

that which the Church enjoined. The matter was, therefore, no longer within the competency of the diet; and as far as the clergy were concerned, they were not warranted in taking up the dispute with that heretic, without a special commission from the Pope.

The princes, however, were not disposed to bow to this mandate, and a very large majority of the states required, that Luther should appear in person. They alleged, there were so many and such serious objections existing against the administration of the Pope, that it was at length become necessary to adopt measures for removing them. It was right, therefore, to hear what the monk of Wittenberg had brought against them, and then to determine on the course fitting to be pursued. In other respects, it was incumbent upon them to convince him of his errors, and assist upon his retracting them, in those points where he had really impugned the Christian faith.

The Emperor's council, in which papal influence and the spirit of the Spanish inquisitor assorted ill with the political cunning of the Netherlands, wavered in its decisions; until every other consideration gave way to a feeling, that it might enhance the influence of the new Emperor if it were made to appear, that the Roman chair could not trample even upon a monk, without the sanction of the German sovereign. On the 6th of March, therefore, a citation was issued, in the name of his imperial Majesty, inviting Dr. Martin Luther, under a promise of safe escort, to come and put in his answer personally. But no mention was made of any recantation; Luther having already replied, in confidential communication with Spalatin, his sovereign's chaplain and confidential secretary, that recantation was wholly out of the question. The passage of his letter which contains this declaration, runs thus:—"Do not imagine that I shall retract; but I will come, even though my life may be the forfeit. I have no thoughts of flight, nor of suffering the word of God to be endangered; on the contrary, I will maintain it unto death, Christ being my helper."

Upon receiving the summons, which was brought to him by Casper Sturm on the 24th of March, he made himself ready for the journey. The magistrate of Wittenberg presented him with a conveyance, and appointed Hieronymus Schurf, a juriconsult, to be his counsellor. He was also accompanied by several friends; namely, Nicholas of Amsdorf, dean of the chapter; Justus Jonas, a professor; and Von Schwaben, a Danish gentleman. Thus provided and attended, he passed through Erfurth and Frankfort, being kindly received by knights and citizens, and cheered with numerous testimonies of a lively sympathy in his fate, upon his road to the borders of the Rhine. At Oppenheim he found a letter, earnestly warning him of his peril; and on this occasion, he addressed the following impressive words to the bystanders:—"Aye, and if there be as many devils at Worms as tiles on its roofs, I will not be deterred." Upon leaving Oppenheim, numbers of persons of gentle blood met him with friendly greeting, and formed a handsome retinue about the Reformer, who was modestly attired in his monkish garb. With this escort he entered Worms at ten o'clock in the morning of the 16th April, and surrounded by an immense crowd of people dismounted at the house of the Teutonic order, where Frederic of Thunau and Philip of Feifitsch, as well as Von Pappenheim, the hereditary marshal of the empire, had taken up their quarters.

It was not long before he was admitted to a hearing. Notice of a general sitting of the diet was given for the same afternoon, and Pappenheim was directed not only to cite him to appear, but to conduct him into its presence at the hour appointed. This last was rendered necessary indeed by the enormous pressure of the bystanders, through whom the marshal and attendant herald found much difficulty in bringing him to the episcopal palace, where they had also to force a passage through the antechamber, which was filled to overflowing with princes and noblemen. Many an encouraging expression cheered Luther on his way; amongst these it will be in the reader's recollection, that George of Frundsberg, the imperial commander, tapped him upon the shoulder, and exclaimed, "Friend monk, thou hast taken a step far bolder than I and many of my brother leaders have adventured on the field of battle; but the fight is thy own; therefore, go thy way in God's name."

Still it was matter of uncertainty what sort of reception he would meet with: he was abundantly armed for the task, and had

fully made up his mind to enter upon a theological contest. He was, therefore, not a little astonished when John Von Eck, the official general of Treves, simply asked him in the Emperor's name, and by direction of the diet, "Whether he acknowledged that the books that lay before him were his writing? and whether he retracted, or was resolved to abide by their contents?"

He was on the eve of replying, when his attorney interposed, and required that the titles of the books should be read over. This having been done, Luther resolutely answered to the effect, "that he acknowledged these books to be his own, and was prepared to justify the several assertions they contained." But as regarded the other question, whether he was ready to defend or retract every isolated opinion he had expressed, he observed, "that such an answer was far more difficult to give, and, indeed, was of so deep an importance, as to induce him to solicit time for maturer consideration."

As the majority of his judges thought the request by no means unreasonable, although he was unworthy of such a favor (as Von Eck observed), time was granted him until the next morning, when he was admonished to appear, and deliver in his answer orally.

(To be continued.)

REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE EPISCOPAL FLOATING CHAPEL,
OR PART OF DUBLIN SOCIETY, FOR THE RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION
OF SEAMEN, 1830.

(Continued from last week.)

The Sunday school has been carried on as usual, from two till half past three o'clock, with the exception of a temporary suspension, owing to the ill health of the last Chaplain—this School being invariably superintended by the Chaplain himself. It is also purposed to open a reading library for the children, to encourage their attention, and supply them at home with wholesome food for the mind prepared for it by instruction. The advantages of Sabbath School teaching are too well known to need any comment here.

The Directors feel much gratified to state that the Week Evening School has been prosperously continued; and they would add, that the anxious inquiries among the seamen when it would re-open, (for it is found necessary to discontinue it in the summer months, as the men continue so late at work,) at once evince the value they place upon it. This is under the direction of a master duly qualified to instruct in reading, writing, arithmetic, and navigation, and under the general superintendance of the Chaplain. A return book, stating the hour of attendance, is given by the Master to every one attending, that the Captains of the respective vessels may be assured that the sailors are engaged at the school while absent from their ships.

Any one acquainted with the vice and depravity that pervades the streets of our metropolis at night, will at once recognize the benefit of having a seminary opened to withdraw the seamen from such baneful contagion.

The Directors have not been unmindful of the particularly useful plan of supplying the vessels with Bibles, Testaments, and Prayer-books; and the average yearly distribution for the above-mentioned period has been 70 Bibles, 92 Testaments, and 51 Prayer-books. Of the Testaments, some have been in the French, Welsh, Danish, and Dutch languages; of these, none have been given gratuitously. And it cannot but be gratifying to every lover of the Redeemer's kingdom to be informed, that there is scarcely a vessel frequenting this port that has not been supplied with the word of everlasting life.

Tracts in different languages have been judiciously circulated, and the seamen frequently apply at the Chapel, and to the Chaplain in his visits during the week, for fresh supplies of this highly useful medium of conveying the truths of the Gospel of Jesus: a manifest proof that they have not been without their beneficial result.

It is with deep regret the Directors have to state, that the deficiency of their funds has constrained them to be very limited in the supply of Books for their Reading Library. The Books are