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

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

The Message of Israel. By JULIA WEDGWOOD. Isbister and Co. 1894.

"The following pages," says the authoress in her preface, "embody an attempt to bring the results of recent criticisms before the reader of the Old Testament, so far as the message which the Bible contains is made clearer by such criticism." There is evidence throughout the book of a careful study of the works of modern critics, and the book will be welcomed as a good résumé of the views at present held by the school of Wellhausen. But, while it shows the utmost readiness to accept "critical" conclusions, the book displays little of that cautious spirit which refuses to accept the latest fad from Germany, merely because it is new. What we want is less of what is new, and more of what is true; and, unfortunately, that is precisely what we do not always get. The general tenor of the authoress's own opinions may be gathered from the following quotation: "The test by which Biblical criticism must stand or fall is its power to render the moral purport of the Old Testament intelligible. If under its analysis the history and literature of the most remarkable people of antiquity ceases to be an 'abracadabra,' from which here and there we derive edification, and becomes a rememberable chapter in the history of thought, then the newer criticism will mould our Bible, and, in teaching us to read it, will vindicate whatever is destructive in its own work. If it fail in this respect, all its arguments will be so much waste paper."

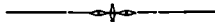
The book is decidedly worth reading, for it is a conscientious piece of work, although written with a distinct bias. There are some useful hints, too, to be gleaned from the footnotes which abound in its pages, and one is grateful for the index. This, however, might be enlarged in scope with advantage.

Self-Improvement. R.T.S. Library, No. 31. Price 6d.

A well-printed abridgment of the famous Todd's "Student's Manual," full of wise counsels to young men. Todd, despite the criticism of Dr. Robertson Nicoll, continues to exercise a great influence. Many who have been kept back by the minutiae of the original edition will welcome this abridgment.

Life's Battle Lost and Won. R.T.S. Pp. 190. Price 6d.

This little book, the same in size and price as "Charles Ogilvie," will also make a nice reward book for elder boys.



THE MONTH.

A LETTER from Rome in the *Monde*, which is well informed on Vatican matters, states that the Pope has decided not to issue the decree of the Holy Office as to the validity of Anglican orders. "In spite of the opinion of several Cardinals and religious orders, Leo XIII. thinks that to solve just now so serious and complex a subject might involve a risk of retarding the great current of union which is drawing the Anglican *élite* towards Rome."—*Times*.

Dr. Percival, the new Bishop of Hereford, has long been marked out for such an appointment. He was Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, Junior Mathematical Scholar in 1855, Double First Class Moderations in 1856, Double First Class B.A. in 1858, M.A. 1861, Hon. LL.D. of St. Andrews University in 1870. He was ordained Deacon in 1860; Presbyter 1861; was Headmaster of Clifton College from 1862-1878; examining chaplain to Bishop Temple, of Exeter, from 1869-1882; Prebendary of Exeter 1871 to 1882; Select Preacher at Oxford 1882 and

1888; Chaplain to the Bishop of London from 1884 to 1886; President of Trinity College, Oxford, from 1878 to 1887; Canon of Bristol from 1882-1887; and Headmaster of Rugby since 1887. He is an ardent social Reformer, and firmly opposed to the revival of sacerdotalism.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Bishops of Manchester, Wakefield, and Bath and Wells, and Bishop Selwyn, to whom the Diocesan Synod had delegated the choice of a successor to Bishop Kennion in the See of Adelaide, have unanimously selected the Rev. John Reginald Harmer to fill the vacancy. Mr. Harmer, who was educated at Eton and subsequently became a scholar of King's College, Cambridge, is in his thirty-seventh year. In 1878 he won the Bell Scholarship, and in 1881 he gained the Caius Prize and took his degree as fifth classic. He was also Evans prizeman and Scholefield prizeman, and obtained a first-class in the Theological Tripos. From 1883 to 1889 he was a Fellow of King's, and since 1890 has held a Fellowship of Corpus Christi, of which society he is at present dean and tutor. Mr. Harmer, who was ordained deacon in 1883 and priest in the following year by the late Bishop of Durham, was licensed to the curacy of Monkwearmouth. From 1884 till the time of his death he was domestic chaplain to Bishop Lightfoot, and became his literary executor and the editor of his posthumous works. He is one of the examining chaplains of Bishop Westcott. The Bishop-designate was recently married to Miss Somers-Cocks, a niece of Lord Somers.

