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THE MONTH.

THE Bishop of St. Asaph points out the following facts with regard to the use of the Welsh language in Wales :

"The census returns give the number of those speaking only Welsh as 508,036, and of those who speak English and Welsh as 402,253.

"Last October I said that the 508,036 included all who, although they know English, prefer speaking Welsh, and that in Merionethshire, Cardiganshire, and Anglesea, with a population of 185,328, the monoglot Welshmen were returned as 130,680, although considerably more than half the population of those counties must have passed through the elementary schools, where all their education was in English, and I pointed out that every kind of pressure, political and sectarian, was exercised to make people return themselves as monoglot Welshmen. For these statements I was so widely and severely censured in the Welsh Radical press that I may be permitted to quote the following words from the general report just issued as a Parliamentary paper . . . under the marginal heading 'Untrustworthiness of the Returns'—

So desirous do many householders appear to have been to add to the number of monoglot Welshmen that they not only returned themselves as speaking Welsh—that is, Welsh only—but made similar returns as to infants who were only a few months or even only a few days old. Two parishes, one in Carnarvonshire and one in Merionethshire, were selected by us for detailed examination. In these parishes there were 138 babies under one year of age, and fifty-nine of these were returned as speaking Welsh. There were also 147 infants between one and two years of age, and eighty-seven of these were entered as monoglot Welsh. Thus of 285 infants not yet two years of age, 146, or more than a half, were represented as being able to speak Welsh, and Welsh only. Children under two years of age have been excluded by us from the language tables; and, consequently, these strange statements as to their power of speech are not of much importance excepting that they furnish good grounds for regarding with much suspicion the trustworthiness of the statements as to persons of riper years. Thus, in these same two parishes there were 1,587 children of from five to fifteen years of age, children, therefore, who must have had a more or less lengthy period of school attendance. In the schools of both these parishes English had been taken as a class subject, not without success. Yet of these 1,587 children 1,490, or 94 per cent., were returned as unable to speak English.

After this official statement it cannot be questioned that 508,036 represents not monoglot Welshmen, but those who prefer Welsh to English.

"I ask your readers to compare 1,252,873 who, according to the report of Lord Aberdare's committee, 'habitually speak Welsh' with the 508,036 of the language census returns. I would also ask where the 1,083,000 Nonconformists, who use the Welsh language in worship in Wales and Monmouthshire are to be found."

Taking the central funds only of the Missions to Seamen, the receipts in 1893 have fallen off £272, as compared with the previous year, the central contributions within the year (less legacies) being £17,842. But

to the special London fund for erecting the Missions to Seamen Church and Institute for sailors of all nations frequenting the Port of London was generously given £4,549 within the same year, making the receipts together £22,391—being an increase over the previous year of £2,584 in the combined receipts at the head office, 11, Buckingham Street, Strand. To these central funds, however, have to be added the amounts contributed and expended locally at the sixty-three seaports at home and abroad, occupied by the Missions to Seamen, all the accounts for which have not yet reached the head office, and which may probably add another £10,000 to the above totals. Looking back over the three past decades, it appears that in 1863, when the Missions to Seamen was but seven years old, it had 13 chaplains and 18 readers, occupying 24 seaports for the Church. Ten years later, in 1873, there were 14 chaplains and 23 readers at 33 seaports, the annual income having increased about £550. In 1883 there were 25 chaplains and 47 readers, etc., besides two clerical superintendents, employed in 49 seaports, the total annual income, £18,665, being much more than double that of 1873. At the end of 1893 there were 34 chaplains and 59 readers, etc., besides two clerical superintendents and a clerical secretary, working in 63 seaports at home and abroad, the estimated total annual income being again double what it was ten years before. There are still a considerable number of large ports at home and frequented by British shipping abroad, in which there are no clerical ministrations afloat; whilst thousands of British ships and fishing vessels are never visited by a clergyman, so that there are still large spheres of spiritual work afloat awaiting the efforts of the Missions to Seamen. Besides which many large ports already occupied are greatly under-manned, especially the great Port of London, to which the Missions to Seamen has recently appointed but one chaplain and two readers to give their whole time and attention exclusively to looking after sailors of many nationalities when ashore. That the national Church is being aroused to its duties to the national seamen is shown by the increased number of parishes which give offertories to the Missions to Seamen. In 1863, only 209 churches did so; and in 1873 but 188 churches thus cared for sailors; whereas in 1883 nearly four times as many churches, viz., 727, gave offertories; and last year about 1,100 churches helped in this way.

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and the Strand District Board of Works have combined to establish a labour exchange at St. Martin's Town Hall, Charing Cross Road. All residents of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, St. Mary-le-Strand, St. Paul, Covent Garden, St. Clement Danes, St. Anne, the Liberty of the Rolls, and the precincts of the Savoy, may register their names for any kind of work, and employers anywhere and everywhere may apply here if they are in need of either male or female assistance. There are no fees on either side.—*Daily News*.

The living of Holy Trinity, Cambridge, vacated by the Rev. John Barton, has been offered to the Rev. Charles James Proctor, Vicar of St. Peter's, Islington, and accepted by him. Mr. Proctor is a graduate of Cambridge. Before his present appointment he served under the Rev. G. Forrester at St. Paul's, Clapham, where he did a good, solid, and abiding work amongst young men. At Islington his parish is in a well-ordered state of efficiency, and he has succeeded in winning his way amongst all classes of people. The living of St. Laurence, Dartmouth Street, Birmingham, one of the most difficult parishes in the city, has been conferred by the Bishop of Worcester on the Rev. W. Kipling Cox, incumbent of Christ Church, Coventry, but better known as organizing secretary of the C.E.T.S. for the diocese of Worcester, an office he has held for sixteen years.—*Record*.

