

# S. Oswald's Parish Magazine.

FEBRUARY, 1895.

We are writing in very wintry weather. The frost came in its season, and Rydal and Grasmere lakes afforded splendid glassy floors for the skaters, and no accident happened to mar the cheerful pastime. Now for some time we have had the "snow like wool" wrapping the fells and also the fields and roads of the valley. Everything natural is beautiful in its time, and we are inclined to think that even winter is more beautiful here than in most places; but doubtless many of those who longed to see again the mountains in their white covering have had now a too close acquaintance with the whiteness, and would gladly welcome back the sight of something green.

Turning to the Church's season, Epiphany is now over, and with it for a while the tone of rejoicing. On Sunday last we sang, in view of the sudden change which takes place in the note of the services commencing on Septuagesima Sunday,

"Alleluia cannot always  
Be our song while here below."

And so it is, both in the way the Church directs our thoughts and our worship, and in ordinary life.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, it will be seen, falls on the 27th, and, therefore, before this month is out. We would direct the attention of our readers who do not possess a Church Calendar for the year to the last page of this Magazine. They will find there some suitable reflections on the spirit in which these seasons should be observed.

## CONFIRMATION.

The Bishop of Carlisle has written to say that he will hold a Confirmation at Grasmere on the 15th of May. It is therefore not too soon for parents and god-parents to be thinking of their charges. There must be a considerable number of young people of age for the holy rite, since a longer time than usual has elapsed since the last Confirmation. The Rector will be pleased to receive during the present month the names of all candidates, so that he may begin to form classes for preparation. He is ready to take those who have arrived at the age of 14 and upwards. Our Lord, it will be remembered, became a "son of the Law" at the age of 12, and was then admitted with others to the Passover Feast at Jerusalem; and that age, or 13, seems to have been the usual time. And these things are examples to us.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TREAT.

The whole of the children attending the Sunday School and the Sunday afternoon Catechizing were invited to tea at the school on Thursday, the 31st ult., including the mothers. In all, 92 children turned up, in spite of the bitter weather, and shewed their appreciation of an excellent tea provided by Mr. Bowness. There were also 22 mothers, besides the teachers and lady-helpers. After the tea, followed an exhibition of lantern views given by Mr. Simpson, of Ambleside. These consisted first of views illustrating a journey round the world, which the Rector hoped to have explained from his own experience, but he was prevented by a cold from putting in an appearance, and Dr. Johnston very kindly took his place, as he has also been a traveller; after these came a few comic sketches, which seem to have been the most acceptable part of the entertainment.

There is a great improvement, we are glad to note, in the attendance both at Sunday School and at the afternoon Catechizings. Yet some children continue to attend very irregularly, and, unless stormy weather prevents, we would impress upon parents the fact that, if the teaching is to be of any real value, there should be regular attendance.

## CHURCH DEFENCE.

In reference to the threatened attack on the property and well-being of the Church in Wales, now soon expected, a large meeting was held at Carlisle on the 14th of January, summoned and presided over by the Bishop. Members of Defence Committees from all parts of the diocese were present in spite of the wintry weather. F. W. Simpson, Esq., of The Wray, was there to represent our district. Excellent speeches were made by the Bishop, W. D. Crewdson, Esq., Lord Cross, and others, which we wish could be placed in the hands of all our readers. We have only room for the following sentences from the Bishop's speech. In the first fortnight in February "not only in cities and towns, but in every village, however small, information by means of leaflets will be brought to every thinking man and woman. . . . This is not a question which affects politics in any party sense; it is one which affects the first principles of religion in our own country. . . . It is a question on which I feel deeply and strongly. . . . We must make it thoroughly understood that this measure, if carried, is one which will not put a penny into the poor man's pocket, but that it is one which will strip him of his best spiritual privilege."

### HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

February	3.	Morn., 82, 285, 277 ;	Even., 290, 307, 26.
,,	10.	Morn., 83, 168, 165 ;	Even., 169, 162, 533.
,,	17.	Morn., 172, 533, 238 ;	Even., 213, 193, 510.
,,	24.	Morn., 210, 432, 209 ;	Even., 447, 254, 211.

### Marriage.

January 3. John Gregg, Ambleside, and Mary Jane Jopson, Grasmere.

### Death.

January 29. Hannah Selina Dixon, Fairy Glen, aged 68.

### RAINFALL AT GRASMERE.

By the kindness of Mr. T. A. Green, of Rylands, we propose to publish the monthly rainfall. He has also been good enough to send the figures for last year. 108 inches are quite a *tropical* amount! The average at Hong Kong is about 85.

		Inches.		Inches.
1894.	January	15.76	July	5.25
	February	22.62	August	7.25
	March	7.52	September	.37
	April	2.84	October	10.09
	May	6.17	November	16.47
	June	3.89	December	10.75
			Total	108.98

1895. January, 3.63 inches.

T. A. GREEN.

NOTE.—The blank pages of the covers can be utilized for advertising purposes at moderate rates.