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THE MONTH.

THE Queen has approved of the appointment of the Rev. Canon Awdry, Vicar of Ampport, Hampshire, to be Suffragan Bishop of Southampton, for the diocese of Winchester. Canon Awdry was formerly Fellow of Queen's College, Oxford, second master at Winchester College, and Principal of Chichester Theological College. It will be remembered that the Suffragan Bishop of Guildford (Dr. Sumner), who was appointed by the late Bishop Harold Browne, tendered his resignation to the Bishop of Winchester some months ago on the ground of ill-health. Bishop Thorold's new Suffragan is a High Churchman.

At the annual meeting of the National Society, the Archbishop of Canterbury rapidly outlined the eighty-fourth annual report, which showed that from 1811 to 1870 a sum of £15,149,938 had been paid for the building and maintenance of schools and training colleges; while, since 1870, not less than £22,978,674 have been expended on the same objects, making a total of £38,128,612. The general statistics showed that out of 5,832,944 places in elementary schools, 2,702,978 were provided by Church schools; and of 4,225,834 children in average attendance throughout England, 1,847,660 were attending Church schools. Both these sets of figures exhibit an increase in favour of Church schools. Voluntary contributions towards their support had also increased from £795,127 in 1892 to £806,747 in 1894.

The report of the Additional Curates' Society for the year 1894 deals with what is spoken of as "a very distressing chapter in the society's history." The notices given in March of last year that 170 grants would have to be withdrawn and most of the others seriously reduced took effect at Michaelmas. The results have been of different kinds. In some parishes the curacy has been given up, or a deacon engaged instead of a priest, while in others the incumbents have, with exemplary self-denial, paid the additional sum out of their own small stipends. On the other hand, in some cases the assistant clergy have been found willing to continue their efforts for smaller remuneration. In the early part of 1894 there was some hope that a partial restoration of grants might be effected in the spring of 1895. This depended upon the amount which might be received in special contributions during 1894. The committee thankfully acknowledge the receipt during the year of donations amounting to over £8,000; but, even including these in the accounts, the year closed with a deficit of £4,200, which, added to the deficit of £10,500 in the previous year, makes the total expenditure for the two years 1893 and 1894 £15,000 in excess of the receipts during the same period. The expenditure for 1894 amounted to £80,457, while the income was only £76,191.

The statistical returns of membership to be presented to the forthcoming conference of the United Methodist Free Churches will show the largest increase which has been reported for some years—viz., 1,218 in Church membership, 134 on trial, and 1,168 in junior Church members. Of this increase, two-thirds is in the home churches, and one-third in the foreign stations. The total membership at home and abroad is 80,131. Of the home districts, only three—Leeds and Bradford, Sheffield, and Manchester—report a decrease, and in the foreign districts only Jamaica.

The returns of the Established (Presbyterian) Church of Scotland give 620,376 as the number of communicants, an increase for the past year of 7,965. The contributions show an advance of £3,939, the total amount raised being £363,250.