

# THE CHURCHMAN

June, 1920.

## THE MONTH.

**The late  
Bishop of  
Durham.** IN the death of the deeply revered and greatly beloved Bishop of Durham the Church of England, indeed the whole Christian world, has sustained a grievous loss. His influence was immense, and it was always on the side of right. In these days of difficulty the Church has need of leaders with understanding of the times, and this Bishop Moule had in a marked degree. His strong faith, his unflinching patience, his sound judgment and his finely balanced sense of proportion—these were qualities which gave men confidence in his leadership. Other and higher qualities he also possessed which marked him out as a master in spiritual things, and men of all schools of thought were glad and thankful to sit at his feet. Every one recognised that he was a good man, and the obituary notices in the secular press have laid stress upon his simple and unaffected piety. But what has saddened us in some of these notices is the calm assumption that because he was such a good man he was not a great bishop. We protest with all our strength against the notion that goodness and greatness cannot, or, at any rate, do not as a rule go together. Bishop Moule, we contend, was an outstanding instance to the contrary, and the record of his nearly nineteen years' episcopate substantiates that view. Bishop Moule was a great scholar and a great saint. His writings on the Epistles stand out among the most learned contributions to New Testament literature we have. Yet, as has been more than once pointed out, he never confined himself to mere questions of scholarship; he sought to give the very best reading of the Greek, and then to apply the spiritual message to the life of the reader. Thus his works had a double purpose and a double value; they were careful and

exact in their commentary, and they were helpful and inspiring in their appeal. The papers from his pen on St. John xvii. which the *CHURCHMAN* was privileged to publish in the latter part of last year—fragmentary though he considered them to be—furnished a noteworthy example of what we mean. The “Great Prayer” was examined with fine minuteness, and then its bearing upon life and conduct was unfolded with a richness of exposition which lent to the papers an inimitable charm. As a commentator and an expositor Bishop Moule had few equals and no superior. But great as was the service he rendered to the Christian Church by his pen, it was the saintlessness of his life that carried the greatest influence.

**The May Meetings.** The day of the May Meetings is clearly not over so long as they can command such large and enthusiastic audiences as those which thronged many halls in the early days of the month. Their success is of good augury for the future. There may be—many people think there undoubtedly are—difficult days ahead for religious societies, but whatever those trials and anxieties may be, they can and will be overcome by the faith and prayer, effort and patience of those who believe that God’s work must be done and that they are called to the doing of it.

**N.C.L. Meeting.** We refer with special pleasure to the Annual Meeting of the National Church League, which drew a goodly number of members and friends to the Church House on Tuesday afternoon, May 11. An excellent report was presented of the work done during the year: the only “fly in the ointment” being that financially the League has still had to carry over too heavy a deficit. It is hoped, however, that a generous response to the Emergency Fund will enable a readjustment of the accounts to be made and leave a substantial balance in hand for developing the work. Never were the activities of the League more needed than they are to-day. The Emergency Fund Appeal is for £10,000, towards which about £3,500 has been received: we hope the balance will speedily be supplied. The meeting was fortunate in its speakers. The President, the Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Clarke, referred to the possibilities open to the National Church Assembly in moulding the character, directing the action and controlling the administration of the Church. Sir W. Joynson-

Hicks, Bart., M.P., who was warmly welcomed on his return from India, pleaded for a steady and increasing flow of annual subscriptions, and finally the Bishop of Manchester made a powerful speech in opposition to any alteration in the Communion Office.

Special interest attached to the speech of the Bishop of Manchester as only a few days before he had achieved a remarkable triumph in the full synod of the Northern Province. Both Houses sitting together, to put the final touches to Prayer Book Revision, a proposal was submitted by the Bishop of Knaresborough, seconded by Archdeacon Walsham How, that the motion adopted by the Lower House at the last session with regard to the Order of Holy Communion be accepted. The Bishop of Manchester then moved the following amendment: "That this Synod, whilst desiring to record its appreciation of the labours of the committee on the Order of Holy Communion, resolves not to alter the structure and sequence of the Order of Holy Communion." The Archdeacon of Manchester (the Ven. N. L. Aspinall) seconded the amendment, and, after a short discussion, it was carried by 28 votes to 25, a majority of 3. The very great importance of this decision will readily be recognised. It is difficult to see how the Southern Province can now force the proposed changes on the Church.

On another page will be found a letter from the Rev. J. W. Tyrer in reference to the Bishop of Manchester's Convocation speech. We sent a proof of the letter to the Bishop who has replied as follows:—

DEAR SIR,—Mr. Tyrer, no doubt by an oversight, has not quoted correctly the statement which I made in Convocation. What I said was, "What is proposed for our use is an Invocation of the Holy Spirit as Lord and Giver of Life upon the worshippers and the elements. It is important to note this, because the vaguer forms are often quoted in defence of this particular form. But the fact remains that *this particular form* is admittedly an innovation which cannot be attested earlier than the middle of the fourth century." Mr. Tyrer has brought to my notice other interesting matter to which I hope to give attention; but on account of my engagements I must defer doing so till the autumn. Yours faithfully, E. A. MANCHESTER.