

PAMPHLETS, ETC.

In *Facts about the Memory and its Use* (Partridge), the Rev. J. D. Kilburn writes usefully, though we cannot say we feel as "convinced" as he does of the efficacy of any system of mnemonics. We have received from Elliot Stock a copy of the Rev. Prebendary Harry Jones's *Some Tides of To-day*, a sixpenny booklet of sermons which are quite worth perusal; and from Simpkin Marshall a new brochure by the author of *The Englishman's Brief*. The title of the new publication is *The Coming Disestablishment of the Church of England and the "Free Churches."* It is an excellent half-crown's worth, written from a thoroughly popular point of view. The Rev. T. H. Passmore's *Things beyond the Tomb* (Longmans, 2s. 6d.) is intended to be a manual of instruction, as we are told in the preface; it contains some good things, not unmingled with much that is doubtful and open to criticism. The author believes in prayers for the dead.

 The Month.

THE "great century" is already a memory. Many are the "reviews" and "retrospects" that have appeared, both in the religious and secular press, on this subject—much of it, we fear, of that complacent order to which, of late, we have been growing accustomed. The Bishop of Winchester, in his New Year's pastoral, writes, wisely, thus: "We are tempted to let a complacent and continuous purr of self-satisfaction take the place of sterner and more resolute sounds. We want a larger element of wholesome discontent with the results 'whereunto we have already attained' as the outcome of a hundred years of God-given opportunity." The fact is, the nation, despite the reminders it has had of late touching the folly of boasting, has yet to learn the full significance of Kipling's "Recessional":

"If, drunk with sight of power, we loose
Wild tongues that have not Thee in awe,
Such boastings as the Gentiles use,
Or lesser breeds without the law,
Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,
Lest we forget, lest we forget!

"For heathen heart that puts her trust
In reeking tube and iron shard,
All valiant dust that builds on dust,
And, guarding, calls not Thee to guard;
For frantic boast and foolish word,
Thy mercy on Thy people, Lord!"

The *Daily News* of Thursday, January 10, contained an editorial note to the effect that the editorship of Mr. E. T. Cook, which commenced in February, 1896, came to an end that day. His successor is Mr. R. C. Lehmann, of Trinity College, Cambridge, well known as a coach of the University crews, and a member of the staff of *Punch*. The Liberalism of the paper will be of a more advanced character. In its first leading article on January 11, it took occasion to say that Mr. Gladstone "saved South Africa in 1881 by an act as politic as it was generous, and as magnanimous as it was wise."

Dr. Ridgeway, who was recently transferred from St. Peter's, Cranley Gardens, where he has worked during the last ten years, to the rectory of St. Botolph's, Bishopsgate, has been appointed Bishop-Suffragan of Kensington.

It is announced that the Tithe Rent-charge for 1901 will be calculated at the rate of £66 10s. 9½d. per £100—*i.e.*, that the amount which a clergyman receives in tithe is now less than two-thirds of the nominal value of the rent-charge, and scarcely three-fifths of what it was in 1875. It is true that the fall during the past three years has not been so severe as it was in 1895-98, or in several triennial periods between 1880-95; but when so low a point has been reached, each successive diminution is more severely felt.

The *Church Union Gazette* announces that 2,506 persons have joined the E.C.U. during the past year, and that the resignations have been less than 2½ per cent. on the total numbers on the roll. It is further stated that during the past year there have been added to the Union, and in some cases to its council, the "names of several prominent Churchmen who have for years held aloof from the society, or, if belonging to it, have certainly not before felt called to take such an active part in its proceedings as to accept a seat on its council."

"A plea for the enlargement of the diaconate, on the lines which the Bishop of Worcester has of late courageously adopted, has reached us in the form of a pamphlet by Prebendary Brereton. Its contents were prepared for the West Norfolk Clerical Society under the title of 'Non-Clerical Pursuits: A Plea for an Extended Diaconate.' One line of argument adopted by Prebendary Brereton we do not remember to have seen thus employed before. He asks, in effect, whether the arrangement by which a deacon might still pursue a secular calling might not help to show the dignity and the true Christian character of the lay occupation? 'By enrolling themselves among the clergy, while retaining freedom to devote themselves to what are falsely called mere secular pursuits, they would be contributing to their Church and country what no money could procure, and yet no financial estimate could fully value. They would be redeeming for the Redeemer's cause, and His rightful claim, the chief streams of civilizing pursuit, which in the process of becoming unclerical have assuredly incurred a danger of becoming unchristian.' It might be said, in reply, that nothing now hinders the man of God who is, let us say, solicitor, barrister, or merchant, from thus sanctifying a secular calling. But the range within which he may exercise his ministry is, however high his qualifications, strictly limited, and the question is whether it might not, with great advantage to the Church, be enlarged. The progress of the experiment which the Bishop of Worcester is making will, we are sure, be watched with the greatest interest and hope."—*Record*, December 28.

