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NEW SERIES, No. 392.] SYDNEY, NEW SOUTH WALES, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30TH, 1893.

[THREEPENCE.]

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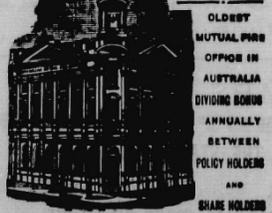
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The Australian Record.

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NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Personalia. The Rev. H. C. GLADSTONE-HAWKE, who was some time Curate of St. John's, Parramatta, and afterwards of All Saint's, Bathurst, has been appointed to the Incumbency of Newport (Diocese of Melbourne), vice the Rev. C. KINGSLEY COLE, who has become Curate of All Saint's, Petersham.—An exchange has been effected between the Rev. J. A. WHITE, of Rochester, and the Rev. W. EDWARDS, of Pyramid Hill.—Mr. A. B. WEIGALL, B.A., Head Master of the Sydney Grammar School, has been granted one year's leave of absence, after twenty-seven years of unbroken service at the School. He left for England by the Victoria on Tuesday.—Mr. E. F. PELLETIER has been appointed Stipendiary Reader in Sandhurst Archdeaconry (Melbourne), under the Rev. N. JONES.—Miss HUNTER-BROWN, the second Missionary sent forth by the New Zealand Church Missionary Association and who has spent the greater part of this year in Melbourne, preparing for the work, has been appointed to Japan.—The Rev. N. JONES, M.A., a graduate of Oxford, has opened at White Hills, a College for the training of candidates for the Ministry. The College is named, The Perry Divinity Hall.—Archdeacon GUNTER was among the visitors present at the Parramatta Benevolent Asylums on the occasion of the customary Christmas treat to the inmates.—Mr. G. F. KING, Organist of St. Mary's, West Maitland, has just returned from England after a tour of twelve months.—The death is announced of the Rev. CANON LEEPER of Dublin, the father of Dr. LEEPER, Warden of Trinity College and of Dr. R. J. LEEPER of Lithgow. CANON LEEPER held a prebendal stall in St. Patrick's Cathedral and was a Fellow of the Royal Irish Society of Antiquarians.

An Interesting Discovery. Dr. BUCHWALD, of Leipsig, has made an interesting discovery. It has long been known that Luther devoted a portion of his remaining years after the great struggle of the Reformation was over to a long and exhaustive essay against the Theological Faculty of Louvain. The document has long been given up for lost, but it has lately been rediscovered and published by Dr. BUCHWALD. The people of Louvain were old and bitter foes of the great Reformer, and it was at their instigation that, in 1519 the Theological Faculty of Cologne caused the collected works of LUTHER to be publicly condemned. From that time a great controversy between LUTHER on the one hand, and the two Theological Faculties on the other continued to rage; and in 1544, just before LUTHER's death, the Louvain Faculty again attacked him in an exhaustive treatise, which was to serve as a handbook to Catholics against Lutherans and all other dissentients. This is the book which Luther spent his last days in answering, and this answer has now been discovered in the University of Jena. It shows LUTHER in his old age to be the same fearless and vigorous champion that he was when, thirty years before, he nailed his ninety-five propositions on the Church door at Wittenburg. His eye was not dim nor his natural force abated. This is as we would have expected.

The National Reformer. The death of the National Reformer (says an English Contemporary) is only one of many signs that atheism has no serious hold of the masses of the English people. There is a certain affection of unbelief in some privileged and over-fed circles, but our hard-working and sturdy democracy have no sympathy whatever with the dismal tenets of despair. Even in literary and scientific circles the infidel movement is completely arrested, and the return to Christianity is marked. A few years ago some insolent men at Oxford and elsewhere were in the habit of spelling the name of God with a small initial letter, but who would dare to practice the blasphemous nonsense now?

The Palestine Jews. MR. SCOTT MONCREIFF, who has spent much time in Palestine aiding the destitute refugee Jews, reckons that the Palestine Jews have increased by ten to twelve thousand during the last decade. He estimates the present total number at 75,000; Jerusalem, 45,000; Safed, 15,000; Tiberias, 6000; Jaffa, 3000; Hebron, 1200; Gaza, Haifa, Acre, Tyre, Sidon, 1300; Rothschilds and other settlements, 2000; floating population, 1500.

The North Pacific Mission. The Rev. J. B. McCULLAGH, of the Church Missionary Society, gives a very remarkable account of successful work among the Indians of the Nass River, in the North Pacific Mission, tribes to all human appearance of the most hopeless kind. Cannibalism as a practice is indeed extinct among them. But traces of it still survive in a dance, called the Ulala, held during the winter, and always attracting large and excited gatherings. The spectators offer their flesh, usually their arms, for the dancers to bite, according to an established and recognised tariff. For £1 a deep bruise may be made with the teeth. For £2 the flesh is torn and blood is drawn. For £3 a piece of flesh may be bitten off and eaten. As may be imagined the whole character of the ceremony and its associations is extremely degraded. But even here the people, after patient labour, have proved responsive to the Gospel message, heathen dances have been abandoned, whisky stills have been broken up, and those who have themselves received the new Faith are actively spreading it among their friends and neighbours.

