

were but stewards of them: The Creeds, the Orders, the Liturgy were not *ours* to surrender; but it was urgent that those who like the elder brother had always dwelt in the old home, (which was ample enough for all) should shew forth the Apostolic fervour and self-sacrifice as well as claim the apostolic order. The higher the privilege the more far reaching and exacting the responsibility. Let us enter into the spirit which had produced in this age such pioneers and confessors as Patteson, Hannington Parker and Bishop Brown, of Fond-du-Lac, who had recently given his life and died at his post. Let us strive not only to enter into the spirit of the Divine Founder, but let us carry out the great design of the Divine Architect who had built His Church on the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets. Let us be loyal to Christ in His Church. Then would be fulfilled the more abundant life.

In the afternoon of the 6th, and on the morning of the 7th, the Convention carried on its ordinary business, which was satisfactorily disposed of. On the evening of the 7th, a Missionary session was held, in which interesting addresses were given by the Rev. Howard F. Hill, B.D., Rector of Montpelier, and Chairman of the Missionary Committee of the Diocese, and by one of the Missionaries.

A social reception was given to the members of the Convention on Wednesday evening by Mrs. Jewitt, of Montpelier. It is interesting to note that during the twenty years of Bishop Bissell's Episcopate the number of communicants, in spite of emigration, has steadily increased from 2,300 to 4,000; and that during the second decade of the same period at least \$150,000 has been added to the church property in the Diocese and State. The Bishop's address given on Wednesday afternoon was a model of kindly and wise counsel, and of thoughtful and loving retrospect of the whole period, and especially of the second decade of his term of office. The 99th Convention is to be held at Rutland.

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

THE LIVING CHURCH (Chicago) well says:—It is sometimes urged against the claims of the historic Church, as to the ministry and sacraments, that there is no evidence of any advantage in these, forasmuch as a high type of Christian character is developed without them. It cannot be denied that even among the Quakers, who discard all ordinances and have no ordained ministry, there have been saintly men and women. It is not, however, right to infer from such facts that the regulative laws of the kingdom of God may be dispensed with. The foundation upon which these characters were built have been preserved by the very laws which they ignore. Without the conservative influences of laws and institutions, the material with which they build would have been wanting. The Holy Scriptures from which they take their faith and rule of life could not have been attested and handed down through all the ages, unimpaired, this revealed truth could not have been guarded from perversion, without the perpetuated ministry, creeds, and sacraments of the Church. Those who fail to discern any use for the Church law and order, and continuity, seem to forget that the Church was pronounced by inspiration to be "the pillar and ground of the truth." They fail to appreciate the fact that they are building into their own Christian character what the order and ordinances of the Church have preserved amid the distractions of philosophy, the negations of science, the assaults of infidelity, and the wreck of empires. We may well ask, what would have been left to them of the Faith, if this conservative power of the organized body had been wanting?

THE CHURCH YEAR (Florida) says: that St. George's church, New York, June 3, Bishop Potter admitted into an association of lay-helpers fourteen young men. They will devote a portion of their time to Church work, will read service and sermons,

visit among the poor and sick, and do all such work as under the canons can rightly be done by laymen. They will wear cotta and cassock, and in the minds of many people there will be scant difference between them and the clergy. In many of the parishes the clergy avail themselves of such assistance, and the laity are becoming constant parochial workers. We have deaconesses and sisters, and why should there not be lay brothers? Six years ago Bishop Littlejohn, first in this country, set apart with religious services some lay helpers—*only good has come of it*—and New York follows the example. The old canon, which forbade the lay reader to wear the distinctive dress of the clergy, or except in the case of emergency to read any part of the service in the presence of a clergyman, has either become obsolete or been repealed; at any rate it is no longer observed. Aaron's place was rightly on the mount to stay up Moses' hands, and it has at last been found out that Hur the laymen must be there no less; the Church is made up not only of Apostles and elders but of brethren also. She is no longer to be left to the ministers and a few women. It is not only duty for laymen to confess their obligation to the Church, but what, to many, seems quite as important, it is "good form."