Apropos of the discussion that has been going on vigorously in the *Times* respecting the merits of the First and Second Prayer-Books of Edward VI., the following extract from the *Guardian* will be of interest: "Mr. Simpson Rostron writes to us from 1, Hare Court, Temple, that, seeing that Cranmer had the chief share in arranging both the First and Second Books, any expression of his own opinion on changes and revision

is, historically, of interest and value. 'Strange to say, there is extant a letter of the Archbishop directly in point, which, so far as I am aware, has not been noticed. Three weeks before the "Second Book" was to come into use, in a letter dated from Lambeth, October 7, 1552, to the Privy Council, objecting to the insertion in the "Book" of the "Declaration on Kneeling," Cranmer expresses in forcible terms his opinion on alterations and changes in general. His words are:

" "I know your Lordships' wisdom to be such that I trust ye will not be moved with these glorious and unquiet spirits which can like nothing but that is after their own fancy; and cease not to make trouble when things be most quiet and in good order. If such men should be heard—although the book were made every year anew, yet it should not lack faults in their opinion. 'But,' say they, 'it is not commanded in the Scripture to kneel, and whatsoever is not commanded in the Scripture is against the Scripture, and utterly unlawful and ungodly.' But this saying is the chief foundation of the Anabaptists and of divers others sects. . . . If this saying be true, take away the whole Book of Service; for what should men travell to set in order, in the form of service, if no order can be got but that is already prescribed by Scripture?"—*Vide State Papers, Domestic, Edward VI., xv. 15.*

DONATIONS, APPEALS, BEQUESTS.

The following are amongst the subscriptions lately received towards the founding of the proposed Diocese of Southwark: The Merchant Taylors' Company, £525; the Leather-sellers' Company, £500; Sir John Watney, £105; the Hon. Harriet Brodrick, £100; Mr. R. P. Barrow, £100; Mr. J. E. Street, £100; Mr. M. N. Buttanshaw, £52; Mr. E. N. Buxton, £50. The fund now amounts to £39,933.

A generous offer has been received by the Bradford Parish Church Restoration Committee from Viscount Mountgarrett, Lord of the Manor of Bradford. The restoration of the church cost about £13,000, of which £5,000 is still owing. Lord Mountgarrett undertakes to give £1,000 towards this sum in the spring of next year, provided that a similar contribution is promised from another source. Failing this, he is willing to pay the last £1,000 of the debt, provided that £4,000 be raised by the end of 1901.

The Bishop of London's Fund has received a New Year's gift of £1,200 from an old supporter.

Lord Salisbury has sent a donation of £400 to the Bishop of St. Albans' Fund for East "London over the Border."

The Bishop of Winchester has contributed £250 towards a special appeal for funds to provide additional church accommodation at Portsmouth.

Mrs. Blanshard, Lady of the Manor of Camerton, who gave £50 towards the new bells of St. Aidan's, Carlisle, has sent to the Bishop of Carlisle a cheque for £1,200 towards the erection of a mission-room in the new parish. It was owing to Mrs. Blanshard's munificence that a new church was built a short time ago at West Seaton, Workington.

Mr. F. W. Harrison, of Maer Hall, Staffordshire, has given a special donation of £500 to the Chester Diocesan Clergy Pensions Fund.

Obituary.

IT is with a regret that can hardly be put into words that we record the death of HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY THE QUEEN, who passed away, on the evening of the 22nd,

“To where, beyond these voices, there is peace.”

Honoured by the whole world, loved by the millions of her loyal subjects throughout her mighty Empire, QUEEN VICTORIA has left upon the page of history a name that, while England remains a nation, can never die.

“So a fit silence is her eulogy,
And praise is mute.”

And for the blessing of the Queen's reign, that most memorable of all reigns recorded in human history, the thanks of every Englishman are due to Him from whom cometh every good gift.

The death of the Bishop of London took place on January 14, and the melancholy tidings have evoked much sympathy and deep regret among all sections of the community. During the four years of his London episcopacy he had, by his firmness, his tact, his winning courtesy, and his brilliant qualities both as leader of men and thinker, made a great impression upon people. As a historian he took a very high place indeed among his contemporaries; in fact, Dr. Creighton and Dr. Stubbs (the present Bishop of Oxford) may justly be claimed by the Church of England as among the most distinguished historians of the time. The “History of the Papacy”—his most ambitious work—was never completed; for, unfortunately, the duties of a modern Bishop, above all a Bishop of London, practically allow him no time for literary pursuits. One of Dr. Creighton's last public acts was the summoning of the Round Table Conference; and when the mists of prejudice are cleared up men will remember, with no small admiration for his generous impulse, that Bishop whose love of fair-play, and conciliatory policy, had prompted the undertaking of a noteworthy effort to find a basis of concord among (apparently) antagonistic parties.