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

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

Undogmatic Religious Teaching ; the Education of Parents ; Sacredness of Property ; the Housing of the Poor ; Young People in Shops and Warehouses ; Labourers on Public Works ; the New Criticism ; Parochial Missions ; Restoring the Churches to the People ; Legislation ; the Classes and the Masses ; Democracy ; Justice and Charity ; Spiritual and Social Ideals ; Labour, Leisure, and Religion ; Monopolies. Art's Aid to Religion, by Mr. Arundell Whatton, is a difficult subject, thoughtfully and cautiously treated, and should be well considered by the artistic profession.

Pictures from Bohemia. By JAMES BAKER. Pp. 192. R.T.S.

The R.T.S. have added to their charming series of the different countries of Europe an interesting volume on Bohemia, admirably illustrated. The romantic country of John Huss is little known to Englishmen, and this will be a very pleasant and instructive introduction.

John Drummond Fraser. By PHILALETHES. Cheap Edition. Pp. 343. Price 1s. 6d. Cassell and Co.

This capital story of the relation between the mediæval movement in the Church of England and the secret and basilisk force in the Church of Rome has been published in a cheap edition, and should have a wide circulation.



THE MONTH.

IT is announced that the Bishop-designate of Colchester (Archdeacon Johnson) has accepted the Archdeaconry of Colchester, and that Canon Stevens, Vicar of St. John's, Stratford, has accepted the Archdeaconry of Essex. Canon Stevens (says the "Essex County Chronicle") is a man who has done yeoman service for the Church in London-over-the-Border. His own parish contains an enormous population. "The 'Essex Almanac' returns the value of the living at £250, but as a matter of fact the whole endowment of the parish is only £50 a year and a house. All else is precarious. Since Canon Stevens has been Vicar he has needed and has had at least three curates to assist him, and one in addition at Trinity [College, Oxford] Mission. The last number of the parish magazine contains the names of no fewer than six curates, while there are three paid women workers constantly engaged in visiting. The amount required annually to give a minimum living wage to the clergy working in the parish is more than ten times that of the endowment; while to take one branch of the work alone, the Stratford Refuge, founded by Mrs. Raymond Pelly, over £500 a year has to be raised. Practically, therefore, nearly all the work of this populous parish depends on voluntary effort."

The Crown living of Rector of Andreas and Archdeacon of Man, vacant by the resignation of Dr. Joshua Hughes-Games, who has been appointed Vicar of Holy Trinity, Hull, has been conferred upon the Rev. Hugh Stowell Gill, Vicar of Malew. Mr. Gill is a born Manxman, and the oldest beneficed clergyman in the island. For many years he has taken deep interest in poor-relief, and was a stern supporter of the old Manx voluntary system of relief. He graduated at Trinity College, Dublin, in 1853, and was ordained the same year to the chaplaincy of St. Luke's, Baldwin. He was Vicar of Rushen from 1859 to 1872, when he became Vicar of Malew. He served as diocesan inspector 1879-81, and is chaplain to the present Bishop, serving in a similar capacity to Bishop Bardsley. He is Rural Dean of Castletown, and one of the secretaries of the diocesan conference.

The "Times" states that the Rev. G. O. Vance, D.D., incumbent of Holy Trinity, Kew, Victoria, and Canon of St. Paul's, Melbourne, has been elected Dean of Melbourne in succession to the late Very Rev. H. B. Macartney. Dr. Vance was a scholar of Lincoln, Oxford, and took his degree with a Second in the Final Classical Schools in 1850. The degree of D.D. was conferred upon him in 1886. He was ordained by the Bishop of Adelaide in 1853, and the whole of his ministerial life has been passed in Australia.

Dr. Vaughan preached in Llandaff Cathedral, for the first time since his illness, on Christmas Day.

