

Dominion Churchman.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1876.

THE WORK OF THE CHURCH.

It is not always an effort of superogation to endeavor to form an estimate of what we are doing in the world; and little as that may be, compared with what ought to be done, we may safely say there is no religious society in the world at this moment which is doing so much good everywhere, including England, the Colonies, and the regions of Heathenism, as the Anglican Communion. It may be that Rome is more successful in the working of some foreign missions, that Lutheranism may be doing more for a certain kind of scientific theology. Methodism doubtless stirs up religious emotion more than most other widely spread forms of opinion. Jewish charity has been declared to be a model of wise and successful organization; so that in particular departments the English Church may be surpassed by other religious bodies; but there is no question that her general average is the highest in the world. Her social influence has been well earned, and is unquestionable; so much so, indeed, that we sometimes meet with men of other communions who appear to join the Church pretty much for the sake of social position. And these cases constitute a great part of our difficulty; because the individuals themselves endeavour to model our church after their own notions; hence much of the disagreement. Many of the troubles which have lately occurred, both in England and Canada, might be traced to this source.

One of the most successful and most useful branches of church action, that of promoting the education of the poor, is that in which the church has been eminently successful in England; but which is a thing simply neglected, if not opposed by the Roman Church, where it has had a monopoly of the field. In literary diligence and a corresponding eminence in the whole field of ecclesiastical literature, as distinguished from the special branches cultivated by Germans, the English Church can claim a decided pre-eminence. And another very important particular may be noticed, which is that she has manifested an earnest desire to amend her ways, wherever in the course of ages, she has gone wrong; whether this has arisen from too close an assimilation to the corrupt Church of Rome, or whether, in her efforts to free herself from the errors of that Church, she may sometimes have gone to the opposite extreme.

Surely, as has been remarked, such a church is not a spiritual mother to be ashamed of. She has spread herself, under the guidance of her great Head, over many of the finest parts of the world, with her dioceses and missions stretching over America, Australasia, much of Asia and portions of Africa; winning to

herself the purest and the most highly cultivated minds where she is planted, and doubtless having a future commensurate with that of the English race itself, already the master race of the world in extent and variety of dominion. She is not a communion to be humbly subordinated either to that erratic church whose faults are at least as great, but of whose repentance and amendment no token is visible; nor is she for a moment to be put in comparison with the multitude of sects everywhere springing up, all of which combined, could not claim her grandeur of position, and none of them can share in her triumphs.

Let us by all means copy whatever is worth copying, wherever we can find it, irrespective of the source whence it can be obtained. But let us never forget that we occupy a vantage ground, peculiarly our own; and that we have evangelical truth that we cannot surrender to Rome, and also that we possess an Apostolic Order that we cannot basely and ignobly give up to the destructive elements of the sects around us.

THE HOUSE OF BISHOPS, U. S.

The Presiding Bishop of the Church of the United States, having received a written request from more than twelve Bishops for the purpose, has given notice for a special meeting of the House of Bishops to be held in Holy Trinity Church, Philadelphia, at ten a.m., on Friday, October 13, 1876, when the consideration of the following subjects will be brought before them: I. The election of a Missionary Bishop for Cape Palmas, Africa, and parts adjacent; and also the election of a Missionary Bishop of Shanghai, having episcopal jurisdiction in China. II. To receive and act upon the resignation of the right Reverend F. Adams, D.D., Missionary Bishop of New Mexico and Arizona. III. To receive, and if judged needful, act on communications from commissions of the House of Bishops having charge of its relations with foreign chambers or missions. IV. And to take into consideration the circular of his grace the Archbishop of Canterbury with regard to the second Lambeth Conference.

This meeting of the House of Bishops in the centennial year will by no means be an unimportant one. It will be a subject of general rejoicing among us if men should be found who will undertake the responsible duties of the Episcopate, for two Bishoprics so important as those of Shanghai, and Cape Palmas, as it has been a matter for regret that suitable clergymen who will undertake these onerous posts have not yet been found. We trust also, that the circular of the Archbishop of Canterbury will be heartily responded to by the Bishops who are to assemble in October, and that the second Lambeth Conference will be attended with more satisfactory results than the former one.

There are those we believe, who were considerate enough to think the first Conference not entirely useless, as it promoted genial expression and a feeling of oneness among all branches of the great Anglican communion; but as the general expectation among those who went there, as well as with others, was that some decided expression was to be given on the Colenso heresy, the manifesto sent forth as the grand result of the meeting, reminded most people very strongly of the mountain and the mouse. The refusal of the Dean of Westminster to lend the Abbey, also threw a chill over the proceedings.

CONFIRMATION OF A BISHOP ELECT.

The question of the election of a Bishop by a Diocese, requiring to be confirmed by the House of Bishops, was brought forward in the recent meeting of the Diocesan Synod at Nova Scotia, notice having been given at the last session by the Lord Bishop. After some discussion, the resolution passed unanimously in the following form:—

"Resolved, That this Synod is of opinion that the consent of the majority of the Bishops of the Province should be required previous to the consecration of the person elected by any Diocese to that important office, provided that in case the consent of the required majority shall not be obtained, then the dissentient Bishops shall severally in writing communicate to the synod of the diocese whose election has not been confirmed, their reason for their dissent within some specified time."

That some arrangement of this kind should be adopted seems to be the prevalent sentiment, and we think this very far superior to the mode adopted in the United States, which is about as cumbersome an arrangement as could be adopted in a Republican country. It is all the more desirable that the subject should be discussed and a Canon of the Provincial Synod enacted upon it, inasmuch as from the satisfactory elections that have already taken place, the discussions in reference thereto would have no personal reference, and the whole matter would be settled on its own merits, as one purely of principle, and not of party or personal feeling.

A JEWISH MISSION.

As among the countries of the earth, Palestine is one of the foremost in interest, so throughout the races of humanity, the Jewish people have been, and again will be among the most important; and the part they have played in the great drama of the world's history is nothing compared with the power and influence they shall claim before the final act of the present dispensation. In literature, in art and science, in statesmanship and in war, the first rank has, in innumerable instances, in ancient and modern times, belonged to them.