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THE CHURCHMAN

A Monthly Magazine

*CONDUCTED BY CLERGYMEN AND LAYMEN
OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND*

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THE MONTH.

THE visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Ireland has, hitherto (the 20th), been a remarkable success. The reception of their Royal Highnesses has been to a large extent enthusiastic, as in Dublin and in Limerick, and of disagreeable incidents (mainly in the South) there were few.

The Redistribution Bill is slowly making its way through the House of Commons; and in the country preparations are being made for the General Election, on which, as regards the Church of England, and the future of the empire, probably, much will depend.

The congregation of Christ Church, Hampstead, in presenting Dr. Bickersteth with an address, which a large number of Church-folk will read with pleasure, requested their beloved Pastor to accept a cheque for £1,000.

At a remarkable Church Missionary Society meeting, in Exeter Hall, presided over by Earl Cairns, speeches were made by Canon Hoare, Mr. Moule, Principal of Ridley Hall, and others. An overflow meeting, by the kindness of Dr. Wace, was held at King's College.

The Convocations of Canterbury and York agreed last year, as we gladly recorded, that the Day of Intercession for Missions should be held on any day in the week next before Advent, or in the first week of Advent, with preference for the eve of St. Andrew's Day. "To this," says the *Guardian*, "the assent of the Church of America, as well as of the Churches of Australia, South Africa, and other branches of the Anglican Communion, has been obtained."

A letter signed by the Earl of Shaftesbury, the Bishop of Liverpool, Sir E. Baines, Mr. S. Morley, M.P., Mr. Alderman Fowler, M.P., Mr. Robert Baxter, and others, is being widely circulated by the Working Men's Lord's Day Rest Association. In it we read:

"There are various societies in London aiming to open (on the Lord's Day) museums, galleries, public libraries, exhibitions, etc. They seek also to promote Sunday concerts and other secular recreations, and to influence Parliament and town councils to vote in favour of Sunday opening. Should these efforts ever succeed to any considerable extent, the religious life of our country will have received a shock from which it may never recover. Our Sunday-schools and Christian churches will rapidly feel the influence in diminished attendance, and secular recreations on Sundays will to a large extent be substituted for religious duties. The example of Sunday opening and Sunday labour set by ruling and public bodies must necessarily stimulate Sunday opening and Sunday labour in the world of trade and commerce, especially in times of competition and distress."

On Lord Thurlow's motion—we may record the fact—the contents and non-contents were both found to be 64, and according to usage the Lord Chancellor declared it to be rejected. Lord Cairns's speech was masterly.

The General Synod of "The Protestant Episcopal Church of Ireland," we are pleased to note, desired officially to call the attention of the Home Secretary, Sir William Harcourt, to the fact that the Parliamentary (as well as historical) title of the Church is "The Church of Ireland."

The news of the death of Earl Cairns came as a sad surprise. It was known, indeed, that he was suffering from a return of congestion of the lungs, but to hear of his decease was to many friends a shock. Throughout the country the *In Memoriam* expressions of feeling have been all that the admirers of the great man could desire. In an early number of THE CHURCHMAN will appear, we trust, a not unworthy sketch of his devoted, honoured, and most useful life.

The Bishop of Liverpool refused to institute Mr. Elcum as Vicar of St. Agnes Church, Liverpool, except upon condition that illegal ceremonies should not be used. A written undertaking was required, and it was given by Mr. Elcum in the presence of the patron, Mr. Horsfall. For his firmness in this matter the Bishop merits the thanks of all loyal Churchmen.

On the 30th of March, General Komaroff, at the head of a Russian army, attacked and defeated the Afghans who were occupying Pendjeh.¹

The meeting of the Viceroy and the Ameer of Afghanistan at Rawul Pindi is said to have been a success. It is encouraging to remember just now that such a statesman as Lord Dufferin represents England in India.

The progress of the railway at Suakim is steady. Our forces, British, Indian, and Australian, have cheerfully endured the hardships of desert warfare.

The preliminaries of peace between France and China were signed, it turns out, before the Chamber was asked for supplies to carry on the war. The dismissal of M. Ferry was a blunder. M. Brisson succeeds as Prime Minister.

The death of the Lord Mayor (Alderman Nottage) has called forth due tributes of regret.

Prince Bismarck's seventieth birthday has been kept with immense enthusiasm at Berlin.

¹ The telegram from our Special Correspondent in Sir Peter Lumsden's Camp (says the *Standard* of April 21st) dispels all doubt as to the character of the recent conflict at Penjdeh. The Russian onslaught, it is now clear, was, as Mr. Gladstone first described it, an act of deliberate, unprovoked aggression. There is not the slightest proof that the Afghans were to blame in the matter.