Mr. E. J. Kennedy, who has been so long and so honourably associated with the work of the Y.M.C.A. at Exeter Hall, is about to seek orders in the Church of England. He will begin his ministry at a well-known church in South London.—*Record*.

The friends of the observance of Sunday have gained a decided victory in Bristol. It was proposed to open the city libraries and museum on the Lord's Day, and there was some fear lest the advanced tendencies of a certain section of the people might prevail. But the Sunday opening party found little support in the Town Council, who rejected the proposal by thirty-eight to nineteen.—*Record*.

It is announced that the total receipts of the Hospital Saturday Fund for last year, from all sources, amounted to £20,425, as against £20,567 for 1892. The expenses would seem, according to a corrected statement, to have amounted to £2,404, or £40 less than the year preceding.—*Guardian*.

The following clergy now compose the patrons of Church livings in the gift of what are known as "Simeon's Trustees": The Dean of Canterbury, Archdeacon Richardson, the Principal of Ridley Hall, Cambridge (the Rev. H. C. G. Moule), Prebendary Tate (Vicar of Kippington, Sevenoaks), and Canon Robert B. Girdlestone (incumbent of St. John's, Downshire Hill, Hampstead).—*Guardian*.

The new church of St. John the Evangelist, Littlewick, Berks, to which a district is about to be assigned, consisting of an outlying part of the extensive parish of White Waltham, was consecrated by the Bishop of the diocese on St. John's Day. It owes its erection to the generosity of Miss Ellis, of Waltham Place, Maidenhead, who, some time since, placed in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners £15,000, of which £10,000 was to be reserved as an endowment, and the remainder, with any interest accruing meanwhile, was to be expended in the building of the church and vicarage.—*Guardian*.

The committee of the Additional Curates' Society have received a donation of £2,500 to meet their present financial needs. The donor wishes his name not to be disclosed. This gift, together with £1,000 received a fortnight ago, reduces the estimate of the deficit for 1893 to £11,800.—*Guardian*.

It is stated that the Bishop of London's Fund has received a New Year's gift of £1,200.—*Guardian*.

Towards the more complete restoration of the parish church at Aslackby, South Lincolnshire, the Earl of Ancaster contributed £250; Mr. E. N. Conant, of Lyndon Hall, Rutland, £150; and Mr. Henry Smith, of Sudbrooke, £75.—*Guardian*.

The late Mr. C. R. Jacson, of Barton Hall, Preston, has bequeathed £200 to the Manchester Diocesan Church Building Society; £1,000 to the Barton Memorial Church Schools (but so long only as it continues to be a public elementary school of the Church of England); £2,500 to the vicar and churchwardens of St. Lawrence's, Barton, for rebuilding the church, and £500 for the augmentation of the living; and £1,000 for the church of St. John the Baptist, Broughton.—*Guardian*.

The late Mrs. Maria Foot, of Hanbury Vicarage, Burton-on-Trent, who left personalty amounting to over £53,000, has bequeathed £500 towards the endowment of almshouses for persons about seventy years of age of the parish of Hanbury, to be erected on the site of the old stables at Hanbury Vicarage, and to bear the inscription: "As a thank-offering for mercies received by J. R. F. and L. M. F. these almshouses are founded"; £50 each for the benefit of the churches at Compton, Valence, Longbredy, Hanbury, Woolland, and Nice; £50 each to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the Bible Department of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the Church Missionary Society, and the Vaudois Church; a contingent legacy to the Dorset County Hospital; and other legacies, pecuniary and specific.—*Guardian*.



Obituary.



A GRAVE disaster has befallen the Niger Mission. Bishop Hill and Mrs. Hill, who only reached the West Coast some three or four weeks ago, have both succumbed to an attack of fever, and thus early in their work have laid down their lives for the people of Africa. Two other missionaries have since died on that fatal coast. Mr. Tugwell, an able and well-trying missionary in that district, has been summoned by the society in Salisbury Square, with the approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury, to be consecrated in place of Bishop Hill.

A distinguished public servant passed away on Sunday in the person of Lord Sandford, who was in his seventieth year. The son of the late Sir Daniel Keyte Sandford, M.P., professor of Greek at Glasgow, he was educated in his father's University and at Balliol College, Oxford, graduating in 1846 with a First in Classics. In 1848 he entered the Education Department as examiner, rising to be Secretary in 1870—the year of Mr. Forster's Act, which he had to put into administrative shape. In that difficult and delicate task it was generally allowed that he showed tact and resource, as well as an impartiality in denominational questions which had nothing to do with indifference. From 1872 till the creation of the Secretaryship for Scotland in 1885, he was equally responsible for Scotch educational business; he was then appointed first Under-Secretary for Scotland, and, indeed, organised the new office. In 1862 he had been secretary to the Commissioners for the International Exhibition of that year, receiving the honour of knighthood in the year following. In 1868 Sir Francis Sandford temporarily quitted the Education office to act as Assistant-Under-Secretary for the Colonies. On his final retirement from the public service in 1891 he was raised to the peerage. He was also a Privy Councillor and K.C.B. Lord Sandford leaves no issue, and the title, therefore, dies with him.—*Guardian*.