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There is very little that is West-Indian about the book, though some of its readers may hardly know how to answer the question, "Have I believed in Obeah?"

The Month.

AS we are sending these notes to press comes the sad news of the death of President Faure. Misfortunes are indeed thickening for France. There is an uneasy feeling on the Continent, not by any means in the nature of a panic, but a settled conviction that trouble is brewing. The Tzar's peace manifesto has appealed to the sentiments of a goodly number of people, chiefly in England; but the various Governments appear to be showing their appreciation of it by increased activity in their dockyards and arsenals, and by the steady accumulation of war-material and stores. Probably when the trouble comes—as seems almost inevitable—it will hail from France. The politicians of Paris present, indeed, a curious problem. Their proud vaunt, "Liberty, equality, fraternity" (if it ever meant anything), has been exchanged by many for the odious cry, "A mort les Jnifs!" Let Paris beware. It has been the fate of the Jew to serve as a target for national malice and religious hatred; but we do not remember any nation which has pursued such a policy as a loud faction is pursuing towards the Jews, emerging from the struggle unhurt or untarnished.

Indeed, upon all the three great Latin peoples there would seem to have fallen a species of blight. Italy is bankrupt commercially and spiritually; Spain is only partially awake, and her stagnant "Catholicism"—the bequest of Philip II.—is half of it pagan and nearly all of it superstition; while poor France—"that light, unbelieving nation," as Carlyle says of her—is endeavouring to divert the thoughts of her people from the internal dry-rot which is eating out the very heart of her Government by a foolish policy of "bluff" directed mainly against England, but not without a significant side-reference to America. M. Lockroy has said quite recently that war between France and England cannot be postponed more than two years. Possibly it may be less. Any way, France, by her action in Madagascar and on the Arabian seaboard, is endeavouring to precipitate a crisis which, when it does come, will probably involve the whole Continent. Notwithstanding,

Τὰῦτα Θεῶν ἐν γούνασι κείται.

The Very Rev. Watkin Herbert Williams, D.D., Dean of St. Asaph, was confirmed on Tuesday, January 31, at noon, in his election to the See of Bangor. The ceremony took place in Bow Church, Cheapside, the old home of the Court of Arches.

One of the events of the month is Mr. Kipling's seven-verse poem published in the *Times* of February 4, bearing the title "The White

Man's Burden." It is a stirring address to the United States in view of the recent war. Here is the sixth verse :

"Take up the White Man's burden—
 Ye dare not stoop to less—
 Nor call too loud on Freedom
 To cloke your weariness.
 By all ye will or whisper,
 By all ye leave or do,
 The silent, sullen peoples
 Shall weigh your God and you."

The last word has by no means been spoken upon the Church Question. The Albert Hall meeting of January 31 was, from the point of view of Protestantism, both Church and Dissenting, a success. There was abundance of enthusiasm displayed by the 10,000 people who were present. A message of appeal was sent direct from the meeting to the Queen (we have not yet heard whether Her Majesty has taken any steps to reply to this memorial); and more than one speaker made an effective hit, or gave expression to some universally-felt desire. But nobody could regard the meeting in the light of a really national gathering. It doubtless expressed the opinions of a large and influential number of Nonconformists, and of a fairly considerable number of Churchmen, whose views deserve a recognition which, during recent years, has been denied them. But the extreme Protestant section of the National Church is bound to remember that, inasmuch as that Church is *national*, it must be inclusive. It is no less a mistake to attempt in one direction unduly to puritanize the Church than, in the other direction, to medievalize it (*i.e.*, to assimilate its doctrine and practice to the pre-Reformation standards). English people—the main body of quiet and law-abiding people, at any rate, be they lay or cleric—are resolved that there shall not be any more irresponsible approaches to the Roman Church; but they do not mean, therefore, to lay aside the distinctive principles and practices of the Primitive Church. The Bishop of London's speech in the House of Lords on February 8 was very well worth pondering, and has been generally approved. All but partisans must agree that the recent agitation has done good; it has forced upon the notice of a benevolent Episcopate the fact (which cannot be gainsaid) that of late things have been hastening in the wrong direction with astonishing velocity; and innovations, unless curbed, are apt to acquire such momentum that they cannot be stopped at all. In times like the present, when bad blood is stirred up on both sides, it is all but idle to appeal to reason; but reason, in the religious question more than anywhere else, demands not only vigilance, but moderation. Moderation is, however, just what partisans detest and decri, yet it is the saving mark of the soundest English Churchmanship.

