

MAN. The noble earl also suggests that certain laymen should be licensed to preach. There are many laymen "who would bring to the task learning and zeal, and those gifts of eloquence and personal persuasion by which God may be served as well through the mouths of laymen as of the clergy." We thankfully quote these words of a peer, whose piety, culture, and judgment none will question; and we are glad to notice them, too, in a periodical staunchly, though wisely, "Conservative."

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### THE MONTH.

**T**HE Report on Ecclesiastical Courts has been issued. The opinion of newspaper critics, on the whole, seems to be favourable. The *Record* has given an admirable summary, and its leading articles are ably written and free from party prejudice. The *Guardian* well says that "whatever may be the result of the labours of the Royal Commission, the thoroughness of the inquiry it has instituted deserves the highest praise." The recommendations of the Report will be examined in the November CHURCHMAN.

The obsequies of the Count de Chambord were solemnized at Göritz with becoming pomp.

The interest excited by the Luther commemorations still increases in Germany. At Wittenberg, in the Luther-hall, the Crown Prince, after an appropriate speech, read an order from the Emperor. The Emperor said:

"I most fully appreciate the rich blessing that may accrue to our beloved Protestant Church from its members everywhere being reminded of the great inheritance and noble possessions which God has given us through the Reformation. I should not like to be unrepresented at such a festival, especially at Wittenberg, the immediate scene of Luther's mighty and Divinely blessed work, all the more as this passes the limits of a merely local festival. I accordingly appoint your Imperial and Royal Highness, my dear son, my representative at the festal proceedings."

The Prime Minister has paid a visit to Copenhagen.

An interesting biographical sketch of the Rev. Sydney Gedge appeared in a recent *Record*.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> The Rev. Sydney Gedge, M.A., late of All Saints' Lodge, Dorking; formerly Fellow of St. Catharine's College, Cambridge; Curate of North Runcten, Norfolk; Second Master in King Edward's School, Birmingham; Vicar of All Saints', Northampton, and Rural Dean; an Honorary Life Governor of the Church Missionary Society. On the 29th August, 1883, he "came to his grave at the full age" of eighty-one years and five months, "even as a shock of corn cometh to his season."

In looking over the reports of the various Lay and Clerical Anniversaries this autumn (most of which were reported in the *Record*), we are pleased to notice how this movement is increasing. At two or three of those interesting gatherings, in the Northern Province and in the South, a paper on the Clerical and Lay Movement was read by the Rev. J. W. Marshall. Lack of space prevents us from giving a summary of this paper, and of other papers, in the present *CHURCHMAN*.

The meeting of the South Eastern Clerical and Lay Alliance, of which the Dean of Canterbury is the president, was held this year at Canterbury. With this Alliance, by-the-bye, the Sussex Lay and Clerical, we hear, is about to coalesce. An excellent speech was made at Canterbury by the Rev. E. d'Auquier, the able and devoted Head Master of the South Eastern College.<sup>1</sup> We have heard with great pleasure that

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<sup>1</sup>The following summary of the speech has been supplied to us by a member of the Alliance. Mr. d'Auquier said :

"It is a great pleasure to me, in addressing for the fourth time the Annual Meeting of this Alliance, to be able to report most favourably of the special, and, as I venture to think, the most pressing, branch of its work which has been entrusted to my care.

"We began, as you may remember, only a little more than three years ago ; and at the first meeting which I was privileged to attend at Dover, in 1880, we had, after nearly six months' working, 17 pupils on our books. The following year, at Hastings, we were able to report a total of 46—an increase of nearly 200 per cent. on the previous year. When we met at Folkestone we had 74 pupils, and I then ventured to state that from our experience of the past we thought we were justified in expecting a steady and continuous increase in our numbers from term to term. This expectation, I am happy to say, has been fully realized. We have this term reached the number of 101 pupils—a number which would make the school entirely self-supporting if the debt now existing upon furniture and stock-in-trade had been provided for out of a *capital* fund instead of being met, as it has partially been, out of the regular income arising from the fees paid by the pupils. Looking at it from a monetary point of view, the situation is very satisfactory. Last year, at this time, the average receipts for tuition amounted to about £1,100 ; this year, they are somewhat over £1,500 ; and I can only repeat what I stated at Folkestone, that if, instead of being in temporary hired premises for which we pay an average rental of £325 per annum, we were in the permanent buildings which we all so earnestly desire to see raised, the South Eastern College would now stand on an entirely self-supporting footing.

"The instruction given in the school continues to be much the same as it was last year. All our teaching is based on the Bible. Every pupil in the school is expected to read his Bible, morning and evening, for a few moments at least, and to kneel by his bedside before beginning the day's work or retiring to rest. At these hours the most perfect silence is maintained in all the dormitories. This is the rule for private prayer—a rule to which I have found the boys gladly and willingly assent. In addition to these we have the ordinary morning and evening family prayers *in common*, at which all the masters and servants are present.

"The addition of the new buildings which were sanctioned at the Annual Meeting of last year, has enabled me to introduce a new feature which is

there is every probability of the buildings, much needed, being begun shortly. While other Middle Class School schemes are being advocated—against some of which we have not a word to say—we hope that staunch supporters of Evangelical Church principles will at least make sure that the College at Ramsgate is satisfactorily completed without delay.

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much appreciated by the boys. Every day, in the large school-room, we have a shortened form of Evening Service, with one Psalm and one Lesson, at which the Gloria, a hymn, etc., are sung by the boys with evident pleasure and reverence.

“Added to these *four* readings of God’s Word, the first half-hour of the actual studies for the day is devoted to the Bible. The boys are alone with me, and, after a short prayer, repeat from memory two or three verses of the Bible which they have learnt by heart. A short and simple explanation is given, and we then proceed to the secular work for the day.

“I must not forget to say how grateful I, personally, feel to the Rev. J. B. Whiting, who comes every Friday morning to give a lesson to the boys in the Catechism and Liturgy. His lessons continue to be most highly valued by the boys and by their parents. As to the secular part of our teaching, I am happy to say it continues to remain in a state of real efficiency. [Mr. d’Auquier here gave details.]

“In another department of school life, to which I personally attach much importance—that is, physical development—we have been very successful. The boys are regularly drilled three times a week, by a fully qualified instructor. Our football team, this last winter, although playing against teams very superior in point of age and strength, won every match they played except one. Our cricket team, this summer, has only sustained two defeats, whereas we have ten victories to record. The masters and myself continue to join in all the games and sports; and I consider that the influence thus gained in the playground contributes in no small degree to our successful management of the boys in the class-rooms.

“Speaking from some seventeen years’ experience in many schools in England, I have no hesitation in saying that the moral and spiritual standard is most satisfactory. The health of the boys throughout the year has been, on the whole, very good. The report, which I received in January from the Medical Officer of Health, and the Town Surveyor of Ramsgate, shows that our sanitary arrangements are on the most perfect principles.

“May I conclude with an earnest appeal to all the members of this Alliance to aid in the good work in which we are engaged? In spite of many defects and many shortcomings I firmly believe that we are engaged in God’s work. That God has been with us so far we firmly believe, because of the many proofs of His loving care which He has hitherto granted us, and that He will be with us in the future, is the hope of all who are engaged in this work. Is it too much to ask that you will make this the object of your earnest prayers? that you will help by every means in your power, by making the school known to others, by recommending it to friends who may have sons to educate; by bringing it under the notice of others who are blessed with wealth, and by yourselves giving such sums as you may be able to afford, to carry on the great work in the success of which we are all so much interested?”