

## The Month.

**E**VENTS move rapidly nowadays. Since the last batch of Monthly Notes were sent to press, quite a host of far-reaching movements have taken place. On August 24 the Tzar issued his Rescript—which took Europe by surprise, indeed, but is hardly likely to result in any practical policy at present; on August 30 came the shock of the Dreyfus *dénouement*; on September 2, by the battle of Omdurman and Sir Herbert Kitchener's brilliant and decisive victory, Gordon's murder was avenged, and a blighting tyranny overwhelmed. In the middle of all this, rumours of an Anglo-German agreement became rife; and since then, the crisis in Crete, the brutal assassination of the Austrian Empress, and the (hitherto) unsolved mystery of Fashoda, have all been duly announced in the columns of the daily press. So much for the political world. In the religious world there have been no signs of any abatement in the interest which the recent Protestant crusade has evoked; and the columns of the *Times*, to say nothing of other papers, have been crowded, now with angry vituperation, now with wholesome warning or significant comment. Truly a notable month in many ways! *Quousque tandem?*

The order of proceedings intended to be observed at the first visitation of the Archbishop of Canterbury has now been issued. The visitation will begin at Canterbury Cathedral on Monday, October 10. Morning Prayer will be said at 11, and after service the names of the Cathedral body will be called, and the Archbishop will deliver his charge. On the following day his Grace will again attend at the Cathedral, and the visitation will be for the deaneries of Canterbury, Ospringe, Westbere, Dover, East Bridge, Sandwich, and Sittingbourne. At 10.30 the churchwardens who are cited will appear at the chapter-house belonging to the Cathedral before his Grace's Vicar-General, or his surrogate, to make their presentments. At 11-45 there will be an administration of the Communion. Service ended, the names of the clergy who are cited will be called, and the Vicar-General or surrogate and the registrar will be in attendance to receive their papers, and the Archbishop will afterwards address the assembled clergy and churchwardens. His Grace will afterwards entertain the clergy, churchwardens and sidesmen at luncheon. Similar proceedings will be followed at the other centres fixed for his Grace's visitation—viz., Ashford Parish Church (October 12), for the deaneries of North and South Lympte, East and West Charing, Elham, and West Bridge; All Saints', Maidstone (October 13), for the deaneries of Sutton, North and South Malling, and Tonbridge; and Croydon Parish Church (October 14), for the deaneries of Croydon, East and West Dartford, and Shoreham.

The present state of things in the Church of England will more than warrant a clear and decisive pronouncement from the Primate, and his

charge will undoubtedly be looked for by the entire Anglican Communion with anxious interest.

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The *Homeward Mail* announces that "the Right Rev. Frederick Gell, Bishop of Madras, has sent in his resignation, having officiated in his diocese for nearly thirty-seven years, and having jurisdiction over the entire Southern province."

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The *Athenæum* says: "The late Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Benson) in 1892, specially wrote a short sermon for *Lloyd's News*, and during the last six years two-thirds of the bench of bishops, with many other dignitaries of the Church, have continued the series week by week. The sermons thus published have reached a total circulation of nearly 300,000,000. The extension of this wide field of usefulness is assured by the present Archbishop of Canterbury having now given his support to the editor of *Lloyd's*. The Primate's sermon will appear in September."

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Canon Christopher has written to the *Record*, pointing out that the Rev. Dr. C. H. H. Wright, of Liverpool, is at present without a charge, owing to the recent demolition of his church in that city, and suggesting that it would be to the advantage of the Church if some post could be found for him whereby his special gifts might be employed throughout the country instead of being confined to one particular district.

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Quite recently, at a meeting of the Rebuilding Committee of the Swansea Parish Church, the Rev. Chancellor Smith, D.D., who presided, reported that £19,130 had been received towards the completion of the work, the overdraft at the bank being £600. Mrs. Llewellyn, Baglan Hall, had very kindly acceded to his request to lend the committee £1,000, free of interest, for two years. The chairman further explained the means he had adopted for obtaining further funds, which included £100 from the Church Pastoral Aid Society, and £50 from another Evangelical source. Alluding to the arrangements for the opening of the chancel and the consecration of the building on October 20, the chairman stated that, in addition to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who would preach at the morning service, and the Bishop of Ripon, who would deliver a discourse in the evening, he had secured the Dean of Bristol and the Bishop of St. David's to preach on the following Sunday. His Grace the Archbishop would be given an official reception at the Guildhall, and presented with an address. A sub-committee was appointed to make arrangements for a luncheon at the Albert Hall after the opening services on October 20.