The "National Church" for January gives its usual analysis of the amount contributed on Hospital Sunday, according to the official report just received. The Church contributions are both absolutely and relatively higher than last year :

	£	s.	d.
Church of England... ..	28,528	3	7
Congregationalists	1,500	6	5
Jews	1,135	3	10
Presbyterians	1,064	9	2
Wesleyans	978	14	11
Baptists	835	14	10
Roman Catholics	484	0	6
Unitarians	277	12	2
Society of Friends	126	6	1
Greek Church	99	4	8
German Lutherans	91	15	3
Church of Scotland	84	10	0
Foreign Protestants	80	7	1
Catholic Apostolic	65	0	9
Reformed Episcopal Church	57	6	3
Methodist (Welsh Calvinistic)	39	19	3
Swedenborgians	25	1	10
Methodists (United Free Church)	20	18	3
Methodists (Primitive)	20	8	11
Free Church of England	10	15	7
Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion	4	15	3
Moravians	2	3	7
Methodists (New Connexion)	1	0	0
Various	397	15	9
	£35,931	13	11

St. Michael's, Chester Square, again heads the list with a collection of £1,202 15s.; Christ Church, Lancaster Gate, stands second with £1,059 12s. 8d.; St. Jude's, South Kensington, third with £770 10s. 9d.

The "Liverpool Post" is enabled to give the following statistics in reference to the work carried on in the diocese of Liverpool during the year just closed: There have been 85 Confirmation services conducted at different centres, the totals being: males 3,322, and females 5,323; together, 8,645—fully 600 above the numbers confirmed in 1893. It is further interesting to note the gradual and steady increase in these figures, which commenced in the first year of Bishop Ryle's episcopacy with a total of 4,719. At the Trinity and Advent Ordinations there were presented separately—deacons, 33, and priests, 31, making a total of 64 candidates ordained. The new church at Huyton was consecrated last year, bringing up the number of churches consecrated since the formation of the diocese to 37; and, in addition to this increasing accommodation, the progress of mission-hall and parish-room extension has continued steadily. The population of the diocese now reaches 1,200,000,

which is divided into 10 rural deaneries, with 204 incumbents and 203 curates, aided by a prominent staff of Scripture-readers, teachers, and other lay-workers.

The Year-book for 1895 of the Episcopal Church in Scotland gives the following statistics compiled from the synod clerks' returns made up to June 30 last: Working clergy, 303; incumbencies and missions, 314; parsonages, 128; Church population, 105,027; communicants, 39,831; baptized during the year, 7,827; confirmed during the year, 3,530; marriages during the year, 801; day schools, 80; day scholars, 15,037; Sunday scholars, 17,450. The contributions to the principal funds administered by the Representative Church Council during the year amounted to £22,052.

The statistics of the Welsh Nonconformists for last year show that in Wales (including Monmouthshire) the Congregationalists have 1,118 places of worship, with accommodation for 388,148 persons. This gives an increase of ten places of worship for the year. There are 748 Welsh ministers, of whom, however, ninety are described as "without pastoral charge." There are eighty-eight students in the Welsh Colleges. The Baptists in the Principality have 859 places of worship, with accommodation for 321,334 persons, and 100,534 communicants. This is an increase of 9,730 sittings and of 2,412 communicants. In the Sunday-schools there are 9,883 teachers (an increase of 376) and 106,820 scholars (an increase of 4,559). There are 476 pastors with charges and sixty-seven students in the theological colleges. The sum of £12,321 has been given for the reduction of chapel debts, and £9,447 for the enlargement of old or the erection of new buildings. The Calvinistic Methodists include in their returns all their churches (whether Welsh or English) that are in England. The total number of churches in the entire denomination is 1,294 (an increase of twelve), with a united membership of 141,964 (an increase for the year of 2,316). In the Sunday-schools, inclusive of teachers, there are 192,911, an increase of 745, while the number of "adherents," who are not communicants, has, it is said, increased by 9,342. The number of ordained ministers is 705, and the amount of chapel debts is £284,671, though last year the sum of £53,829 was raised for debt liquidations.—*Times*.

