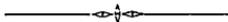


of great morality, and when they fell into idolatry they were acting contrary to the principles of their religion.

MAGAZINES.

We have received the following (September) magazines :

The Thinker, Newbery House Magazine, The Anglican Church Magazine, The Church Missionary Intelligencer, The Foreign Church Chronicle, The Evangelical Churchman, The Church Sunday School Magazine, Blackwood's, The Cornhill, Cassell's Family Magazine, The Fireside, The Quiver, The Leisure Hour, Sunday at Home, The Girl's Own Paper, The Boy's Own Paper, Light and Truth, The Church Worker, The Church Monthly, The Church Missionary Gleaner, Light in the Home, Awake, India's Women, Parish Magazine, New and Old, The Dawn of Day, The Bible Society's Gleanings for the Young, The Bible Society's Monthly Reporter, The Cottager and Artizan, Friendly Greetings, Little Folks, The Child's Pictorial, The Child's Companion, The Children's World, Our Little Dots and The Boys' and Girls' Companion. Number 7 of the R.T.S. "Excellent Women" Series is devoted to Mrs. Hemans; and Messrs. Nisbet and Co.'s latest addition to "Brief Sketches of C.M.S. Workers" gives an interesting account of the life and work of the late Bishop Horden.



THE MONTH.

WITH Saturday last, August 26 (says the *Times*), the fifty-two weeks of the harvest year were completed, so far as the statistics of home-grown produce are concerned :

In all 2,676,020 quarters have been returned as sold in the 196 statute markets, against 3,267,036 quarters in 1891-92, and 3,493,782 quarters in 1890-91, in each case for the fifty-two weeks after September 1. The average price now returned is 25s. 11d. per quarter, against 29s. 4d. in the corresponding week last year, 40s. 11d. in 1891, and 35s. 9d. in 1890. The quantities returned as sold are the smallest on record, and the same may be said of the average values. So far as can be seen, the coming harvest year will show an even worse result, although there are some who are hopeful in the matter. It may be pointed out that last year a very considerable percentage of the wheat crop, owing to the wheat being sprouted and badly harvested, was unfit for marketing, and had to be fed on the farm; and, again, particularly in the northern and eastern counties, the wet harvest spoilt a very considerable proportion of the malting barley crop. This year everything is being got in in good condition and well harvested, so that every pound will be available. We also hear on all sides that the new English wheat is giving great satisfaction to millers, and for the first time for several years is commanding, in a number of markets, a price equal, or very nearly equal, to the finest American wheat.

The first week in September was on the whole favourable for the completion of the corn harvest, and the reports now to hand (says the *Times*) speak very generally of this as finished. With scarcely an exception, however, the results are described as the worst known, and below what was expected. Over a large extent of country a good second hay crop has been, or is being, secured; but even with this the small number of stacks (of all kinds) is very noticeable in almost every district. . . . The corn markets last week were more promising, and with an increase of nearly 10,000 quarters sold in the 196 statute markets, home-grown wheat showed an increase of 6d. per quarter, though prices were still wretchedly low. Wheat stood at 26s. 5d., barley at 26s. 9d., and oats at 18s. 7d. per quarter, the latter being an increase of 1d. on the week.

In the second week the weather was, on the whole, favourable to the farm; the finish of the corn harvest had been but little interfered with,

while the few storms and cooler temperature had been of some benefit to the root crops. There was but little change to report in the corn markets. With nearly 3,000 more quarters of wheat sold in the 196 statute markets, an increase of 2d. per quarter was returned; the sales of barley were three times as heavy as in the previous week, and prices 5d. per quarter higher; while oats, of which one-third more were sold, showed a decline of no less than 1s. 3d. per quarter. The prices at the end of the week were: Wheat, 25s. 7d.; barley, 27s. 2d.; oats, 17s. 4d. All these prices are much lower than a year ago.

