

in several dioceses its operations were as far as possible under Diocesan supervision. As a memorial to Mr. Reginald Braithwaite, it was suggested that a training institution should be erected, for the preparation of Evangelists for the work, and it was estimated that £5000 would be required for that purpose.

The Right Rev. chairman after congratulating the army on its success during the past year, said there was one thing in the report which particularly struck him and that was the discussion in the upper House of Convocation in both Provinces respecting the Church Army, and he was glad to say that these discussions were uniformly in favor of the operations of the Army. He confessed that from the first he had received the Army with a bias in its favor because he had studied for sometime the working of the Salvation Army while he was quite sensible of the extravagances and defects which mocked the working of that organization, he admired its magnificent enthusiasm and undoubted achievements. But that army was really becoming a church or a sect, and he did not think a person could be a loyal soldier in the Salvation army and a loyal son of the Church of England. He believed the problem of how to reach the working classes was being solved by the Church Army. His conception of the difficulty of the Church in the present day was the multiplication of its interests. He thought they needed to be more demonstrative and to adopt her methods and new forms of service where necessary.

In Ireland, the principal event of interest was the election to the Bishopric of Meath. The Rev. Dr. Bell, Rector of Kells, Diocese of Meath, received the highest number of votes, but as four votes were lacking on the side of the laity, his name and that of the Dean of Clonmacnoise, Dr. Reichel, the next in order will be presented to the House of Bishops to make a choice between them.

Hoping that this communication may be within the orthodox limits.

I remain yours truly,
MONTREAL.

FAMILY DEPARTMENT.

(From The Church.)

MILDRED'S CONFIRMATION.

CHAPTER II.—Continued.

When they arose, a loving kiss was pressed upon Mildred's sweetly-serious face, as the mother said—

"Pray, my dear child, for the gift of the Holy Spirit, that you may thus be led in the blessed path that leads to heaven."

Mildred was deeply touched, for daily marks of mamma's increasing debility spoke its own serious voice to the loving child.

"I am going to attend the lectures," she said, "for last Sunday our dear rector spoke to me after Church so kindly, bidding me to heed the call."

The next evening mamma summoned Julius to her room, and spent a solemn hour with the dear boy, impressing upon him the voice from the sanctuary, committing him also to the care of the Good Shepherd.

He seemed to have listened seriously to the notice, and said—

"I shall never, dear mamma, take such a step, unless assured that I am ready to assume such vows, for I can never be a hypocrite."

Lucy and Emily at different times received a similar call to mamma's room. Every Saturday evening it has been Mrs. Delancey's custom to assemble her dear family in her room, for on that occasion they brought their weekly savings to deposit in a little bank which mamma kept for them, and on opening it at appointed times, it had extended help to many a holy object.

They always had a little concert, too, for dear mamma on Saturday evening, for they al-

had lovely voices, and on this evening they sang—

"One offer of salvation
To all the world make known;
The only sure foundation
Is Christ, the Corner-stone.

Chorus—"No other name is given,
No other way is known,
'Tis Jesus Christ, the First and Last,
He saves, and He alone.

"One only Door of Heaven
Stands open wide to-day,
One Sacrifice is given,
'Tis Christ, the Living Way.

"My only song and story
Is—Jesus died for me;
My only hope for glory
The Cross of Calvary."

Mamma had a sweet story of some dear little child of God, which she told so impressively, saying—

"Remember, dear children, that my little Christian was not early called away, but lived to be a great blessing to her own little family circle."

Lucy had seemed more than usually interested in serious subjects, and asked, timidly, if she might be allowed to attend the lectures on confirmation.

It was a blessed privilege to the dear girls, for they were very instructive, and although, perhaps, all who attended, were not quite ready to take this open stand for Christ, the good Rector adapted his instruction to the different characters of his hearers, but there were always most tender and affectionate calls to all classes, and at the close this impressive hymn was sung—

"The Spirit, in our hearts,
Is whispering, 'sinner, 'Come';
The Bride, the Church of Christ proclaims
To all His children, 'Come.'

"Let him that heareth say
To all about him, 'Come';
Let him that thirsts for righteousness,
To Christ, the Fountain, 'Come.'

"Yes, whosoever will,
O let him freely come,
And freely drink the Stream of Life;
'Tis Jesus bids him, 'Come.'