At the adjourned quarterly meeting of the Council of the Bishop of St. Albans Fund for East London-over-the-Border, Canon Procter, hon. sec., announced that there was a deficiency on the special church and mission-room building fund of £850 and an available balance on the general fund of £1,967. In consideration of the anxiety which the clergy would feel if there was an uncertainty about the continuance of their grants, it was resolved to renew for six months the grants for the stipends of the 120 living agents and for the rents of the eighteen mission-rooms at a cost of £4,518. This left a deficiency on the general fund of £2,551, which it was hoped would be reduced by fresh contributions coming in before the accounts of 1894 were finally closed for audit.

The Bishop of London's Fund has received a New Year's gift of £1,200.

Miss Mary Smith, of Watford-Field, Watford, Herts, who died on the 20th of October last, leaving personalty to the amount of over £18,000, has bequeathed £2,500 to the vicar and churchwardens of Watford Town Hamlet, Herts, to be invested, and the income applied in the payment of 5s. per week each to the inmates of the almshouses at Watford erected

by her, and in keeping the almshouses in repair; £100 to the Cottage Hospital, Maidenhead; £100 to the vicar and churchwardens of Bushey, Herts, the income to be applied by them in the purchase of clothes, to be distributed among poor people not resident in any almshouse; £50 each to the Church of England Watford Sunday-schools, the coffee-tavern, High-street, Watford, and the public library, Queen-street, Watford.

The honorary secretaries of the Bristol Bishopric Society have just received £500 from a donor, who wishes to be described as "Franciscus," towards the re-endowment of the See of Bristol. A similar amount was anonymously subscribed a few weeks ago by a lady who had intended to leave it as a legacy for the purpose. The sum raised since the Bishop of Truro's sermon in October, on the occasion of the anniversary of the society, is £2,754. There remains to be subscribed or guaranteed such an amount as will, at the expiration of five years, produce an annual income of £220, before an Order in Council can be made re-establishing the Bishopric.

The Church Pastoral Aid Society has received a legacy of £2,000 under the will of the late Miss Mary Blissett.

An anonymous contributor "in the Master's name" has sent to the Additional Curates' Society £150, "to be repeated, D.V., for the next four years," in order to provide one curate.

A lady at Basingstoke, who does not wish her name to be disclosed, has given £1,500 towards the erection of new Church Sunday-schools in that town.

The East London Church Fund has during the past week received £100 from the Marquis of Salisbury and £400 from Mr. Charles Morrison.

The Salters' Company have made a grant of fifty guineas to the building fund of the Church House.

In response to the appeal made to the Corporation and the City Companies to assist in bringing the work of restoration of St. Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield, to a conclusion by completing the lady chapel and crypt, the following bodies have already subscribed: The Corporation, 50 guineas (second donation); the Skinners' Company, 100 guineas (second donation); the Grocers' Company, £50 (fourth donation); the Clothworkers' Company, £50 (fourth donation); the Mercers' Company, £25 (fifth donation); the Goldsmiths' Company, £25 (fifth donation); the Salters' Company, 20 guineas. Other companies have promised to consider the matter in the new year. If liberal support is given the £1,300 still required should enable the lady chapel as well as the crypt to be completed for opening next summer.

Dr. Bruce, the Persian missionary, has resigned. Dr. Bruce joined the C.M.S. missionary staff in 1858, when he was appointed to the Punjab, but his name is more intimately associated with missionary work in Persia. It was in 1869 that he visited the country on his way back to India. Finding the Moslems of Ispahan and its neighbourhood not unwilling to discuss religious subjects, he took up his abode there and gathered round him some few of these and a considerable number of Armenian Christians who were dissatisfied with their form of worship. Schools were opened in 1875, when the society formally adopted his work as one of its missions.