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A table of contents for *The Churchman* can be found here:

https://biblicalstudies.org.uk/articles_churchman_os.php

The Month.

THERE is an ominous lull in the war. The whereabouts of Sir Redvers Buller is uncertain, and some anxiety is felt in consequence. The probability is that the General has purposely kept back, so far as possible, any news as to his movements leaking out. The wisdom of such a course is obvious. Meanwhile, it is pretty certain that both sides are preparing for a *coup de guerre*; and it is to be hoped that the blow, when struck, may prove decisive for our arms. It will mitigate the horrors of war; for a check to the British arms, even a serious reverse, could in the nature of things merely prove temporary, and so the war would be prolonged to unhappy issues. The political future of the Transvaal—destined to become the richest and most prosperous of South African States—is of course uncertain; possibly the result of the war will be a confederation of the South African republics into an Imperial dominion, somewhat on the lines of Canada. In this way Mr. Rhodes' policy would be realized in the most striking form.

The following paragraphs from Bishop Stratton's recent charge to his clergy will be read with interest. He says: "I cannot conceal my deliberate opinion that the order of things enunciated in the well-known Collect of our Church wherein we pray that God would first cleanse, and then defend, His Church is the only order in accordance with which the longed-for peace will be re-established. Add to this a recognition of the obligation of the oaths which the clergy have taken, or a retirement on the part of those on whose consciences those oaths, I presume, are pressing, from the offices they have obtained by taking them, and then what we desire will, at last, be realized. These are no extreme or unreasonable suggestions. They are only what all right-minded men expect in any other calling or profession. The mildest kind of discipline—and the Prime Minister has declared we have no discipline at all in the Church of England—instantly demands them, and you can look for what is so much needed, namely, a restoration of peace and confidence, in no other way. Make no mistake. Disestablishment will not secure these things; cleansing will. By disestablishment you might momentarily escape from some of the difficulties which are pressing upon us, but it would only be that they might return in a harder and a harsher shape, accompanied by others the magnitude of which it is hard indeed to gauge. What is needed, first, is a firm and statesmanlike grasp of the situation; next, a determination to keep the Church of England true to herself, by which I mean true to her Articles and Formularies; thirdly, to avoid attempts to make her a kind of Pantheon, such as Mrs. Humphry Ward and others plead for, in which every kind of contradictory doctrine shall find a niche, and its adherents be tolerated, like the members of a happy family, on terms that they abstain from mutual interference; lastly, to admit and prefer only those men who prove themselves loyal to the doctrines and practices of the Book of Common Prayer, as interpreted by the constitutionally appointed tribunals."

We cordially support the reasonable request made by Sir John Kenna-way that, now Lord Kitchener has arranged to open the Soudan "to all comers," the missionaries of the Church Missionary Society should no longer be forbidden to initiate their beneficent work of establishing a medical mission among the Soudanese.

The Bishop of Worcester recently opened a large block of new buildings at the Worcester Cathedral King's School, erected at a cost of over £3,000.

The directors of the Ecclesiastical Insurance Office, Ltd. (11, Norfolk Street, Strand) announce that they are prepared to grant loans to enable the clergy to erect or improve any school, mission hall, or other building needed for Church purposes in their parishes. Full information as to this plan can be obtained on application to the secretary of the Company.

The Westminster College Training School at Cambridge for the English Presbyterian Church was formally opened by the Moderator of the English Presbyterian Synod. It accommodates twenty-five students and a staff of five, and cost £40,000.

The Church Association Autumn Conference met at Gloucester in the middle of the month, under the presidency of Mr. A. S. Lamb, Barrister-at-Law.

The Bishop of Bristol has refused to admit to priest's orders the Rev. J. Wharton Hewison, curate of St. Simon's, Bristol, whose Vicar, it is said, will not abandon the use of incense, and who personally declines to promise obedience to the Archbishop's opinion should he be presented to a benefice.

