

# Dominion Churchman.

THE ORGAN OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN CANADA.

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## LESSONS for SUNDAYS and HOLY-DAYS.

August 14th.—TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY  
Morning.—1 Kings xxi.; Romans xi. 25.  
Evening.—1 Kings xiii. or 1 Kings xvii. Matt. xiv to 29.

THURSDAY, AUG. 11, 1887.

To CORRESPONDENTS.—All matter for publication in any number of DOMINION CHURCHMAN should be in the office not later than Thursday for the following week's issue.

METHODISM ON THE DECLINE.—The following appears in the *Methodist Recorder*, of 26th May last:

We have received the following letter from an esteemed minister: "Sir,—In view of the question 'Can we do anything to fill our large city chapels, many of which are now all but empty?' let me give your readers a little of my experience on Sunday last. Having preached in the morning, I went at 1.30 to —. Here we have a very good chapel, which will seat 400 people, and a large schoolroom on the same site. The chapel-keeper informed me that the congregation in the morning, consisted of about twelve adults and a few children. I met a class at 2.30 which had three members. In the school I found 101 boys, 97 girls, and 28 teachers. At three o'clock I went to the meeting of the Church Army, which is held near to our chapel. Here the congregation consisted of 420 working people, some of them very poorly clad and wearing clogs. The service, which was short, lively, and varied, was conducted by the rector, his curate, and army captain. Every night the Army band is out. The schoolroom is packed every evening in the week, and on Sunday both the church and army-meeting room are full to overflowing. The people say that often the rector is preaching in the streets at half-past nine o'clock in the evening—a worthy example to Methodist preachers. This service, and the sight of so many hundreds of men, women, and children, in the streets, moved my heart.

If the rectors of the neighbouring parishes can fill their churches, we ought to fill our chapels. The people can be reached if only we set to work in the right way. In this one district we have 68,000 people, and a public-house for every 30 families, but we have not one resident Methodist preacher or a Nonconformist minister of any kind. The clergy and Catholic priests live near their

churches, among the people. This district is not sufficiently clean, healthy, and pleasant for Nonconformist ministers. This fact, together with our unwillingness to adapt ourselves and our services to the changed condition of the people, accounts for our empty chapels."

Over Methodism in England, may be written "Ishabod"—the glory has vanished, rather the spirit which gave it power, has returned to the Church from whence it came forth. There are several noticeable points in the above letter. Note how the word "chapel" is used, not church. Note too how the writer recognizes that the Church of England shepherds all classes, while Wesleyans and Nonconformists abandon the poor, seeking only souls with pockets equal to the charge for pew rents. Note too the sad narrowness of the system. The writer's heart was moved not to help those who were doing God's work—but moved to do something to disturb that work, for the sake of helping to fill a chapel. God help such small minded and petty souls, the system that breeds them must break up.

How FACTS ARE MANUFACTURED.—The following is taken from the *London Times* report of the Crimes Bill debate. The speaker, the Hon. Mr. Balfour, is replying to Mr. Gladstone, who had made certain statements to the dreadful number of Irish evictions.

"While I am on statistics I must refer for a moment to the use which the right hon. gentleman has made of statistics, which I think has created very serious misconception in the country. The House may recollect that the right hon. gentleman came down here and gave us some figures with regard to evictions in Ireland during the present reign—allegations founded on the authority of a gentleman whom he described as an eminent statistician.

The right hon. gentleman gave the authority, and the authority was a certain Mr. Mulhall. I was astounded at those figures; there were such as I think nobody the least acquainted with Irish statistics would have known to be correct. I have examined this point, and will the House believe me when I say that in those figures, Mr. Mulhall's method of proceeding had been this: He has taken the Government return, which gave him in two columns the number of families and the number of persons evicted. He has deliberately selected the column containing the number of persons; he has treated that column as if it consisted of families, and he has chosen to assume that the Irish family consists of seven persons, and he has multiplied the number of evictions by seven in consequence, and those are the figures which, on the authority of the right hon. gentleman, are now quoted in newspaper after newspaper, they receive a currency which they never would otherwise obtain, and they are used in every quarter of England to excite prejudice against the landlord class and to throw additional weight of disgrace upon English rule in Ireland. Mr. Gladstone must be suffering from softening of the brain, to allow himself to be victimized by cooked statistics in so scandalous a manner. Knowing Mr. Gladstone's power over details, his habit of testing figures before using them, we find it very difficult to believe that he did not know the statistics he quoted to be fraudulently false. Since the exposure of their falsity, we have seen them quoted and commented upon by newspapers as if authentic, so full of vitality is a lie when it is valuable as a party argument or weapon!