In charging the grand jury at Salford Sessions on August 14, Mr. J. Addison, Q.C., M.P., said there was throughout England an extraordinary diminution of crime, which had gone on steadily for such a period of time that they might attribute it to causes which he believed to be growing and permanent:

One stipendiary had told him that the list of drunk and disorderly cases had become less numerous. The two principal causes which might now be producing those effects arose out of the great moral and religious agencies always at work, but they might also attribute it in some degree to more recent agencies, two of which had more than attained their majority of twenty-one years. The first was the Elementary Education Act. Another cause was the Licensing Acts of 1872 and 1874. The primary intention of the last-mentioned Acts was to promote the order and good government of public-houses. They had also been closed at night. The immediate effect had been remarkable, and during the last twelve years those effects had deepened.

In the newly-published Blue-book on Reformatory and Industrial Schools it is stated that the total number of schools under inspection last year was 226; including 52 "reformatory," 140 "industrial," 12 "truant," and 22 "day industrial" schools. At the close of the year 24,266 boys and 5,085 girls were under sentence of detention in these schools. Colonel Inglis, the inspector of these institutions, regrets that so little is popularly known of their management and success:

A visitor (he writes) would see the raw material as it arrives; he would be shown the boys about to be discharged to situations; he would notice the complete transformation which a few years' steady work and good influences have produced, and he would be shown the "record of discharged boys," showing their history for three years after their discharge. He would see numbers of letters from discharged boys, expressing gratitude to the school authorities, and showing in every line that they look back to the school as their home and their salvation.

The Committee of Council on Education have just issued their full report. It is a volume of more than 800 pages, and is known as Parliamentary Paper C 7089 I. It includes, besides the report signed by the Lord and Vice Presidents, which was issued some few weeks back, the reports of five chief inspectors of schools—viz., Mr. Blakiston, Mr. Brodie, Mr. Perez, Mr. Synge, and Mr. Williams, the last-named gentleman dealing with the Welsh schools. The volume also contains every important document, minute or instruction, issued by the Department during the year. The *Standard* gives a few of the salient points which have not previously appeared. For the year ended December 31, 1892, there was paid in annual grants to day schools £3,687,187 15s. 9d. Besides this sum £1,842,930 12s. 6d. was paid for fee grants for scholars. Annual grants to training colleges amounted to £138,332 18s. 5d., and the cost of administration was all but £233,000. The total expenditure of the public elementary schools reached the sum of £8,057,988 13s. 6d., or an average of £2 2s. per scholar. It is satisfactory to find that a considerable return is being received by the country for this prodigious outlay. The number of children present on the day of the inspectors' visits to their schools was 4,609,240, and 3,870,774 were in average attendance. Eighty-four infant classes were warned as inefficient, and five were refused a grant. Of

schools for older pupils, 230 were warned as inefficient, and 21 were refused a grant. This is a very small percentage of inefficient schools out of the 30,000 now on the annual grant list. The teaching of the elementary subjects appears to be sound and good, and, out of 19,569 schools, 93 per cent. received the grant for success in a "class-subject." In the "specific subjects" of instruction confined to the senior scholars (those in Standards V., VI., and VII.), 90,000 scholars were presented in 1,816 departments, and 71 per cent. satisfied her Majesty's inspectors. The reports of her Majesty's inspectors of schools are highly encouraging. In the training colleges, of which forty-four are for resident students and fourteen for day students, Mr. Oakley and Mr. Fitch give excellent accounts. Mr. Fitch's report is of great interest. He says: "Many of the moral attributes which go to make up the character of a successful teacher necessarily escape analysis, and cannot be accurately estimated by hearing a single lesson, but much can be measured—the fluency and accuracy of speech, the attractiveness of manner, the skill with which the class is handled, the orderly arrangement of facts, the effectiveness of the questioning of recapitulation, the command of illustration, and the final outcome of the lesson, considered as an effort to enlarge the range of the scholars' reflection or knowledge." There can be no doubt, continues the *Standard*, that the keystone of our system of elementary education is the normal school. It is there that the teacher is fitted for his work, and that the high ideals of his calling are placed before him, and it is satisfactory to believe that these admirable institutions were never doing better work than they are at this moment.

