

COMING INTO PORT.

I HAVE weathered the turbulent cape of storms,
Where the winds of passion blow :
I have sheered by the reefs that gnash to foam
The shallows that lurk below ;
I have joyed in the surge of the whistling sea,
And the wild strong stress of the gale,
As my brave bark quivered and leaped, alive
To the strain of its crowded sail.
Then the masterful spirit was on me,
And with Nature I wrestled glad :
And the danger was like a passionate bride
And love was itself half mad.
Then life was a storm that blew me on,
And flew as the wild winds fly,
And Hope was a pennon streaming out
High up—to play with the sky.

Oh ! the golden days, the glorious days
That so slavish of life we spent !
Oh ! the dreaming nights with the silent stars
'Neath the sky's mysterious tent !
Oh ! the light, light heart and the strong desire
And the pulse's quickening thrill,
When Joy lived with us, and Beauty smiled
And youth had its free, full will !
The whole wide world was before us then,
And never our spirits failed.
And we never looked back, but onward, onward
Into the future we sailed.
Ever before us the fair horizon
Whose dim and exquisite line
Alone dividing our Earth from Heaven,
Our Life from a Life divine.

Now my voyage is well nigh over,
And my staunchest spars are gone ;
And my sails are rent, and my barnackled bark
Drags slowly and heavily on.
The faint breeze comes from the distant shore
With its odour dim and sweet,
And soon in the silent harbor of peace
Long-parted friends I shall greet.
The voyage is well-nigh over,
Though at times a capful of wind
Will rattle the ropes and fill the sails
And furrow a wake behind.
But the sea has become a weariness,
And glad into port I shall come
With my sails all furled, and my anchor dropped,
And my cargo carried home.

WHY WELCOME THE BISHOP?

"Why are the bells ringing?"

"Why are the bells ringing? Don't you know?
They are ringing to welcome the Bishop."

"To welcome the Bishop! And what is he more than any other clergyman? Of course, he is richer, and in a worldly sense greater, and is set over other clergymen; but why should there be a fuss to welcome him? What is he more than any other clergyman, I should like to know?"

"Should you, indeed? Well, good friend, I only overheard your speech quite accidentally and in passing, and it was not addressed to me; but as I saw your companion walk away without telling you that which you said you 'should like to know,' may I, though a stranger, now offer you a few words to the purpose?"

"A Bishop is more than another clergyman in a far higher sense than that of riches or worldly greatness. He holds a higher commission from our Lord. He is of the highest order of the ministry, and has received a special Divine gift for his special office. A Bishop is an Apostle. If he had his proper title he would be so called. But out of reverence for those whom we call the Holy Apostles—that is to say, the twelve Apostles of our Lord, with St. Paul and St. Barnabas—their successors dropped that title and only called themselves Bishops, which was then really but the name for those who had the care and oversight of the company of Christians—that is to say, of a portion of the Christian Church—in any place.

"The first twelve Apostles were the first Christian ministers, appointed by our Lord. They were 'to be with Him; and that He might send them forth to preach, and to have power to heal sickness and to cast out devils.' But after His Resurrection our Lord bestowed upon His Apostles a higher commission and a special consecration and heavenly gift. 'Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as My Father hath sent Me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, He breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.' After this all Scripture goes to show that the Holy Apostles considered especial offices to have been allotted to them by our Lord; and we must remember that His mind on such points was made perfectly clear to them during the forty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension, when he spoke to them of 'the things pertaining to the Kingdom of God;' that is to say, the things concerning His Church.

"We find the Holy Apostles performing all the offices which belong to all orders of the sacred ministry, but we also find that, besides these, certain offices belong to themselves alone. Chief among these special offices of the early Apostles of our Lord we find the ordaining of clergy—priests and deacons; the former being called presbyters or elders—the confirming the baptized, and the consecration of other Apostles. These other Apostles then performed the same special offices; and without Apostles

"Clergy could not be ordained,

"Christians could not be confirmed,

"Other Apostles could not be consecrated.

"Now, if I may here repeat that those whom we in these days call Bishops are the successors of those whom the Bible calls Apostles, you will know, I think, that which you said you 'should like to know;' namely, what, more than any other clergyman, a Bishop can be said to be. You will see, too, a fuller meaning in the words which you repeat so often, 'I believe one Catholic and Apostolic Church;' and knowing and seeing all this, you will, I am sure, no longer consider it undue 'fuss' if loyal Church-folk ring the bells to welcome the Bishop to the parish."—*Selected.*