WHAT LAND LEAGUEISM WILL LEAD TO.—The following timely warning is from the pen of the Rev. Alex. Donovan, Riston, near Hull. That the agitation against payment of rent in Ireland will end there, and end in that is incredible. Canadian property holders who favor the Land League, will one day find the serpent they have reared to drive

out the Protestant landlords of Ireland, will turn upon the property holders class everywhere:

"The landlords of Ireland have been robbed, vilified, slandered, insulted, and language has been used of them in Parliament, and the press which readily explains why they can be murdered with impunity when the gentle means of 'boycotting' fails to shake their determination to retain the 'part-owner'-ship of the estates they inherited or purchased, which 'a legal technicality' (soon no doubt to be removed) still secures to them. It is now generally agreed that they must be got rid of entirely, whether by the bullet of the murderer, or by some other of the 'resources of civilization' is as yet undetermined. But when Colonel O'Callaghan and the other 'exterminators' have been happily exterminated does any one who knows human nature believe that the thirst for other people's property will cease with one class of proprietors, any more than the bloodthirstiness of a pack of wolves would be satiated by the extermination of one flock of sheep? There is already a 'house league' to compel 'restitution' to town tenants, to whom (as Mr. Fagan will remember) Jubilee regulations did not apply (Lev. xxv. 30). When the 'unproductive classes' have been 'expropriated,' 'the spirit of the Commandments' (I quote the rector of Great Cressingham) may require those who desire 'justice for Ireland' to demand 'restitution' from those manufacturers and merchants who have not paid 'fair' wages to their employees. Then will come the turn of the retail traders, who trade upon the scarcity of commodities, as Colonel O'Callaghan is said to have traded on 'the love of home,' and tell people who 'cling to' their tea and whisky, 'I'll be paid in full,' when 'the poor man begs for an allowance' of the bill. Finally, any Irishman with a decent coat on his back (especially if it be of 'foreign,' i. e. British, cloth) will be 'made to disgorge,' and perhaps in the end those who have any clothes at all. When things have been thus made 'square all around,' when the land has been reduced to a prairie value, and the inhabitants to a prairie costume of paint, dirt, and feathers; when commerce, manufactures, capital, civilization, and the very tradition of honest industry have been swept away—an Irish Parliament may determine, amid the ruins of Dublin, how the millions of banditti, left with no one to plunder, are to be clothed and fed.

ALEX. DONOVAN.

Riston Parsonage, Hull.

MAN'S TRUE GLORY.—"Too often we pride ourselves on some accidental advantage of birth or wealth, or intellectual attainment, or physical strength. Our true glory is that we are the children of God by the power of the Resurrection, bearing (oh, solemn truth) Christ within us, so that we are indeed theotropei and partakers of the divine nature. Oh, the shame, the misery, not to put that life in exercise." "If we cherish the divine life within us, if we exert it in warring against evil, in following after holiness in thought, word, and deed, how bright the prospect opening before us for time and for eternity!"

LADIES IN SURPLICES.—An innovation in choir was introduced on Sunday at St. Luke's Church, one of the fashionable churches in Birmingham. For some time past the choir—a ladies' and gentlemen's voluntary—has been situated in the gallery at the west end of the church. The Rev. W. B. Wilkinson, the vicar, feeling the inconvenience of this arrangement, desired to remove it into the chancel. This necessitated the introduction of surplices, but the difficulty was how to drape the ladies. This has been successfully got over. Very tastefully decorated designed surplices have been made for the female members of the choir. They are of Scotch lawn, with pleated backs. Purple velvet caps complete the attire. St. Luke's is not "High Church."