A large number of the friends of the Dean of St. Paul's met during the past month at the Chapter-house to present him with his portrait, recently painted by Sir William Richmond. Among those present were the Bishop of Peterborough and Lady Mary Glyn, the Bishop of Stepney, the Bishop of Reading, Canon H. S. Holland, and Canon Newbolt, as well as many members of the Lower House of Convocation.

The Rev. J. Armitage Robinson, Norrisian Professor of Divinity, Cambridge, has been appointed to the important living of St. Margaret's, Westminster, to which is attached a Canonry of Westminster Abbey.

He is a scholarly High Churchman, a great authority on early Christian literature, of studious habits and austere life.

During the year ending Easter, 1898, we learn that the freewill offerings of the Church of England amounted to no less than £7,500,000.

The Queen has been pleased to approve the appointment of the Rev. Henry Whitehead, head of Bishop's College, Calcutta, to be Bishop of Madras, in succession to Bishop Gell, who is resigning the office; also of the Rev. G. A. Lefroy, head of the Cambridge University Mission at Delhi, to be Bishop of Lahore, in succession to the late Bishop Matthew. Mr. Whitehead is a strong High Churchman, Mr. Lefroy a moderate member of the same school.

The Rev. F. W. Tracy, M.A., Headmaster of the South-Eastern College, Ramsgate, has been appointed to the Headmastership of the United Services College, Westward Ho.

Not only has there been a serious falling off during the past decade in the number of deacons ordained in the Church of England, but there seems every probability that this fall will continue. Nor, as the *London Review* recently noted, has this falling off been quantitative alone: it has been, and is, qualitative as well. Out of 575 men whose degrees were examined by the editor of the *London Review*, only twenty-three men took a "first" at Oxford or Cambridge, fifty-five a "second," and seventy-three a "third." The rest were passmen, graduates of the minor universities, or possess no degree at all. It is impossible to deny that the intellectual qualifications of the average curate are very poor; and probably we have to thank the ecclesiastical unrest for much of this. "The Church of England," said our contemporary, "is doomed, unless its ministry be adequate both in numbers and mental qualifications." These are surely weighty words.

"Lord Salisbury's virtual allowance, in his secretary's letter to the Rev. H. J. Swallow, that the tithe-rating grievance will have the attention of the Government, is indeed good hearing. We say again, as we have said before, that the present system of tithe-rating is one of the most unjust anomalies in existence. For years past the clergy have been mulcted as have no other class, and without shadow of reason. We are glad that at length there seems a probability of justice being done."—*Church Gazette*.

An influential committee, comprising the Archbishop of Canterbury, Lord Cranbrook, Lord Ashcombe, Professor Jebb, the Dean of St. Paul's, Sir J. E. Dorrington, M.P., Sir F. S. Powell, M.P., and others, has just made a report, after extensive inquiry, upon the pupil-teacher system in Church schools. The supply of pupil-teachers, particularly boy pupil-teachers, is, the committee states, very far from sufficient. But raising the limit of age above fourteen or fifteen would seriously diminish even what supply there is. The committee recommends that, where practicable, Board school pupil-teachers should be encouraged to attend Church centres, and where necessary Church pupil-teachers should be allowed to attend Board centres. It is thought desirable to accept the terms of the Education Department, which is willing to make grants to new Church colleges, provided day students are admitted to the secular instruction. The committee is decidedly of opinion that nothing should be done to interfere with the definite Church teaching which is now given in these training colleges.

A layman in the diocese of Liverpool has drafted a Bill to create a Lay House of Convocation. Among its provisions are the following: "That, in addition to the Upper and Lower Houses of Convocations of Canterbury and York, a third House shall be created consisting of laymen; that members shall be chosen at Easter to represent the congregation at the ruri-decanal meetings; that a meeting shall be held every year in each archdeaconry, the first to be held within three months after the passing of the Act; that it shall be the duty of the Lay Houses of Convocation to prepare Bills for Parliament affecting the Church; that in case of difference of opinion between the three Houses, a conference may be invited and members deputed to attend each conference."

The Archbishop of Canterbury has addressed a meeting in the Church Institute, Mossley Hill, Liverpool, on foreign missions. The Bishop of Liverpool presided. The Archbishop eulogized the work of the Church Missionary Society, and said it seemed as though the Church of England was being used for the especial purpose of carrying the Gospel to a larger portion of the surface of the globe than was the case with other churches. If the Church at home were as alive to her duty as she ought to be, she would make such an impression upon our people who were going abroad that for very shame's sake they would, at any rate, not live in open disregard of Christian precepts to such an extent as they do.