The Rev. William Page Roberts, upon whom the Queen has conferred the vacant Canonry of Canterbury, was educated at St. John's College, Cambridge, taking his B.A. degree in 1861, and his M.A. in 1865. He was Curate of St. Thomas's, Stockport, from 1861 to 1864, and Vicar of Eye from 1864 to 1878. In the latter year he became minister of St. Peter's, Vere Street, Marylebone. He is the author of several volumes of sermons: "Law and God" being published in 1874, "Reasonable Service" two years later, and "Liberalism in Religion" in 1888.

The living of Bovey Tracey, Devon, vacant by the death of the Rev. the Hon. C. L. Courtenay, Canon of Windsor, has been offered by the Earl of Rosebery to the Right Rev. George Wyndham Hamilton Knight-Bruce, Bishop of Mashonaland, and has been accepted by him. He has also been appointed Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Exeter.

The accession of the Rev. the Hon. W. B. Ponsonby to the Bessborough earldom brings the number of temporal peers who are in holy orders to four. The three others are the Marquis of Normanby, Canon of St. George's, Windsor; Lord Scarsdale, Rector of Kedleston; and Lord Plunket, Archbishop of Dublin.

At the close of a lecture given by Canon Mathews, Vicar of Appleby St. Lawrence, at Carlisle, on the Welsh Disestablishment question, Mr. A. N. Bowman (the Bishop's Secretary and Registrar) asked why the measure proposed to deal with property given to the Church prior to 1703. Canon Mathews said 1703 was fixed nominally as the date of the establishment of Queen Anne's Bounty; but the real reason was that from that date began the system of State grants to Dissenting ministers. Since that date £2,600,000 had been granted for the purpose of completing churches and endowing poor livings, through the machinery of Queen Anne's Bounty; but the grants made by the State to Dissenting ministers in the same time amounted to no less than £3,000,059.

A great work for Islington has been completed by the indefatigable Rural Dean, Mr. Barlow. Seven poor parishes have been provided with endowed curacies—All Saints', St. Matthew's, St. Matthias', St. Peter's, St. John Baptist's, St. David's and Emmanuel's. In each case a sum of £2,000 has been raised, partly through the Bishop of London's Fund, partly through the London Diocesan Home Mission, partly through local contributions. In each case a sum of £2,000 has been granted out of annual income by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, from the estates of Bishops and Cathedral Chapters in their hands. The scheme of endowed curacies was started by the Bishop of London; nowhere has it been so vigorously adopted as by the sympathetic and prudent Vicar of Islington and his energetic local clergy.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel held its annual meeting on Friday, the 15th inst., at the office of the National Society, the Archbishop of Canterbury presiding. The secretary presented the reports of the auditors and treasurers. From the latter it appeared that the gross income of the society had increased in 1894 by £9,248, which was due to the large amount of legacies received; that under the item of subscriptions, collections, and donations to the general fund, there had been a decrease of £950, of which £590 was due to the falling off of the remittances from foreign parts, the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of Canada having sent less by £540 than in 1893. The general parochial organization throughout the country showed an increase of about £1,200, twenty-one dioceses having increased their contributions by £3,028, and thirteen having fallen to the amount of £1,839. Ireland had remitted in 1894 more by £540 than in 1893.

