishop of Sodor and Man was another of those who strongly maintained the rights of the laity.—The following resolution was adopted in the York House of Laymen: "That the Archbishop of York be requested to confer with the Archbishop of Canterbury, with a view to appoint a committee duly representative of the Houses of Laymen of both provinces, to consider and report upon the position which the laity should occupy in any scheme for the self-government of the Church."

The Bishop of Manchester, addressing recently a large gathering of clergy in Manchester Cathedral, stated that he had lately visited every parish in the archdeaconry of Manchester, including many Nonconformist places of worship. As he stood in the pulpits of Nonconformists, he had longed for the time when Nonconformists and Churchmen might mutually help each other in preaching the Gospel. The precious heritage of love, which was the very life of the Christian Church, was seriously threatened by the reckless and wilful spirit of disunion, which was seen in schisms which divided them, and in the scorn and dislike with which Christians often spoke of each other. With a view to abating the waste of energy which the divisions entailed, he suggested that the clergy should speak charitably of those who were separated from their communion, and spend their strength rather in work than in controversy, and let the paramount purpose of their ministry dictate the method of their teaching.

The *Evangelical Churchman*, of Toronto, says that a proposal to hold an Ecumenical Missionary Conference in New York on the first ten days of April, 1900, received the approval of the recent Missionary Conference. The object of the proposed conference is to sum up the progress of foreign missionary work during this century, and to set forth the present state of this work in the varied fields of missionary work occupied by the Churches of Protestant Christendom.

Speaking of the want of proper religious training in our higher grade schools, Mr. Neville Beeman says, in the *New Century Review*: "The **Headmasters**, in their capacity as religious teachers, never prepare the boys who are going out in the world with answers to these questions.

They train them up to successfully pass a searching examination on the Greek particles, but to give them a firm foundation on which to resist modern scepticism apparently is not within their province. It is held that a man should fight out his religion for himself, and a very good thing too, for he will probably value it the more; but why send him into the fight unarmed? I am not advocating that boys should be trained up as theologians and masters of casuistry, but that they should, at least, have their religious knowledge placed on a sounder basis than it is at present."

A meeting, convened by Sir Michael R. Shaw Stewart, Lord-Lieutenant of Renfrewshire, was held early in March to consider the restoration scheme of Paisley Abbey. Recommendations were made that the restoration be accompanied by an improvement in the surroundings of the Abbey. A committee consisting of noblemen and gentlemen and representatives of corporate bodies, with power to add to their number, was appointed. Among the supporters of the scheme were the Earl of Glasgow, Lord Blythwood, and the Marquis of Hamilton.

The Bishop of Sodor and Man will preach the Annual Sermon of the Church of England Zenana Missionary Society, on Ascension Day, and Sir Charles E. Bernard, K.C.S.I., will take the chair at the evening meeting at St. Martin's Hall, on May 6.

Mr. Davies, organist of Christ Church, Hampstead (of which Mr. Neville Sherbrooke's successor at Clifton, the Rev. G. F. Head, had been Vicar for twelve years), has been elected organist of the Temple Church in succession to Dr. Hopkins, who recently resigned the post after having held it for upwards of fifty-four years.

The Dean of Winchester, the author of the "Life of Dean Hook," has undertaken to write the life of the late Bishop Durnford, of Chichester, in whose diocese he was until his preferment to Winchester. The monument to the late Bishop is now in course of erection in Chichester Cathedral.

As a noteworthy instance of what may be accomplished by the scholars in Sunday-schools on behalf of the Church Missionary Society, it was stated at a special service at St. George's Church, Birmingham, that the amount received from the scholars during the past year amounted to the handsome sum of upwards of £80.

The Earl of Zetland has contributed £1,000 towards the cost of rebuilding the tower of Saltburn Parish Church.

The Central News is informed that the rebellion in Uganda has completely disorganized the Church missionary and educational work in that region, and it is feared that considerable time must elapse before their representatives will be able to resume work in a satisfactory manner.

BEQUESTS.

Lord Iveagh has sent a donation of £1,000 to the Bishop of London's Fund, and the Grocers' Company have made a grant of £250.

The Church of England Scripture Readers' Association, in response to a recent appeal, has received from a donor under the initials F. H. the sum of £500, as well as smaller contributions amounting to about £30. A further sum of at least £1,000 is urgently needed by this society before the close of its financial year on the 31st inst.

NEW BOOKS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A Dictionary of the Bible. Vol. I. Edited by Rev. JAMES HASTINGS, D.D. 4to., pp. xv, 864. Edinburgh, 1898: T. and T. Clark. Price £1 8s. [An important work, which we hope shortly to notice at length.]

Coptic Version of the New Testament in the Northern Dialect. In 2 vols., 8vo. Oxford: Clarendon Press. Price £2 2s.

The Works of Bishop Berkeley. Edited by GEORGE SAMPSON. Vol. II. London, 1898: Bell. Price 5s.

Thomas Cranmer (Leaders of Religion). By Rev. Prof. MASON, D.D. London, 1898: Methuen. Price 3s. 6d.

Messrs. J. Hall and Son, of Cambridge, have just ready a new and enlarged edition of Mr. Foakes-Jackson's "History of the Christian Church from the Earliest Times to the Death of Pope Leo the Great, A.D. 461." The work has been partly rewritten.

The first part of Messrs. A. and C. Black's "Encyclopædia Biblica" will be ready in October. The scheme of the work was drawn up by the late Professor Robertson Smith and Dr. Sutherland Black soon after the completion of the "Encyclopædia Britannica."

Under the title "English Theological Library" Messrs. Macmillan and Co. propose to publish a series of either complete editions or selected portions of the writings of the principal English Church theologians of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with introductions and notes for students, and with especial reference to the needs of those preparing for University or ordination examinations. The volumes will be classified under the headings of dogmatic, historical, homiletical, and exegetical. The general editor of the series is the Rev. Frederic Relton, Vicar of St. Andrew's, Stoke Newington, and among the volumes already in hand are Law's "Serious Call," edited by Canon Overton; Book V. of Hooker's "Ecclesiastical Polity," edited by the Rev. Ronald Bayne, Vicar of St. Jude's, Whitechapel; Butler's "Analogy" and Sermons, edited by the Rev. J. H. Bernard, Trinity College, Dublin; Jewel's "Apology," edited by the Rev. G. Schneider, late Vice-Principal of Ridley Hall; Laud's "Controversy with Fisher," edited by the Rev. C. H. Simpkinson; Winchcote's "Aphorisms," edited by Professor Ryle; and Bishop Wilson's "Maxims," by the general editor. The Bishop of London will contribute a general preface. It is expected that Canon Overton's edition of Law's "Serious Call," and Mr. Bayne's edition of the "Ecclesiastical Polity" (Book V.), will appear in the course of the present year.

Obituary.

WE regret to announce the recent death of the Right Rev. Robert Claudius Billing, D.D., Bishop of Bedford, Rector of St. Andrew Undershaft, City, and formerly Bishop Suffragan for East London. Dr. Billing was born at Maidstone on April 15, 1834, and was educated at Worcester College, Oxford, where he graduated B.A. in 1857. In the same year he was ordained deacon to the curacy of St. Peter, Colchester, and after taking priest's orders he was for a time curate of Compton Bishop, Somerset. Subsequently he held the vicarage of Holy Trinity, Louth, and Holy Trinity, Islington. From the latter post he was preferred in 1878 to the rectory of Spitalfields, and was also made Rural Dean of that district. On the translation of Bishop Walsham How to the new bishopric of Wakefield, Mr. Billing was selected to succeed him as second