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Owing to ill-health, Canon F. V. Mather has intimated his intention of resigning the vicarage of St. Paul's, Clifton, Bristol, which he has held as the first and only Vicar since 1853. The living is in the gift of the Simeon Trustees.

It is announced that a new society, the Churchmen's Union for the Advancement of Liberal Religious Thought, will shortly be inaugurated at Bradford. The union, according to its organ, the *Church Gazette*, has for its immediate policy the principles : (1) The reform of abuses within the Church ; (2) the assertion of the right of laymen to an adequate share in Church government ; (3) a conciliatory attitude towards Nonconformists, with a view to making the Church of England inclusive and truly national ; (4) the optional use of the Athanasian Creed ; and (5) the frank acceptance of ascertained truth though affecting dogmatic interpretations.

A correspondent in the *Guardian* for August 24 writes : "Lord Grimthorpe, who is now in residence at Batch Wood, near St. Albans (and in his eighty-second year), entertained Sir John Hassard, with others, at the close of last week, and did him the honour of personally taking him over St. Albans Abbey, and also the two old parish churches of St. Michael and St. Peter, within the limits of the ancient city of St. Albans, which his lordship has, since 1891, admirably enlarged and restored. The chancel of St. Michael's Church contains the remains and monument (a fine sitting figure) of Baron Verulam, Viscount St. Albans (Lord Chancellor Bacon), interred there in 1626. The registrar, we believe, had not entered the abbey since June, 1877, when it was his duty to attend the late Archbishop Tait officially as Principal Registrar of the Province of Canterbury, on the occasion of his Grace's 'investiture' of Bishop Cloughton, in the centre of the abbey, into the see of St. Albans (as the first Bishop), and which event was made a great public occasion. The abbey was then (twenty-one years ago) in a sadly dilapidated condition, with a public passage running underneath from one side of the town to the other, and the Lady Chapel used as a schoolroom and sadly neglected from the Reformation downwards. Since 1877 Lord Grimthorpe is stated to have spent in all a sum of about £250,000 in saving from ruin, and in substantially preserving, this grand abbey to the English nation. No matter how in the past architects, lawyers, and priests may have differed about the outside, the inside now certainly presents a splendid appearance, is the pride of Hertfordshire, and is this summer largely visited by tourists and foreigners from London, and, indeed, by residents from all parts of England."

The Bishop of Wakefield has received from Sir Robert Tempest a further donation of £1,000 towards the Bishop How memorial scheme for enlarging Wakefield Cathedral. Further meetings are shortly to be held in the diocese, and it is hoped that the first £10,000 needed in order to commence actual work will shortly be secured.

The Bishop of Worcester has issued an especial appeal to the employers of labour in connection with the Church Mission that is to be held early in November. He asks them to allow services to be given in their workshops and houses of business, and to give their employés every opportunity of attending the mission services in the various parishes.

Few meetings of the British Association have been so full of interest as that lately held at Bristol. Sir William Crookes, the President, caused quite a sensation by his commentary on the possible failure of the world's wheat-growing lands in the near future. Whatever the exact value of the suggestions proposed by the distinguished scientist to remedy such an appalling disaster as a failure of the world's wheat-crops, we hope that his presidential address may shortly be published in pamphlet form.

The weekly journal, *M. A. P.*, edited by T. P. O'Connor, M.P., is responsible for the following paragraph (in its issue of September 24): "It is surely one of 'life's little ironies' that the bishop of a diocese which holds untold millions of gold should toil for an income that many a city clerk would despise. The Right Rev. W. Bompas, Bishop of Selkirk, counts among his flock all the thousands whom Klondike gold has drawn from every part of the earth. For thirty years he has 'lived laborious days' in the cold, inhospitable North-west corner of America; and his first diocese, 'the Mackenzie River,' had an area equal to nearly twenty times that of the whole of England. Throughout the whole of this vast tract the influence of this hard-working bishop was felt, and his personality known and loved. His present diocese covers 200,000 square miles, and the entire income of the bishop and his clergy barely reaches £1,000 a year!"

#### APPEALS AND BEQUESTS.

The C.M.S. have received a gift of £2,000 from Mr. R. H. Crabb, and a legacy of £2,500 under the will of the late Mrs. Rees, of Clifton.