The statistical records of the work of the Church of England, which appears in the new volume of the "Official Year Book," give evidence of continued vigour and progress. The voluntary offerings of Churchmen (excluding those which did not come under the immediate direction or cognizance of the clergy) for the specified period—viz., the year 1893—amounted to £5,650,490. Of this sum £1,182,435 has been spent on church building and restoration, £36,197 on burial-grounds, £176,346 on the endowment of benefices, and £87,920 on parsonage-houses. In regard to the Church in Wales, it may be observed that the total net income of the clergy arising from tithe rent-charge, glebes, pew-rents, fees, Easter offerings, interest on funded property and from the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and other sources, was £186,046, whereas the voluntary contributions for Church work amounted to £240,643. Another table of some interest is that relating to the Metropolitan Hospital Sunday Fund. Last year the total sum collected was £35,802, of which the Church of England contributed 728,368. The total sum raised by the fund for the twenty-two years (1873-1894) was £695,504, of which £534,995 was contributed by the Church of England. The confirmation statistics yield the following figures for 1894: There were confirmations at 2,728 centres, and the number confirmed was 214,122—viz., 86,881 males and 127,241 females. For the ten years (1874-1883) the number of confirmees was 1,652,052, and for the ten years (1884-1893) 2,127,864.

Canon Burnside, Rector of Hertingfordbury and hon. editor of the "Official Year-Book of the Church of England," sends us the following summary of voluntary contributions for Church work in 1894. It has been practicable to take account only of sums raised by offertories in Church and such parochial organizations as would come distinctly under the immediate direction or cognizance of the clergy. It was obviously

impossible to embrace individual offerings privately conveyed to central societies and institutions. For these reasons the total sum of £5,650,490 cannot be taken to represent a comprehensive statement of voluntary offerings of Churchmen for the specified period :

Diocese.	Total Amount.	Diocese.	Total Amount.
Canterbury	£245,124	Llandaff	£102,545
York	238,011	Manchester	314,166
London	620,259	Newcastle	77,286
Durham	92,908	Norwich	129,334
Winchester	270,519	Oxford	228,111
Bangor	33,705	Peterborough	180,436
Bath and Wells	114,673	Ripon	164,127
Carlisle	92,090	Rochester	409,048
Chester	170,199	St. Albans	218,432
Chichester	201,677	St. Asaph	52,634
Ely	109,208	St. David's	51,758
Exeter	159,277	Salisbury	123,531
Gloucester and Bristol	181,065	Sodor and Man	8,199
Hereford	66,651	Southwell... ..	160,288
Lichfield	199,998	Truro	59,349
Lincoln	84,220	Wakefield	112,856
Liverpool... ..	168,564	Worcester	210,241
			£5,650,490

The Duke of Devonshire has promised £1,000 as a start towards the cost of the proposed enlargement of St. John's Church, Buxton, and £200 for a Higher Buxton Mission Church.

The vicar and churchwardens of Shireoaks, Notts, have been informed that Miss Mary Plant has left by her will £1,000, less legacy duty, to the parish church.

The Church of England Temperance Society has received £100 from Lady Howard de Walden towards the fund which is being raised to relieve the society from past deficiencies.

Colonel Clapham, of Manchester, who received a legacy amounting to £1,000 under the will of the late Miss Harrison, of Wakefield, has agreed to place it at the disposal of Archdeacon Donne (Vicar of Wakefield) and the churchwardens for the erection of a new rededicated in Wakefield Cathedral.

The late Miss Walker, of Barton-upon-Irwell, Manchester, has bequeathed £2,000 upon trust, the interest of which is to be paid to the incumbent of St. Chad's, Over, Cheshire. Miss Walker stipulated that the tombs of the Davenports, of which family she was a member, shall be, in return, kept in good order, failing which the income is to be handed to the Manchester Royal Infirmary.

The Church House has received an anonymous donation (from 'A. B.') of £1,000.

A meeting of the committee of the Blakeney Memorial Fund was held at Sheffield on Friday, when it was reported that promises had been received amounting to £4,095. It was decided to place a bust in the parish church, with a pedestal and suitable inscription. A sum of £1,000 is to be presented to Mrs. Blakeney, and the rest of the fund will be invested in the purchase of an annuity for her.