The Report of the National Society states that during the year there has been an advance all along the line, and that the position of the schools, as regards accommodation, number on the registers, average attendance, and voluntary contributions, is at the present time better than it has ever been before. The statistics furnished by the Report show that, in spite of the surrender of a few Church schools to Board schools, the accommodation in Church schools has risen during the past year from 2,670,529 to 2,684,991, being an increase of 14,462. The average attendance has risen from 1,677,123 to 1,716,877, an increase of 39,754 for the year; while the number on the registers exceeds that for the previous year by 68,561. The amount of annual subscriptions towards the maintenance of Church schools shows an increase of £10,999, the voluntary subscriptions for the year having been £613,572, against £602,573 for the previous year. Last year's voluntary expenditure upon Church schools and Training Colleges raises the amount spent by Churchmen on their schools since the National Society was founded, in 1811, to more than £36,000,000. The committee state that the activity of Church school managers in repairing and improving their school premises so as to meet the latest requirements of the Education Department has been strongly evidenced during the past year.

The Bishop of London has sent a second donation of £100 to the Schools Relief Fund of the London Diocesan Board of Education. Among other recent contributions to the same fund are the following: Mercers' Company, 50 guineas; Sir Reginald Hanson, M.P., £25; Dean of St. Paul's (second donation), £50; "E. E. M.," £100; "N. L. B.," £20; Countess Beauchamp, £100; Sir W. Farquhar, £50; Lord Cadogan, £10 (annual); Merchant Taylors' Company, 20 guineas; Mr. S. J. Wilde, 10 guineas; Church Extension Association, £10; Lady Lee, £12; the Rev. E. J. Walker, £10; Mr. H. Wagner, 10 guineas; the Rev. T. A. Sedgwick, £25.

Bishop Tucker returned to Mengo on May 19, and on the 21st forty-three men and women were baptized, thirty-five at Mengo and eight at Chagwe. On Trinity Sunday the Bishop held an ordination.

The congregation was large and most attentive. The King was present in his usual place. The following is a list of the candidates:

Deacons.—Henry Wright Duta, Yairo Mutakyala, Yohana Muyira, Yonathani Kaidzi, Nikodemo Sebuwato (permanent deacon), Zakaria Kizito (permanent deacon).

Priests.—J. Roscoe, C.M.S. College; E. Millar, B.A., Trinity, Cambridge; W. A. Crabtree, B.A., St. Catharine's, Cambridge; E. H. Hubbard, C.M.S. College.

It was with the most solemn thoughts, and with the deepest feelings of gratitude to God, that I took part in this service. The foundations of a native ministry have been laid, and an immense increase of strength has thereby been given to the native Church.

Much regret is felt (says a correspondent of the *Yorkshire Post*) as to the reports which reach London about the health of the Bishop of Bedford, and these regrets will be shared by the many Yorkshire clergy who know Bishop Billing, and some of whom may still remember him as the Yorkshire Association Secretary of the Church Missionary Society. "Dr. Billing is better, though still weak; but it is a mistake to suppose, as some have, that the Bishop's illness originated with his recent attack of influenza. In reality, he has never been the same man since, when Rector of Spitalfields, he had a long and serious illness in 1883. Naturally robust, the Bishop played with a magnificent constitution, working night and day with extraordinary devotion in perhaps the most arduous parish in England. Even his high spirits and physical strength could not stand the strain."

We have much pleasure (says the *Methodist Times*) in announcing that Dr. Lunn has been received by Bishop Vincent and the Italian Conference into the ministry of the Methodist Episcopal Church, with a view to his immediate transfer to the Swiss conference of that world-wide community. When Dr. Lunn resigned his position in our ministry he took that step with the greatest reluctance and pain, but at that particular juncture it seemed to him inevitable, in order that he might have perfect liberty of action in obeying a providential call to promote the reunion of Christian Churches.

