

## CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

*The Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette :*

As doubts are thrown from time to time on the statement that the Church of England, with all her ritualism, is pressing hard English Nonconformity, let us produce a further startling evidence from the pen of that hierophant of English dissidence, Dr. Parker, minister of the City Temple, Holborn, London. Dr. Parker writes thus to the Editor of the November number of the *Newbery House Magazine* on 'The Decay of Nonconformity':—'As a strong Nonconformist—never sturdier than at this moment—I recognise with grateful delight the holy ardour and broadening service of the Church of England. Never was Nonconformity so hard driven as it is to-day by the clergy of the Church of England. I am bound to admit that I am unable to see that Nonconformity is at the present moment making any substantial advancement.' Words like these speak for themselves. If Dr. Parker is to be taken as an authority, the latest developments of English Churchmanship are tending in the direction of making away with Nonconformity and substituting for it the Church's doctrine and discipline. Here in Ireland this truth should not be lost upon us. The clergy must, see in Dr. Parker's confession an acknowledgment that Nonconformity is impotent where the Church is faithfully worked, where the Word of God is preached and the Sacraments duly administered according to our Lord's holy institution. On the other hand, dissent from the Church will always flourish where Church principles are ignored.

*The Churchman's Gazette, New Westminster, B. C. :*

There are probably many causes which combine to hinder the Church making such headway against the world, and false systems of religion, as She ought to do. Not the least of these is probably the principle of centralization, sometimes called the "one man system." It must be admitted that to concentrate, to a certain extent, controlling power in one man, especially if he be a man of organizing genius, has advantages; but carried to excess it gives the people the idea that the clergy are the Church, and that its success is no immediate concern of their own: supporting the Church, they think, is simply supporting the clergy. The work and success of the Church belong to the people in truth more than to the clergy; and we shall only begin to feel our combined power when each person feels his individual responsibility. The more individuals are persuaded to engage in definite work for the Church, the broader will be the foundation, the larger and stronger will be the walls of her citadel. We think our task is to find people who have the interest of the Church at heart, and as soon as we discover their capacity for certain kinds of work to give them the fullest responsibility. Responsibility is the very soul of success, and it is just when a man feels that he can carry out his own ideas, and is responsible for their success that he puts out his best efforts; but when he is unnecessarily restricted and has no true responsibility he naturally takes but little interest in his work and lays the blame of failure on other shoulders. Give a good conscientious workman a free hand and it is surprising what a pride he will take in his work. In England the church has crystallized into a system that leaves responsibilities and their accompanying honors in the hands of the few who are greedy to retain them long after their incompetence is made plain, and men are not generally trusted with responsibility until long after the fire of enthusiasm has died away. But a young Church in a young Colony ought to be able to break free from these cramping traditions, and ought not to be too lofty to learn the lesson successful Dissent has taught. Churchmen should be made to feel

that the success of the Church is their own affair, and shoulder to shoulder we ought to be making a supreme effort to place the Church in her rightful position. To do this we should make use of every force which can be pressed into the service of God—and one of these is certainly the power which is gained from a sense of responsibility. To formulate our thoughts we would say:—Discover earnestness and capacity and then give the fullest responsibility. If the Church acted on this principle we should see interest in its work increased, and a wonderful advance all along the line. The clergy are charged with being too autocratic, is it altogether untrue?

*The Church Year :*

One of the notes of improvement in our services everywhere, is the greater attention given to the matter of music, adapting it more thoroughly to its real position as an important part of the worship of God. The general introduction of vested choirs has had a great and excellent influence in this direction, by lessening the sentimental and increasing the devotional element in rendering the services. It is certainly, and in many respects, an improvement upon the professional and quartette choirs, wherever it has been properly trained and directed. The prominent position, however, which is thus given to the choir in the house of God, exaggerates any untoward behaviour of its members during divine service, and this requires more minute and persistent attention than it often receives. The chorister in his vestments ought to be as circumspect in manner and devout in behaviour as the priest in his. Otherwise, the spirit of praise is depraved, and its beauty marred. Other religious bodies are moving along the same needed line of improvement in the character of their church music. Speaking on this subject, the *United Presbyterian* offers some counsel and advice which should be free to all. It says:

"Leaders in church music ought to be subjected to a character test, similar to that imposed upon ministers. Musical proficiency is not the only thing necessary to fit them for their position. They should be members of the Church, men and women of manifest piety, and interested in all parts of worship and all departments of spiritual work. How can they profitably lead the worship of others if they themselves are not sincere worshippers? Many of the members of the Church, says the same paper, are not well acquainted with the work of the Church. Pastors, in their visitation from house to house, are often surprised at this ignorance. Who is at fault? Much of the blame must be laid to the pastors themselves. If they would secure the entrance of the Church papers into the families of their congregations they would preach to more intelligent audiences."

## NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

## DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

SPRINGHILL.—Four thousand five hundred dollars has been secured by the Rev. W. Chas. Wilson, incumbent of the parish, for the proposed new buildings for his congregation in Springhill. A munificent gift of \$3,000 was given by one member of the Episcopalian Church in the United States, who wished to remain unknown. This amount is to be used for the construction of what might technically be termed 'A Parish House' or building which will contain a Sunday schoolroom and Temperance Hall on the ground floor; and on the second floor a reading room for men, parlor and guild room for ladies; and a large room fitted up for teaching, cooking and sewing and kindergarten work. When the building is completed a thoroughly trained teacher will be engaged to sustain this branch of what has proved itself to have been very helpful work

in the larger American parishes. The building will be the first of its kind in any Nova Scotian parish, but they will doubtless soon become general when their utility has been proved.

Plans for the buildings will be prepared forthwith and the building be constructed as soon as possible that the congregation may have a place wherein to worship without inconvenience while the proposed new church is being built. The Rector also stated that \$1,100 had been brought back for the new church fund; and \$400 for the cottage hospital fund; or in all the fine round sum of \$4,500. He then spoke of the number of magnificent churches and parish houses and rectories he had recently seen which had been erected by the liberality of individual donors, and also of the immense activity and generosity of the church people in the United States in sustaining all work which tended to the ease of sufferers or the elevation of humanity.

## DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

SHERBROOKE.—The Ladies' Guild of St. Peter's Church will hold their annual sale of useful and fancy articles in the Church hall, Montreal st., on Thursday, Dec. 4th. An attractive programme is being prepared for the evening.

## DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

MONTREAL W.A.M.A.—The Womans' Auxiliary held a meeting in the Synod Hall, on the evening of the 20th inst., at which the Lord Bishop of the Diocese presided, and addresses were given by the Rev. J. S. Newnham and Dr. Davidson. The room was well filled and much interest was manifested. Mr. Newnham being about to leave the city to undertake Missionary work in the Diocese of Moosenees took the opportunity of giving a sketch of Missionary work and life in that Diocese which is the most northerly of those in the Dominion of Canada, being situated on the west shore of Hudson Bay. Mr. Newnham also gave some particulars in regard to the Diocese stating that there were three chief posts: Churchill, York and Moore. There are a large number of Sioux Indians in the Diocese, some of whom have been converted and are most devout and faithful members of the Church, undertaking journeys and expenses in order to attend its ministrations, which their white brethren would never think of undertaking. There are nine Missionaries in the Diocese all of whom are Cree Indians, and the whole are under the charge of the Right Rev. Dr. Horden, Bishop of the Diocese.

Dr. Davidson's address was explanatory of the position and work of the W.A.M.A. upon which he was requested especially to speak. After several views illustrative of mission work were shewn by Mr. Beaman, who most kindly attended with his large and magnificent lantern. The meeting was an excellent one and will probably lend increased interest to the work of the W.A.M.A.—a branch of which should be formed in every parish mission.

St. Martin's.—On Sunday, the 30th November, being St. Andrew's Day, a special service for men only will be held in this church at 4 p.m.: under the auspices of St. Andrew's Brotherhood, and the Lay Helpers' Association of the Diocese. All young men are cordially invited. It is not intended that the service should be parochial only. We hope that the Church will be crowded; and that a great impetus may be given as well to the St. Andrew's Brotherhood movement as to Lay work generally.

COWANSVILLE.—The Band of Hope Association in connection with Trinity Church, are soon to open a free reading room, where all the leading dailies as well as the monthly periodicals will be on file, the room will be opened every evening.