

the church. To have this object before us would be only to act in accordance with our noblest traditions, for if there is one great fact of which our beloved church, whatever her shortcomings in other directions, has reason to be justly proud, one jewel in her crown which time can never dim, it is her supreme interest from the earliest times in the education of her children. Long before any scientific system of primary and secondary education existed we find, in the Mother Country, that the church was founding schools over the



VERY REV. E. J. BIDWELL, M. A., D.D., D.C.L.

length and breadth of the land, and endowing them with money, so that the poor might benefit equally with the well-to-do. This educational activity on the part of the Church was due to her profound conviction that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and that any conception of training for the young which is not based upon that essential foundation must be inadequate and defective. In this country our Church has tried in some measure to live up to her old traditions. Long before the present public school system was inaugurated, our church was founding Grammar Schools for boys, and Diocesan Schools for girls, and so high a reputation have some of them secured, that many besides her own members owe her a debt of gratitude for the education received in such schools. But useful as this work has been, the bulk of the children of the church have no such advantages, and the result is that separation in the child-mind of education and religious-teaching, (by religious-teaching I mean, of course, to include definite instruction in the beliefs of the