

In the *Christian Monthly and Family Treasury* (Nelson and Sons) appears a vigorous review, by Canon Clayton, of "a volume just published by certain Presbyterian ministers. The title of the book is "Scotch Sermons." The preface says these productions are a specimen of a style of teaching which increasingly prevails amongst the clergy of the Scottish Church. "If this is the case," says Canon Clayton, "I am very sorry indeed for the Scottish Church, as I am quite sure that such teaching, if universal, will soon drive all real religion out of Scotland. One of these Scotch divines," continues Canon Clayton, "boldly writes (p. 235):— 'Many of the conceptions entertained by the theologians of the past, in regard to the nature of human immortality, may seem to theologians of the present untenable. They may find it, in the light of modern science, impossible to believe in the resuscitation of the material framework of the body.' 'Theologians of the present' indeed!"

Mr. Murby's schoolbooks are well known. With *The Imperial Reader* series we are much pleased. Illustrated; printed in good type; capital readings, and questions. We have also received two copies of *The Young Artist*, a monthly instructor in drawing and design (T. Murby, 32, Bouverie Street, E.C.); wonderfully good and cheap.

THE MONTH.

GENERAL ROBERTS vindicated, as was expected, the supremacy of British rule in India. Leaving Cabul on the 9th of August, Sir Frederick reached Candahar, after a march of 350 miles, on the 31st; and after a day's rest he attacked and routed Ayooob Khan's army. Considering the difficulties, it was a magnificent march, daring, but justified by a brilliant success. The British loss was small. A prisoner, Lieutenant Maclaine, was murdered by his Afghan guard.

It has been once more decided that in England there is to be no Religious Census. The *Guardian*, which has recently published some Papers¹ upon the very imperfect inquiries of 1851, of which the Liberationists and other opponents of the Church have made so much use, remarks—

We are not surprised to see how much fierce indignation was recently expended in Parliament by the champions of Nonconformity over the proposal to add to the next Census paper a simple inquiry as to the reli-

¹ In the *Guardian*, Sept. 8, it is stated that of the Wesleyans (original connexion), Baptists, and Independents, the total number of registered chapels is 5,180, while the total number of their ministers fully engaged in pastoral charges is 5,209. "We can scarcely imagine that all other Nonconformist bodies put together could bring the number up to 10,000, while the Church in England and Wales has some 20,000 clergy engaged in active parochial and ministerial work." As to the Wesleyans, some of their leading representatives, with a frankness which does them honour, lately admitted, at the Conference, that the Church is greatly growing in numbers and influence.

gious denomination to which the members of each household professed adhesion—an inquiry which appears to create in other countries no dislike and no difficulty. In fact, it seems to us as if these orators, and especially Mr. Bright, desired to make up by vehemence of denunciation for the singular, and almost ludicrous, weakness of the objections which they had to advance.

Harvest Thanksgiving Services have been characterized, perhaps, with more than usual earnestness. In the Queen's Speech were these words:—

I acknowledge, with thankfulness to the Almighty, the happy continuance, during several weeks, of fine weather for securing a harvest which gives in many places a reasonable promise of abundance. I am thus enabled to anticipate both a further revival of trade and some addition to the revenue of the country for the year.

The Queen's Speech of the 7th, read by the Lord Chancellor, set Parliament free.¹ The Speech referred to the failure of the Porte to execute the plan agreed upon in regard to the Montenegro question, and to carry out provisions of the Berlin treaty. "Some valuable laws" have been added to the Statute-book:—

I refer particularly to your settlement of the long-contested questions relating to the subject of Burials, to the Education Act, and the Act for the better determining the Liability of Employers; and to these I would add the Act relating to Ground Game, the Repeal of the Malt Duty, the Savings Bank Act, and the Post Office Money Orders Act, and the measures for Bettering the Condition of Merchant Seamen and providing for the Safer Carriage of Grain Cargoes.

The action of the Education Department in regard to by-laws will produce, we hope, an excellent effect throughout the country.

Into the existence of corrupt practices in eight cities and boroughs Royal Commissions are to inquire. Mr. Beresford Hope had good grounds for pointing to the effect of the Ballot Act and the "Caucus" system in encouraging corruption.

Of the Right Hon. W. E. Forster many strong Tories, remembering his statesmanlike courage and consistency in regard to religious questions, have spoken with sincere respect. But by Whigs, as well as by Tories, Mr. Forster's remarks on the House of Lords were greatly regretted. Applauded by Radical members, and commended in Radical newspapers, they were afterwards explained by Lord Granville with apologetic grace and frankness.

The Burials Bill,² as returned from the House of Commons,

¹ The *Times* says that the session has not developed many new parliamentary reputations on either side. Lord Hartington has risen still further in public esteem for strength, good sense, and moderation.

² We gladly call attention to a valuable pamphlet, "The New Burials Act: what it does and what it does not do," by the Rev. A. T. Lee, LL.D., Secretary of the Church Defence Institution. Dr. Lee's conclud-

was accepted by the Upper House on the 3rd. It was understood that the Archbishop of York's and Lord Mount-Edgcumbe's amendments would not be carried; but a division took place upon the Archbishop's. The omission from the Bill of all mention of Convocation was accepted, and probably those who share Canon Trevor's opinion as to the Lower House of Canterbury are glad that upon this point the House of Commons had its way. The *John Bull* remarks:—"The Convocation clause we never cared for; its disappearance takes away all semblance of complicity on the part of the Church." The main substance, however, of the recommendations of Convocation has been adopted; a good step, at all events, in the way of Church Reform. The clause containing a provision as to a "*Christian*" service was maintained in the House of Commons by a large majority; and only by those who admit the asserted civil right of interment can the Act be blamed as illogical.

Concerning the Burials Act, in his recent Charge, the Archbishop of Canterbury said:—"I can scarcely doubt that as a body the Clergy will, on reflection, allow that a measure directly supported by at least one-half of the Episcopal Bench as necessary and right under the circumstances in which we find ourselves, and acquiesced in, however unwillingly, by the great majority of the Bishops as inevitable, cannot be so unwise and bad as some excited spirits have represented it. My own hope is that it will serve to strengthen the Church by removing a most painful cause of controversy, uniting with us more closely in death those whom unfortunate circumstances have alienated in their lifetime from the beneficent ministration of the Church of their fathers."

On the 19th, Bishop Ryle held the first ordination in the new See of Liverpool.

ing remarks are excellent:—"However ungrateful to the feelings of many Churchmen the provisions of this Act may be, however great a grievance it may appear to be in the eyes of many, it is earnestly to be hoped that now, notwithstanding many earnest protests, it has become law, Churchmen of all classes, whether clergy or laity, will submit, with patient dignity, to this unwelcome enactment, and not gratify their enemies by an unseemly and unavailing opposition unworthy alike of their duty as Christians and their position as law-abiding Englishmen." The words of the honoured Bishop of Lincoln, in the House of Lords, Sept. 3rd, were wise and weighty. "It was with great regret that he had heard that there was a determination on the part of some clergymen—they were very few in number—to resist the measure. He deeply regretted that such was the case. While a Bill was before the House it was the duty of all who took an interest in it to state their opinions frankly and firmly, but the case was different when the Bill became law, and he would advise the clergy to give to this law a true and loyal obedience."