

EVANGELICAL TRUTH AND APOSTOLIC ORDER.

The Western Churchman.

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EASTER-TIDE.

Another Easter day has come and gone, but the radiance which came with it lingers on still in the Church,—the echoes of the triumphant song, "The Lord is risen, Alleluia!" continue to fall on our ears, and fill our hearts with a glorious hope.

Easter tide is in many ways the most important season in the whole course of the Church's year.

Viewed in the light of doctrine, it is almost impossible to over-estimate its importance, for it corresponds to the period of the Great Forty Days, during which our Blessed Lord imparted to His disciples that deeper insight into spiritual things, which could not be given during His life of humiliation; and His Church calls upon us, at this time, to meditate on these lofty themes. It is the risen Lord who conveys to us the blessed assurance, not only that the life now implanted in the soul shall never die, but that we ourselves, in our individual personal existence, shall survive the shock of death, and shall pass in triumph through that dissolution of the grave from which all the feelings of our nature shrink. There is more than the hope of immortality here set before us. There is the hope that we, even as we are, with our present powers and faculties and affections, with our bodies as well as our souls, shall pass into the land of Promise. How this shall be we know not; but, we know

that what was possible for Him—the Son of Man—is also possible for us—the sons of men. Because He rose, we shall also rise.

Eastertide is also an important season as regards Church life and work. It is then that congregations meet, to review the progress made during the year that is gone, to inspect their forces, and estimate their wants for the coming year. Would that every communicant could be induced to realize the important bearing that the Easter congregational meetings have on the work of the Church—we should then see far better attendances than are usually found on these occasions. Many seem to have the idea that these meetings are of a purely formal character, and in consequence make themselves conspicuous by their absence. Indeed, on some occasions, we have seen Easter meetings so poorly attended that the few communicants who were present had to nominate and elect themselves as members of the Vestry. How can we hope to carry on good work in our congregations, if so little interest is taken in Church business and organization. We boast of a long and noble lineage, and we have good cause for so doing; but, we cannot close our eyes to the fact that in respect of Church life, and Church work, and Church organization, we are put to shame by the activity of other religious bodies around us.

This Eastertide, in particular, ought to be regarded by Western Churchmen, at least those of the Diocese of Rupert's Land, as of more than ordinary importance, on account of the strenuous effort that is being made by clergy and earnest laity to bring to a successful issue the conference that is arranged to take place at the time of meeting of the Diocesan Synod. Here again we have to say a word to our readers generally. In spite of intimations to the contrary, the great majority of Church people seem not to understand that the Synod is open to every member of the Church, and that all will be made heartily welcome to attend and hear the discussion of those important matters that so nearly concern the life and work of the Church.

Let us, one and all, try to realize the importance of the blessed Easter Season, in all of these aspects; and then it will come to pass that the teaching of the Risen Lord will reveal itself in the revival of spiritual life in individuals, while a keener interest in congregational and diocesan Church work will redound to God's glory and the good of the Church at large.

To each and all of our readers we extend our heartiest Easter Greetings.