Madagascar. The Rev. JAMES SIBREE has published, in the British Weekly, a report relating to Madagascar. The French Protectorate is more of a fiction than a reality. There is no apparent growth in French influence, and the native Government, the Queen and her Ministers, take their course with an absolute indifference to all foreign interference. In social and educational matters, however, the development is marked. There is a new hospital for the sick, a new asylum for lepers, a new school for girls, and a new training institution as well. Houses are becoming more substantial in structure; more buildings are being erected of brick, fewer of wood. The native literature is growing also. The books in Malagasy now amount to more than 550, with an average of 100 pages each. There are 90,000 children in the schools, so that the numbers of those who can read, and have received at any rate the rudiments of a good education, are steadily increasing. As to the religious life of the island, Mr. SIBREE's account is equally hopeful. If Christianity is not spreading, it is deepening; without losing any part of its intensity, faith is becoming more intelligent.

The Spiritual Nature of Man Natural. PRINCIPAL CAVE, in a recent address, argued that the spiritual nature of man was natural; if it was unfed it would die as the body would die from a similar cause. That was the point Professor DRUMMOND had so sadly missed in his presentation of the relationship of the natural man to the spiritual. He had represented it as corresponding to the relationship of the crystal to the organism, and spoke of the birth to the spiritual life as the impartation of a new faculty. Such a view not only made man naturally unspiritual, which he was not, but made him irresponsible and unblamable.

C.M. Society. EXETER HALL was crowded recently with friends of the Church Missionary Society, assembled to bid God-speed to a band of over 100 Missionaries, who are about to proceed to stations in distant parts of the world under the auspices of the Society. As many as forty of the Missionaries are ladies, forty-eight are Clergymen, and six are medical men.

The Position of Geology. PROFESSOR PRESTWICH writes, in The Nineteenth Century, an article on "The Position of Geology," which may well quiet the fears of such as are alarmed by the wild statements often made with regard to the antiquity of man and the antiquity of the earth. He sets forth the conflict there is between the Uniformitarians and the Physicists; the former believe that the vast changes of the earth's surface, effected during long geological periods, "are to be measured by the rate at which similar but minor changes are effected in the present day, and that the agencies now modifying the surface have been alike in every respect in all time." The Physicists believe the great movements, considered by geologists to have continued up to the threshold of our own times, impossible. Whereas the Uniformitarians count some three hundred millions as the term of years since our earth became habitable, the Physicists assign from fifteen to twenty millions. PROFESSOR PRESTWICH thinks the shorter period the more probable.

A Glimpse of Tennyson. A friend of Tennyson gives a pleasant little glimpse of the poet in the far-away days when his own children were little, and he had been to the Ventnor toy-shops to buy playthings for them. He met his friend and his friend's little boy, and straightway made himself interesting to the child. "When we parted he mounted the steps leading to the house where he was staying and blew loud blasts on a penny trumpet for the child's amusement. The scene was most picturesque; the tall form of the poet, wrapt in a flowing cloak, the well-known broad-brimmed hat covering his head, and his long beard floating in the wind as he stood high above the road, beneath the shadow of the huge St. Boniface Down, setting the wild echoes flying with the thin and clear notes of the toy."

The Church and the Press. In a discussion at the Church Congress on the relations between the Church and the Press several speakers deplored the recent reception given in London to M. ZOLA. Sir H. GILZEAN REID explained that he had been received, not as a novelist but as a journalist, but the BISHOP OF WORCESTER protested against such an excuse for adulation of a man that had spent his life in corrupting the minds of the young.

Two Scarce Publications. The British Museum has acquired two scarce publications—the *Life and Miracles of Our Lord*, by ALONSO DE VILLEGAS, translated into Aymara and printed in Juli, 1612; and a letter of JOSEPH ANTEQUERA Y CASTRO, ex-Governor of Paraguay, to the Bishop, printed at San Javier, in 1727. The dates are remarkably early in the history of South American presses, as for a long time after the Spanish conquest, the printing of the Southern Continent was done in Spain.

Spiritualism. Spiritualism seems still to find its dupes, but as its exposure engages the eager attention of Mr. LABOUCHERE and Truth, the limits of its influence will doubtless be circumscribed. At present the victim of criticism is a certain "Professor" Baldwin. A Nonconformist minister has been witnessing to the convincing power of the "Professor's" exhibitions, for he himself supplied the requisite questions. Mr. Maskelyne, of the Egyptian Hall, jeers at the "experiments" as being entirely in his own way of business, and he will doubtless convince many. By the way, the Nonconformist minister consulted the spirit world as to guidance in his investments. Stockbrokers must see to this: their craft is in danger.

"Constitutionalists." It is difficult (says the Review of the Churches) to read of the doings of the little secession which has been made in the Highlands from the Free Church, without a smile, and yet the smile must be tempered with kindly reverence as we remember how all great movements have had a very humble beginning. And one cannot but admire the thoroughness with which the handful of "Constitutionalists" have gone to work. They have formed themselves into a Presbytery they have started a Sustentation Fund, they have laid down lines for aggressive work at home and abroad, and—they have baptised their first baby and put things in order for their first ordination. Whether this is faith or simply audacity, time will show. Meanwhile, it is to be hoped that the Free Church Commission will be a little blind and a little deaf. What might have turned out to be only a "fizzle," if dealt with generously and patiently, has sometimes become a great fire by too ruthless an exercise of vested authority.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

The Provincial Council of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, 19th. inst. in St. Philip's vestry. The President, (J. Barre Johnston Esq.) in the chair. Delegates were present from several City and Suburban Chapters. Encouraging reports of work were received from the Delegates.

Letters were read from Chapters, and inquiries received from the Country and Melbourne, regarding the Brotherhood also a report from Marulan, stating that a Chapter had been formed in that Parish.