The eighty-ninth report of the British and Foreign Bible Society states that, while the society has not yet recovered the position which it held in 1888, the outlay of the year has been more than met, and the large deficit substantially reduced. The free contributions for the year, apart from the special fund, amounted to £137,545, being £23,032 more than in the preceding year. The sale of Scriptures yielded £99,833, being an increase of £2,961. The free contributions received from the auxiliaries in England and Wales (excluding legacies, subscriptions, donations and collections paid direct to the Bible House) amounted to £57,263 19s., which is the largest sum obtained from this source for upwards of twenty years. The expenditure has been £220,956, which is less than that of 1892 by £13,825. The great increase in the ordinary income was due to a legacy of £20,000, bequeathed by the late Rev. James Spurrell. The steady increase reported in the circulation for the last four years has been continued in 1892. It has reached a total of 4,049,756 copies, being 60,541 more than in 1891. There was an advance of 6,531 in the sale of Bibles. Testaments have diminished to the extent of 46,222. The total issues by the society since its formation now amount to 135,894,552.

At the Bible Christian Conference, which has just closed its annual sessions at St. Austell, statistics were presented showing an increase

of membership during the year of 1,101—the actual number of members 32,335. In the Sunday-schools there were 9,088 teachers (an increase of 138), and 55,264 scholars (an increase of 1,581). There were 858 places of worship in the denominational trust.

The thirty-ninth annual report of the Postmaster-General, issued last week, states that the estimated number of letters and parcels delivered in the United Kingdom during the year, ended March 31, was 2,785,270,000, being an increase of 2·5 per cent. on the previous twelvemonth. Of the letters about 85 per cent. were delivered in England and Wales (28·95 per cent. in the London postal district), while for Scotland and Ireland the numbers were 9·07 and 5·93 per cent. respectively. The number of post-offices had been increased by 524 to a total of 19,625; of public letter-boxes by 1,771 to a total of 25,072. The number of officers on the permanent establishment of the department last March was 71,956, including 10,465 women. The postal revenue for 1892-3 amounted in round numbers to £10,344,000—an increase of £161,000 on the preceding year; the expenditure came up to £7,518,000—an increase of £384,000, or more than double the increase in revenue.

At a meeting of the Deer Forest Commission held recently at Wick (Sheriff Brand in the chair), Mr. Turner, factor for the Duke of Portland, stated that on his Grace's Caithness estates, since 1880, upwards of £41,000 had been spent on new buildings, roads, and drainage. For the three years, ending August 31, 1892, the expenditure in connection with Langwell and Braemore establishments has been £12,393, and every penny of this sum which could reasonably be expended in the north of Scotland has been so expended, Caithness receiving £4,867 of that amount. The game department costs a little over £2,000 a year; all the feeding stuffs required for the dogs are purchased in the county; no game, except in an uncommonly good season, is sold, and then it is only sold to prevent waste. The greater part of the deer and rabbits killed are given away to the people of the district. Mr. Turner considers that the people of Caithness, and especially those on the Duke's estate, are much better off with Langwell and Braemore under deer than they would be were they under sheep. On Langwell and Braemore alone about fifty men are regularly employed at an average wage of 3s. a day. It would make a difference to the country of over £10,000 a year if the sporting interests of Langwell and Braemore were seriously interfered with. The ratable value would very much decrease; the crofters would get little or no employment; and if the estates were let no one would dream of spending as much as the Duke of Portland does in the district.

Some 25,000 children have been sent away this season through the Children's Country Holidays Fund, the offices of which are at 10, Buckingham Street, Strand. Many more children need the fortnight's change of air from London, but the funds are at present quite exhausted.

The will of the late Mr. John Horniman, of Coombe Cliff, Croydon, contains the following bequests free of legacy duty:

The Peace Society, £10,000; Friends' Foreign Mission Association, £12,500; Friends' Home Mission Committee, £11,000; Friends' Temperance Union, £2,000; Moravian Mission Society, £10,000; North Eastern Hospital for Children, Hackney Road, £10,000; London Temperance Hospital, £5,000; Howard Association for Prison Reform, £2,000; Kingston Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends for those in indigent circumstances, £3,000; Bedford Institute First Day School and Home Mission Association, £2,000; Friends' Christian Fellowship Union, £2,000; Friends' First Day School Association, £2,000; and to Mr. R. B. Brockbank and others, for the spread of Friends' principles in Scotland, £20,000. The personal estate was sworn at nearly £314,000.