The Bishop of London has conferred the rectory of St. Anne and St. Agnes, with St. John Zachary, Gresham Street, E.C., on the Rev. Septimus Buss, Vicar of Shoreditch. Mr. Buss has been an East-End incumbent for the last twenty-six years, having gone to Shoreditch from the rectory of Wapping, and has been Rural Dean since 1890. He has also taken a prominent part in the local Vestry. His new parish is exceedingly small in population, but he is already connected with the City as Chaplain to the Ironmongers' Company.

An appeal, signed by both Archbishops and a large number of Bishops, for funds for a bishopric for Egypt, is being circulated in the country. It is desired to raise the sum of £20,000 for the purpose of providing the stipend and expenses of a Bishop, who shall undertake the oversight of the whole work of the Church of England in Egypt and the Sudan. Subscriptions will be received by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Palace, Salisbury, and the fund will be administered by the Council of the Jerusalem and the East Mission.

The Bishop of Bath and Wells presided over a meeting of influential citizens of Bath at the Guildhall, Bath, to consider the question of restoring the famous west front of Bath Abbey, in connection with the fourth century of the edifice, to be celebrated this year. A resolution authorizing the Rector and churchwardens to take the necessary steps was passed.

At the Chapter House, Exeter, the Bishop of Exeter was presented with his portrait, which had been subscribed for in the diocese to mark the completion of his fifty years' ministry in the Church. The occasion was also taken advantage of to offer his lordship birthday congratulations. Archdeacon Sandford presided, and the presentation was made by Sir J. Kennaway, M.P.

"We wish," says the *Outlook*, "all success to the Cambridge University Association, which has been founded to supplement the endowments. It

is not generally known that the University and the Colleges have become so poor that it is difficult to pay even the teachers a professional living wage, especially since they are now allowed to marry. Agricultural depression is the cause of the fall in the value of endowments. At the same time, the claims of new studies have to be met. If the Universities are still to be efficient in their work, more money must be found somehow. The Duke of Devonshire has promised £10,000, the Rothschilds another such sum, and the Drapers' Company £800 for ten years. We hope private benefactors will come forward to-day as they came forward in the 'dark ages.' We have more wealth now, and profess more light: have we a tithe of the old public spirit?"

The Archdeacon of London has appointed to St. Leonard's, the parish church of Shoreditch, the Rev. W. Bryant Salmon, Chaplain of Missions to Seamen in the Port of London. Mr. Salmon had five years' experience of a vast working men's parish as curate of Radford, Nottingham, with a population of 15,000, from 1885 to 1889; and he has worked with the Missions to Seamen in Poplar during the last ten years, having been fourteen years in Orders. "The seamen in the Port of London," a correspondent writes, "form a very important part of the population of the Archdeaconry, numbering 18,000. Both experiences give the new Vicar special fitness for the parish of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, which has a population of 9,000. Mr. Salmon is a man of moderate views, and has preached with equal acceptance in parishes of a High Church and an Evangelical type. He will make no changes from the methods and standard of his predecessor, the Rev. Septimus Buss, whom the Bishop of London has promoted to the rectory of St. Anne and St. Agnes, Aldersgate. Mr. Salmon is M.A. of Clare College, Cambridge."

The Pope has just celebrated the twenty-first anniversary of his elevation to the Pontificate, and on March 2 he enters the ninetieth year his age.

SOME NEW BOOKS.

Suetonius: History of the Twelve Cæsars. Translated by PHILEMON HOLLAND. Edited by C. WHIBLEY, M.A. ["Tudor Translations."] Two vols. Nutt. £1 4s.

Harcourt's Letters to the "Times" on "Lawlessness in the National Church." Macmillan. 1s. net.

The Science of Life. By Professor J. A. THOMSON. Blackie. 2s. 6d.

Elements of the Science of Religion. Part II. (Ontological). By Professor C. P. TIELE. Blackwood. 7s. 6d. [Being the "Gifford" Lectures for 1898.]

Obituary.

THE Rev. Talbot Greaves, a well-known figure in the Evangelical party, died on February 20, at Stoke Bishop, near Bristol, as the result of being thrown from his horse, which bolted in Shirehampton Park on Saturday. Deceased, who was seventy-three years of age, was Vicar of Clifton from 1881 to 1891, in which year he became Incumbent of Trinity Church, Torquay.