"Lo, Jesus, who invites,
Declares, 'I quickly come';
Lord! even so; I wait Thy hour;
Jesus, my Saviour, come."

CHAPTER III.—At Rest.

The invalid's cough is very troublesome, and the physician is much alarmed by the symptoms.

There are sweet hours of most blessed communion now between the husband and wife, for Henry Delancey had long been a devoted servant of the Lord, and the most precious hopes of future reunion in the world to come cheered the two in view of the change that was surely approaching.

In company with sister Helen they partook together of the blessed sacrament, and thus enjoyed the sweet privilege of commemorating the dying love of their own precious Saviour.

Her communion with her dear Lord each day seemed more hallowed, and many tender requests were made to husband and sister by the fading invalid, whose trust in her Saviour was perfect, and it might well be said of her—

"In my hand no price I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling."

Mildred will never forget the sacred hours spent with dear mamma, nor the clear testimony borne by the dying Christian to the faithful love of her own dear Master.

But the messenger has come, and the sudden rupture of a blood-vessel closed the mortal race of this holy saint of God.

The last few hours were sweetly solemn, for, unable to speak, it was only by looks so full of heavenly love, that she could communicate with her beloved family, who lingered around her bed.

It was no common loss to the household, and when they stood in deepest grief around the dear remains, it was indeed an hour of most touching sorrow. Dear little Winnie had to be led away from the chamber of death, and folded

in sister Mildred's arms; she sobbed out her grief, but said, at last—

"We shall go to her dear sister, for we love mamma's Saviour."

The few days intervening before the funeral, were spent by the family in recalling the lessons of her holy life, and the precious memories will come with their soothing voice to cheer the mourners' hearts when mamma ministers no longer around their stricken fireside.

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Mildred is a candidate for confirmation, and the faithful Rector has had many conversations with the two dear girls. Believing that they are both under the teachings of the Holy Spirit, he encourages their desires to be wholly the Lord's.

Aunt Helen is, indeed, a valuable guide to the youthful disciples, and every evening after supper she meets them in her own room, where her instructions are just what they need. They always commence with the sweet hymn—

"O, in the morn of life, when youth
With vital ardor glows,
And shines in all the fairest charms
That beauty can disclose;

"Deep in thy soul before its powers
Are yet by vice enslaved,
Be thy Creator's glorious Name
And character engraved;

"Ere yet the shades of sorrow cloud
The sunshine of thy days;
And cares and toils, in endless round,
Encompass all thy ways;

"Ere yet thy heart the woes of age,
With vain regret, deplore,
And sadly muse on former joys,
That now return no more.

"True wisdom, early sought and gain'd,
In age will give thee rest;
O then, improve the morn of life,
To make its evening blest."

Then followed a familiar talk on the subject of confirmation, always closing with fervent prayer.

We will give a sketch of one of these holy lessons. Happy would it be if other young candidates were as faithfully and prayerfully instructed in their first Christian steps.

"And first, what is confirmation?" Aunt Helen asks, and answers thus—"It is not a mere formal renewal of baptismal vows, but a solemn profession of open, decided spiritual consecration to the service of God, renouncing all temptations from the world that would interfere with such heart-warm profession. It is true that it contains but few words, but they are all full of meaning, and when we consider them in the light of Holy Scripture, we shall see their great importance, their large demands, solemn teaching," and here she remarked, "It is our privilege, dear girls, to belong to a Church that receives little children to holy baptism, simply receiving them as our Lord did, with a blessing."

And here Helen read an extract that seemed appropriate—

"She treats them as members of a pardoned family, pardoned for Christ's sake, and needing to be taught both the happiness and responsibility of their high privilege. She says it cannot be that the lambs alone of all the flock are to be refused the shelter of the fold. And so she welcomes the little ones, promises them all the help that love, and care, and tenderness, and holy discipline can give, and then expects them, when 'the right time comes,' with their own mouth and consent, openly before the Church, to ratify and confirm what was done for them at the start."

"And this, my dear girls, is confirmation," remarked Aunt Helen. "In neglect of such a personal acknowledgment, the privileges of baptism are practically forfeited, for only those who with their own lips have confessed the faith are received to the privileges of Communion. The Church presupposes a whole world redeemed—not necessarily saved—rather a whole world put in the way of salvation. To convince us of our guilt, and to make us appreciate the pardon, this is the conjoint work of the Spirit and the Bride."

(To be Continued.)