

qualified to pursue their ministry on entirely new lines or discovering that their original vocation was a mistake. Such men, we would repeat it, deserve our deepest sympathy, and often need actual and substantial help if they are to follow up their earnest inquiries into the truth and to earn an honest livelihood. To guide and assist such inquirers is surely a noble work, in which we heartily wish M. Bourrier and his associates God-speed. We may not approve of all that they write or say or do; but when we consider the godless condition of France and the increasing superstitions of Rome we must welcome every Scriptural effort to rescue those who are struggling with such tremendous difficulties, and to promote the evangelization of that unhappy country.

W. BURNET.

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ART. VII.—THE MONTH.

AS was apprehended when our last number was issued, the venerable Archbishop of Canterbury has passed to his rest. A singularly noble and strenuous life of devoted service to God and man has thus been brought to an honoured close. The work which Dr. Temple has done for the Church of England, and through the Church for the whole country, is of inestimable value. His actual labours in the cause of education, his work at Rugby, in the dioceses of Exeter, London, and Canterbury, his devoted services to the cause of temperance, were herculean; but they all fall short, perhaps, of the blessing he has conferred on us by his grand example. There are those who doubt whether he did not carry too far his appreciation of the unique value of self-sacrificing work, when he allowed himself to shut his eyes to lawlessness in the Clergy, provided he was satisfied that they were labouring devotedly in the cause of their Master. But, at all events, he has impressed upon us all by example, as well as by word, the obligation and the nobility of practical work. He followed, indeed, with appreciation and power the intellectual movements of his time. His contribution to "Essays and Reviews" was at least an evidence of that disposition; and his subsequent Bampton Lectures, delivered amidst all the pressure of episcopal duties, were perhaps a still more conspicuous illustration of it. But all else seemed subordinate in him to a passion for doing his Master's work, and making his Master's will better known and obeyed. "Why call ye

me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" are words which well describe his spirit. That spirit will long live among us, and will help to raise us all above the unhappy controversies of the moment to high aims and spiritual ideals.

Dr. Davidson, the present Bishop of Winchester, has been designated as his successor, and will enter on his office with the confidence of the Church at large, and amidst good hopes as well as prayers. He has hitherto been found equal to every duty to which he has been called; and no better testimony could well be given to any man. He has filled posts, especially in relation to the Court, which required the greatest discretion and practical capacity; and there is certainly no man on the Bench who is so well acquainted with the affairs of the Church, and with the personal forces which are at work in it. As a Bishop he has been laborious, earnest, sympathetic, and at the same time firm; and his Charges have exhibited sound learning and spiritual wisdom. He is still in the prime of life, and if his health is spared he may hope to occupy the See of Canterbury long enough to carry through a deliberate policy, and to settle some controverted questions. It is to be hoped, both for this reason and from his general character, that he will allow himself ample time for deliberation before taking decisive action; and he may rely upon full patience being extended to him, and upon the most favourable construction being placed upon his acts and words. He enters on his office at a very critical time; and the prayers of the Church were never more urgently needed for the Divine support and guidance of her rulers.

The Education Act is now law, and it will soon be seen how it is likely to work, or to be worked, in practice. In spite of some extreme voices, there are indications that the chief leaders of public opinion in all parties will accept it frankly, as the settlement, for some time at least, of the questions at issue, and that a sincere endeavour will be made to develop the practical assistance which it undoubtedly offers in the work of elementary education. The moderate and hard-working Clergyman will find it a material help to him, and no hindrance. Some of the Laity of his parish will henceforth be under a loyal obligation to join him in the work of his schools; and if he commands their confidence, they will be only too glad to leave the religious instruction of the children in his hands. It would be for the first time in English history if a measure adopted by Parliament after prolonged deliberation were not fairly worked, so as at least to show the best results that can be produced under it. In the course of the next few weeks the Bishops and Clergy, as well as the lay bodies who are concerned in the matter, will be

carefully considering the Act ; and this practical consideration will no doubt prove the best means of allaying prejudices and removing difficulties. In various directions education must be a prominent question during the present generation : the welfare of the country depends on it to an incalculable extent, and if men address themselves to it with goodwill its practical difficulties will be overcome.



\* \* \* Our Reviews this month are, to our regret, unavoidably postponed.