

picturesque observances in celebrating Easter will bear reflecting upon, as evidencing that a people who, for many centuries, have been in the van of the forces contending with Popery, see nothing tending to Romanism, nor anything contrary to the severest form of evangelicalism, in observances which, if adopted by the Church of England, would raise a tornado of slander against those who followed the customs of the most ancient Protestant and the most intensely evangelical community in Christendom.

"I shall not easily forget the boys' sleeping hall, a large room which extended over the whole of the building appropriated to the school, and contained between one and two hundred beds. It was usual for us to meet there on the evening prior to Easter Sunday. A pianoforte was taken for the occasion to one end of this immense room; over it was suspended a lantern, which threw a dim light on a splendid painting of a dead Christ, removed from the Brethren's House. When all had assembled, we stood for a few minutes in front of the picture. The full-toned piano, accompanied by a French bugle, broke the silence with one of those airs which for ages have been used in the Moravian Church. This ceased for a moment, and we heard the sweet melody whispering round that vast hall, the whole of which was in darkness, save the spot where we were gathered. Again we mused on the painting, and were almost startled by the breathless quiet of the place. The music recommenced, and we sang that fine old hymn.—

"Met around the sacred tomb,  
Friends of Jesus, why those tears!" etc.

This was generally followed by an anthem suited to the occasion. The next morning found us assembled by five o'clock in the chapel, joined by an immense crowd. The service opened by a voluntary on the organ—the congregation rose—the clergy entered, chanting as they walked, "The Lord is risen indeed!" On reaching their places, the Litany commenced, the responses to which were sung by the choir and congregation.

On arriving at the part which refers to the Church triumphant, all adjourned to the burial ground, and there finished the service in the open air. Those only who have witnessed it, can form any notion of its solemnity. The congregation formed a circle, in the centre of which was the officiating clergyman. The sun had just risen, and was lighting up that splendid scenery, and the mists of the night were rapidly rolling away. In the distance covering the opposite hill, were magnificent woods, swept by a clear crystal stream; over us, the birds of the morning carolled their early matins, and then soared into high heaven. It was in such a scene we offered this thrilling petition to heaven's God.—

Minister.—Keep us in everlasting fellowship with our brethren—and our sisters—[here mentioning the names of those who had departed since the preceding Easter] who have entered into the joy of their Lord, and whose bodies are buried here; also with the servants and handmaids of our Church, whom thou hast called home within this year; and with the

whole Church triumphant; and grant that we may finally rest with them in thy presence from all our labours. Amen.

Congregation:—

"They are at rest in lasting bliss,  
Beholding Christ their Saviour;  
Our humble expectation is,  
To live with Him for ever."

This verse was sung by the vast assembly, led by horns, trombones, and other wind instruments, and echoed along that beautiful valley, and mingled with the hum of trees, the ripple of the waters, the wild music of the birds, and it may be, with the minstrelsy of unseen spirits. I have since witnessed the religious ceremonies of other bodies; and although it has been mine to minister at the altar of another Communion, I must confess that I have met with nothing so solemn, yet elegantly chaste, as these services at the Brethren's Church.

When conversing about this touching and beautiful ceremonial observance of Easter, Montgomery once said: "Some persons have run away with the notion that here was prayer for the dead, it is nothing of the kind; but merely a solemn recognition of the union and communion of those who are living and those who have departed in the faith—a declaration that, although death may have severed the relations of earth, the spiritual fellowship of those who are one in Christ remains unbroken."

#### EASTER AND ASCENSIONTIDE COLOURS.

(COMMUNICATED.)

THIS season of the Christian Year is happily characterized, at least as far as Easter is concerned, by practical unanimity in the choice of colours throughout Christendom, *White* (Candida) is everywhere in use. There is, indeed, in one or two cases, a suggestion of *Red*, though not in the use of Sarum, of which that color is characteristic, but in the prescription of Wells, Westminster and Rouen. The only other colour at all associated with *White* for Eastertide is *Green*, and that in the Oriental portions of the Church. It is properly symbolic of RESURRECTION, and is appropriate as it is nowhere else in the Church year: it is the colour of the Rising Life of Vegetation at this season of the year. In the use of Soissons, it is also prescribed for Ascensiontide: though the reason is not so obvious. Glistening white campus, with bright green orphreys would be most appropriate for all the weeks of Eastertide.

A curious rite of the Primitive Church in England is mentioned by a writer in the *Saturday Review*: the changing of the Altar frontals from Black at Nocturns of Easter Day to Grey at Lauds; Red at Prime, and Cloth of Gold and White at High Celebration—typical of the transition from Heathenism to Judaism and Christianity in its effulgence of glory.

—Rev. John Hunter of Hull, a popular Congregational minister, has just compiled a liturgy for the use of his congregation in which prayer is offered for the editors of newspapers.

#### TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Our friends will kindly note that those articles which are signed in any way, by initials, or full name, as well as all those marked "communicated," do not necessarily express the views of this paper, they merely convey the personal opinions of the writers of such articles, for which we are not responsible.

Some of our correspondents are in the habit of sprinkling their communications very freely with Greek and Latin quotations. While expressing gratitude for the kind intentions of such writers, we must ask them to abstain from this, if by any means possible. Very few of our readers care to have the flow of an argument arrested by an unreadable quotation. Even to the great bulk of our most highly educated readers, classical quotations present a difficulty. In ninety-nine cases out of the hundred, anything quoted from a dead language, can be as elegantly, and certainly be more forcibly expressed in one which is "understood of the people." Mere critical disquisitions upon varied interpretations of Greek and Latin authorities are not suitable to our columns.

#### BOOK NOTICES.

THE WORLD AND THE LAGOS, being the Bedell Lectures, 1885, by Bishop Thompson, L.T.D., L.L.D., Putnam & Sons, New York, may be had of Williamson & Co., Toronto. 8 vols. cloth.

THE STORY OF CHALDEA. By Z. A. Ragazin. Putnam & Sons, New York. May be had of Williamson & Co., Toronto. This work is charmingly illustrated, and will prove highly valuable to all engaged in Biblical studies.

THE CHOICE OF BOOKS. By Frederic Harrison. Macmillan & Co., New York. May be had of Williamson & Co., Toronto. This volume is a collection of essays on books and authors by a well known book lover. We should join issue with the writer on some points, but the volume is full of good matter, and, altogether, will be found an excellent literary entertainment.

#### Home & Foreign Church News

From our own Correspondents.

#### DOMINION.

##### QUEBEC.

BISHOP'S COLLEGE.—*Medical Degrees*.—The annual convocation of Bishop's College, for conferring degrees in medicine, was held on the 18th April. The vice chancellor, Rev. Canon Norman, presided, and made an encouraging report as to the condition and general work of the college in this department. He announced that the new principal, the Rev. Thomas Adams, was endeavouring to build a wing to the college, to be entitled Bishop William's wing, in which it was contemplated to have a chemical laboratory. A legacy of \$8,000 from the late Mrs. Davis, and a gift of the same amount from Miss Davidson were gratefully acknowledged. The vice chancellor remarked that one Church University for all Canada would be very desirable. Degrees were then conferred, and medals and prizes distributed to successful candidates. Dr. Saunders read the valedictory.

##### MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—The short services held in the nave of the cathedral each afternoon at five o'clock, during Lent, are being very largely attended. The service consists of the shortened form of evening prayer, the Nunc Dimittis and two hymns being sung. The rector gives a devotional address at the end of the service, bearing on the subject of Lent.