The perilous condition of the Dukhobortsi in Russia is, according to *Evangelical Christendom* (the organ of the Evangelical Alliance), reaching a crisis. The Government insists on their performing military service, an obligation which is abhorrent to their feelings and convictions. They are, as most of our readers know, a pious, contented, law-abiding people, and careful students of the Word of God, but they absolutely decline to bear arms. It is very natural that the Society of Friends should be in perfect sympathy with them on this point, and some of them have formed a committee to enable these poor oppressed people to leave their homes in the Caucasus, and to emigrate to Cyprus. Many other Christians will doubtless be disposed to aid this movement. The Dukhobortsi are indeed sorely tried; their own sufferings, as well as those of their wives and children, are greater than they know how to bear. £10,000 is required to carry out this plan, towards which the committee has received £3,000. The persecuted people are willing themselves to give £4,700; but it is hoped a sufficient sum will be provided from other sources, so that the last-named amount may enable them to make a fresh start in the new country. Any donations for this object can be sent to Mr. Isaac Sharp, 12, Bishopsgate Without, E.C.

We are sorry to learn from the Rev. W. Wetton Cox, the Clerical Secretary of the London Association in aid of Moravian Missions (whose offices are at 7, New Court, W.C.), that the society is face to face with a serious and growing deficiency already exceeding £12,000, and this has arisen, *not* from increased expenditure, much as it is needed, but almost entirely from the widespread erroneous impressions (explanations notwithstanding) as to the terms of the Morton Legacy, which is still "in the clouds" of delay and uncertainty, and will ultimately be only available for new work. So grave is the situation that, unless the deficiency be soon met—without loss to the general income—the society will have no choice but to withdraw from some of their most important spheres of work.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.—The Bishop of Exeter has contributed £1,000 to the centenary funds of the Church Missionary Society, and has promised to give the last £1,000 if a jubilee fund of one million sterling is reached. The Rev. G. F. and Mrs. Whidborne have promised £5,000 (£1,000 a year for five years), whilst among the other contributions to the fund already received or promised are £1,000 from Mr. F. A. Bevan (half of which is for medical missions), £1,000 from Mr. T. Fowell Buxton, £1,000 from Mr. W. D. Cruddas, M.P., £1,000 from

Captain Cundy, and £1,000 from Colonel R. Williams, M.P. Gifts of £1,000 each are also announced from "A Lady, anonymous," "B. M. M.," and "J. K. W. D." The centenary funds of the Society amount to £24,267, independently of about £45,000 previously contributed under the "Three Years' Enterprise."

CHURCH ARMY.—An anonymous donation of £500 and a donation of £200 from "A Lincoln Churchman" have just been sent to the Hon. Chief Secretary of the Church Army (the Rev. W. Carlile) in aid of the Society's work among the outcast and destitute in London and the provinces. The committee state that the severe strain upon them during the summer months has exhausted their funds, and that £2,700 a week is necessary for the carrying on of the various branches of the work in the Metropolis and throughout England. The Archbishop of Canterbury has written to the Hon. Chief Secretary (Rev. W. Carlile) warmly welcoming the proposed two Church Army mission and colportage vans for the Canterbury diocese. Last month a gentleman at Maidstone offered ten guineas towards the initial cost of one hundred guineas for providing a Church Army van for Canterbury, on condition that the remaining ninety guineas was secured by the end of August. The Church Army committee succeeded in obtaining within the stipulated time not only the requisite ninety guineas, but also an additional one hundred guineas for a second van, thus providing a van for each of the archdeaconries. In addition to this, "Two Friends" have just sent to the Hon. Chief Secretary (Rev. W. Carlile) the initial cost of one hundred guineas for providing one of the Society's vans for the Sheffield archdeaconry. The Church Army has now fifty-eight of these vans, which work summer and winter.

#### LITERARY NOTES.

Among publishers' announcements for the coming season, we note the following:

*The Life of Bishop Walsham How*, by his Son (Isbister).

Messrs. Hodder and Stoughton have nearly ready *The Life of Dr. Dale, of Birmingham*, by his Son, A. W. W. Dale, M.A., Fellow and Tutor of Trinity Hall, Cambridge. The same firm also announce: *Was Christ Born at Bethlehem?* an important study by Professor W. M. Ramsay; *The Person of Christ and the Philosophy of Religion*, by Principal Fairbairn; and Professor G. A. Smith's *Life of Henry Drummond*.

Messrs. Longman announce: *Religion in Greek Literature*, by Rev. L. Campbell, M.A., LL.D. *Some Aspects of Primitive Church Life*, by W. Bright, D.D.

For some years past numerous suggestions have been made that, in consequence of the diminution of clerical incomes, the *Guardian* should be published at a lower price. The proprietors have accordingly determined to make the change, and for the future the price of the paper will be threepence. The form and contents will remain the same.

#### Obituary.

WE regret to have to record the death on Monday, August 29, at Penmaenmawr, of Miss Sarah Geraldina Stock. Miss Stock, who was in her sixtieth year, was a sister of Mr. Stock, Editorial Secretary of the Church Missionary Society, and was very widely known as a writer on subjects connected with Sunday-schools and with foreign missions.