The Archbishops and Bishops of both provinces met at Lambeth, with closed doors, on November 14. The only official communication furnished to the press was the following resolution, which was stated to have been passed unanimously by the assembled prelates: "That the closing year of the century should be observed on the part of the Church of England as a year of special collective prayer for the blessing of God upon the Church and nation."

On November 14 the Cromwell statue, by Mr. Thorneycroft, which has been erected on the lawn before the left front of Westminster Hall, was unveiled. In the evening a crowded meeting was held in the Queen's Hall to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of the great Protector. Lord Rosebery's speech on this occasion was admirable both in form and matter. Among those who took part in the proceedings were Lord Coleridge, Canon Wilberforce, and Mr. Asquith, M.P.

Mr. A. J. Balfour contributes an article to the November number of the *North American Review* on "How the Ritualists Harm the Church." It reproduces the substance of his recent speech on the subject in the House of Commons.

APPEALS, DONATIONS, AND BEQUESTS.

The following appeal has been issued by Prebendary Webb-Peploe :

"It is with devout thankfulness to God that I am able to announce that the Barbican Mission to the Jews has secured a site in the White-chapel Road for a permanent mission-house as a memorial of its first president, the late Prebendary Gordon Calthrop. We are anxious to build as soon as possible. Will those who honour the memory of our departed brother, and all interested in the spread of the Gospel of Christ among the Jews, kindly assist us with a contribution towards the building fund (£3,000 still needed), for the love of God and the sake of His people Israel ?

"Contributions will be gladly received by me; or they may be sent to the Secretary of the Mission, 262, Commercial Road, E.

"25, Onslow Gardens, S.W."

H. W. WEBB-PEPLOE.

The Duke of Westminster has contributed £1,000 to the fund for enlarging St. Oswald's College, Ellesmere. This college is one of the Woodard Schools.

The Duke of Westminster has given a special donation of £5,000 to the Bishop of London's Fund, and also announced his intention to double the amount of his present annual subscription (£1,000) to the society.

The Bishop of St. Albans' Fund also, for East London over the Border, has received a donation of £5,000 from his Grace, with a promise to double his annual subscription of £500. This fund has received a further donation of £400 from the Marquis of Salisbury towards the spiritual needs of a population increasing at the rate of 43,000 a year.

The sum of £2,500 has been anonymously given towards the £10,000 still required for the Walsham How memorial at Wakefield. According to an appeal just published by Bishop Eden, £17,000 has been already either paid in or promised, and a fund for the endowment of the first stall in the cathedral is anticipated. Two sculptors have been asked to prepare designs for a recumbent effigy of the late Bishop.

Our contemporary, *Church Bells*, is raising subscriptions for the Egyptian Bishopric Fund. Several hundreds have already been given, and one anonymous donor has offered £1,000, provided nineteen others will give the same amount before the end of the year.

LITERARY.

Encyclopædia Biblica. A Dictionary of the Bible. Edited by the Rev. Professor T. K. CHEYNE, D.D., and D. J. SUTHERLAND BLACK. Vol. I. (A—D). Price £1 net. London: A. and C. Black. (A full notice of this important work will shortly appear in our pages.)

Christian Mysticism. (Bampton Lectures for 1899.) By W. R. INGE, M.A. Price 16s. Methuen and Co.

A new book is announced as shortly to be issued by the veteran philosopher, J. H. Stirling, LL.D., first appointed Gifford Lecturer (1888-90), and author of the celebrated work, "The Secret of Hegel." The book in question will deal with the problem of philosophy in its most vital connection.

We hear that some time next month a new edition will be published of the Rev. Dr. Rigg's "High Anglicanism," which claims to be the only book giving an historical account of the Oxford Movement from the Nonconformist standpoint. Dr. Rigg's book first appeared in 1895, and in the new edition he has added two chapters on the latest aspect of the Ritual controversy.