CHURCH BELLS (London, Eng.) says:—IN more than one newspaper published at the present time, and obtaining a considerable circulation, there seems to be ever working a restless desire to ferret out every misdemeanour of the clergy, and blazon them forth to the world, with all the effect that can be attained by spicy paragraphs and sensational printing. One can scarcely say that the manner in which these exposures are ordinarily given to us leads one to entertain any very high opinion either of the task or of the motives, or indeed of the sincerity of those who seem to find such delight in making them. If these revellers in ugly and unsavoury stories against the clergy, however, are quite honestly and honourably moved by an overwhelming indignation at the deep and wide-spread character of clerical wickedness, they will assuredly hail, whenever they can come across it, any incident which shows that all ecclesiastics are not rogues and debauchees, and give it not less prominence and point in the columns of their print than they bestow on incidents which are disgraceful. We note, therefore, and commend to them the following incident—"At the village of Norton, near Gainsborough, last week, a poor woman named Beck was removed to the town hospital, suffering from small-pox. The husband had already been removed there, so that three little children, one an infant at the breast, had to be left alone in the house. The neighbours were afraid to venture near them, but the village curate, the Rev. H. Keene, hearing of the sad case, went and prepared the little ones' food, washed and got them to bed, and stayed with them the whole night."

LETTERS FROM CALIFORNIA.

No. 7.—Continued.

San Franciscans are very proud of the Palace Hotel; they will tell you it is the finest in the Union, and having seen many fine hotels, we admit that it is equal to the best besides having some features unique in themselves. Through a broad entrance-way one drives into a great central Court with an immense glass roof somewhat like that of the Hotel de Louvre in Paris, but larger; on every side are marble stands with blooming plants, and the five doors are surrounded on all sides with broad balconies, all is of a dazzling white and illuminated at night by the electric lights presents a beautiful scene; every room is lighted and each one has a bath room attached, on the roof are broad walks and observations from which a good view of the city may be had, when the air is free enough from smoke to discern it. There are many interesting points about this city to a tourist from the East, but as to its desirability as a residence there may be some doubts; nearly every street in the level por-

tion is cut up by car-tracks, and one soon gets tired of climbing the steep hills where is the best residence part of the city; some of these hills are almost perpendicular in appearance, no vehicle, except the cable-car climbs them and rarely even pedestrians attempt the feat, at a distance they appear unsurmountable; on a nearer view they are seen to be grass-grown, and were it not for the cable-cars they would be uninhabited except by the poorer classes; the cars, however, solve the difficulty and as the inclines on the farther sides can be used for walking they are all pretty thickly built.

The highest and steepest eminence is approached from California street and called "Nob hill." This is a factitious appellation descriptive of the magnates who inhabit it, such as Senator Stanford, the Fairs, Crockers, Mrs. Mark Hopkins and others, nearly all of whom have made immense fortunes in mining operations and built their castles on this hill which overlooks the whole city and Bay; rarely, however, are these palatial buildings inhabited for any but a small portion of the year, their owners being in London, Paris and all over the world; the novelty has worn off, and even the famed California climate keeps them at home but a short time. On the outskirts of the city and accessible by many lines of horse-cars, is the Golden Gate Park, an extensive piece of ground which some years since was a mere sandy waste or a succession of sand drives as they are called here being blown up by the winds until they form hills of sand, these and outlying portions are now made into a beautiful Park with conservatories, gardens and any number of broad drives and walks; were it not for the park there would indeed be no drive worthy of the name in or around San Francisco, except by crossing the ferry to Oakland. The absence of handsome carriages or turn-outs in the streets is noticeable except in the fashionable shopping quarter; the park is the only accessible drive, and on Saturday afternoons is a stirring sight. Here is the one place and Saturday the great day for the display of wealth and beauty in the open air and under the sunny skies of California; in this present month of April the park is seen at its best, the number and beauty of the roses and other flowers is remarkable; roses of all tints from pale pink, cream and yellow to deepest red, the foliage is all in full leaf and mingles well with the darker green of the evergreen Monterey cypress and cedars; there are hundreds of pleasant seats, the fine band plays the sweetest of music and the throng of carriages is endless. Directly opposite the band stand is a circular drive around which are rows upon rows of seats; round and round the drive circle the carriages, and outside on the broad park road are hundreds more; to be sure, it is somewhat like the illusive picture where the people go in at the church door and out at the back, appearing ever at the front again, but that does not detract from the spectacle and the turn-outs are certainly much finer than in Chicago; all too soon the pleasant music is over and the gay crowd dissolves away.

(To be continued.)

THE STUDY OF SCRIPTURE.

BY THE BISHOP OF MEATH.

Nothing can be more calculated to lead astray than reading the Old Testament, as many do, without any discrimination of time and circumstance, without being sensible of the *gradual educating process* of which it is the record. To suppose that Abraham was as enlightened as Paul and John, or even as David and Isaiah, is a great mistake; and so again, to take the lives of the patriarchs as examples of Christian ex-