

tising and learning new music for these special occasions and as a rule the music chosen has been written for choirs consisting of the full complement of voices to sustain all the parts with a fine organ accompaniment, the effect of which should be so beautiful as to uplift the souls of the congregation who are worshipping. But this effect is not generally obtained in the ordinary country and town Church; this difficult rendering is an effort; the parts are ill sustained, perhaps the Clergyman himself already overtired has to take a solo; there is anxiety on the part of both organist and choir to get through without a break, and by the time it is ended there is a feeling of relief on the part of the choir as well as of the congregation, who during the singing have to remain dumb. On these special days the Psalms are sung, and the congregation, excepting those who are musical, cannot join in this exceptional departure. However, patience will be rewarded at last. We have not been able to join in singing Canticles or Psalms, but now at any rate we can sing a Hymn, when instead, "The Anthem" strikes a knell into our hearts. Once more the choir have it all their own way, and the congregation only listen. It may be well sung, it may be badly sung, but our voices are not wanted. At last it is a relief before the sermon to hear the congregation for the first time heartily unite in a hymn, for now there is life in the building instead of the apathy that has been cold enough to be felt. That we do not want to and cannot do without a choir, nor a choir without a leader we all know, and we fully appreciate the hard work and sacrifice of time on the part of a voluntary choir and recognize their ambition to render, by an extra effort in the Church music on Festivals, higher worship to God, but at the same time we feel that the ordinary worshippers have also their obligations to fulfil, from which they are entirely debarred by this extra effort. How much more elevating to the true spirit of worship would it be for Choir and Congregation to unite in one of the many yet beautiful and simple renderings of the Canticles, to sing the Psalms every Sunday, to substitute a suit-

able Hymn for the Anthem, and to have, instead of a cold and lifeless service, one which is a perfect outpouring of the soul in praise! The choir may keep their four festivals on a special day appointed during the week, when the Congregation may have the privilege of listening to their well-directed efforts, but let not the Church Festivals be turned into cold and lifeless concerts.

A MEMBER OF THE CONGREGATION.

Are You Confirmed?

It is greatly to be feared that to this question a great many of our people, perhaps of our readers, would have to answer "No"! For, if we have in round numbers 20,000 members of our Church in this Diocese, since a generation passes away every thirty years, there should be nearly seven hundred of our people confirmed every year.

Now the actual numbers confirmed for the years ending Easter, 1895, 678 were 534, 679, 396 and 605; or an average of 554 per annum. There are some therefore, who are neglecting and losing this great privilege. For, as the late Archbishop of Canterbury says very beautifully: "No thread of Language and History is more distinct than that which connects Christ's promise of the coming of the Paraclete to be an Indwelling Power in all His chosen ones, with the institution of the Laying on of Hands of the Apostles." Confirmation is, in fact, the complement of Baptism. For, according to Holy Scripture and early Christian tradition, it is by Baptism that men become members of Christ, children of God and inheritors of the Kingdom of Heaven. But something more is needed; for we are all called in Apostolic language to be "Priests" and "Stewards" of the manifold grace of God, "having gifts differing according to the grace which is given to us." And to furnish the Christian for the performance of these duties is the office of God the Holy Ghost no less than to engraft him into the Body of Christ; and the Rite which was specially ordained for this end is that of Confirmation or the Laying on of Hands. We would, therefore, entreat those of our read-