

# THE LESSONS OF THE JUBILEE.

It is generally agreed that the celebration of the Jubilee of the Diocese of Toronto was successful beyond the expectations of most of those who were concerned in preparing for it. Some persons were actually afraid that it would not be possible to keep up the interest of the celebration for a whole week! It would hardly be possible to give a more convincing evidence of the low state of feeling with regard to church matters in many quarters than to mention that such an apprehension was actually entertained. So far was it from being justified that, in spite of very unfavourable weather, the congregations were very large every evening, and increased night after night instead of diminishing. In fact, every arrangement connected with the celebration was carried out with great success.

The question now remains: What is to come of it? How is the Church to be the better for the eloquent sermons and speeches delivered during the week? How is the effect of the prayers, and teachings, and conferences to be seen in the quickened life of the dioceses of Ontario and of the Diocese of Toronto in particular? This was the aim of the Bishop of Toronto when he projected the celebration; and it may be said that, unless some increased earnestness and devotion shall be manifested as the result, the mere collecting of a certain sum of money for the new cathedral or for any other purpose will hardly seem an adequate outcome for so much thought and effort?

It is not too late to consider what may yet be done. It is a time when it becomes the church people of this great province to examine the state of their parishes and congregations, and to ascertain as far as we can, what our relative positions, as a church, in this country, and how we may account either for its prospering or for its declining.

It is said that whilst the progress of the diocese of Toronto is fully satisfactory, it is not quite sufficiently so, and that the case is worse with some of the other dioceses. It is said, moreover, that the progress of the diocese of Toronto is chiefly in the great city which is its capital, whilst many of the country parishes and missions are languishing. It is not quite easy to say off hand how far this may be the case. But it is most desirable that the true state of the matter should be ascertained.

There are a great many elements in this inquiry, some of which may not be quite easy to get at. But a good deal of information may be obtained as to matters of fact; and influences of a fairly trustworthy character may be drawn from the facts. For example, we may probably ascertain with a close approach to accuracy the ratio between the increase of the population and the increase of the members of our church. It is said that neither Episcopalians nor Presbyterians keep pace with the increase of population, and that the Methodists rather outstrip the population in their relative increase. These are statements which may be verified or disputed. Then, again, we may ascertain approximately the increased or decreased attendance of churches, the increased accommodation provided in churches, the number of communicants, especially at the great seasons of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, the sums of money contributed to the work of the Church at home and abroad.

When we have obtained these important statistics, we shall then be in a position to consider how we may explain and account for the state of things which we have discovered. How is it that the Church has prospered in one place and not in

another? Have the other denominations stripped the Church in any particular localities, and, if so, for what reason? What have been the chief hindrances to the progress of the Church and in what manner may they be removed? What things have we done that we ought not to have done? What things have we left undone which we ought to have done? We must try to get answers, to all or some of these questions, and then we shall have learnt some, at least, of the lessons of the Jubilee.

## REVIEWS.

### TENNYSON'S NEW POEMS.

Rumors have been circulating for some time that the Poet Laureate was about to issue a volume of poems which would justify the expectations of his most ardent admirers, and we are confident that the readers of the volume now before us will not be disappointed in its contents. It contains no fewer than twenty-nine pieces composed in various diverse styles, and there are few indeed which fall below the level of the clan to which they belong. We have the Greek legend, which has always been a favourite with the poet from the days of Onone downwards, we have the Northern farmer uttering his monologue with unabated shrewdness and force, we have again tragedies of sin and woe, and many other phases of thought and sentiment, recalling some of the best work of the distinguished author.

The ode "On the Jubilee of Queen Victoria," if not equal to some of the poet's earlier patriotic poems, is yet not unworthy of the great occasion on which it was produced. The lines with which it concludes embody the aspirations of all who love the native land, and who, in spite of all dangers and difficulties, have faith in her future:

"Are there thunders moaning in the distance?  
Are there spectres moving in the darkness?  
Trust the Hand of Light will lead her people,  
Till the thunders pass, the spectres vanish,  
And the Light is Victor, and the darkness  
Dawns into the Jubilee of the Ages."

The poem which gives its name to the volume first saw light in a magazine, and is one of the most striking poems in the volume. It is a rendering of one of the forms of the well-known story of Demeter and Persaphone, better known to some, perhaps, as Ceres and Proserpine. The longing of the mother to recover her lost daughter from the gloomy abode of Aedonus (Pluto) and her vengeance upon the earth are wonderfully set forth. Demeter says:

"Then I, Earth Goddess, cursed the Gods of Heaven,  
I would not mingle with their feasts; to me  
Their nectar smack'd of hemlock on the lips,  
Their rich ambrosia tasted aconite  
My quick tears killed the flower, my ravings hush'd  
The bird, and lost in bitter grief I fail'd  
To send my life thro' olive yard and vine  
And golden grain, my gift to helpless man.  
Rain-rotten died the wheat, the barley-spears  
Were hollow-husk'd, the leaf fell, and the sun,  
Pale at my grief, drew down before his time  
Sickening, and Ætna kept her winter snow."

The poem "Old Roa," is an admirable successor of the Northern farmer, and tells how the old dog, "faithful and true," saved the farmer's young child. This is the farmer's opinion of the animal:

"Fur 'e's moor good sense na the Parliament man 'at  
stans fur us 'ere,  
An' I'd voat fur 'im, my oan sen, if 'e could but stan fur  
the Shere.  
'Faithful an' True'—them words be i' Scripture—an'  
'Faithful an' True'  
Ull be fun' upo' four short legs ten times fur one upo'  
two."

We must return to this precious volume again; but we are sure that our readers will give us special thanks for quoting here the first poem in the collection, addressed to the Marquis of Dufferin, who had shown "unspeakable kindness" to Lord Tennyson's dying son in India:

\* Demeter and Other Poems. By Alfred Lord Tennyson. Macmillan, London, 1889. Price 6d.

To the Marquis of Dufferin and Ava:

I  
At times our Britain cannot rest,  
At times her steps are swift and rash;  
She moving, at her girdle clash  
The golden keys of East and West.

II  
Nor swift or rash when late she lent  
The sceptres of her West, her East,  
To one, that ruling has increased  
Her greatness and her self-content.

III  
Your rule has made the people love  
Their ruler. Your viceregal days  
Have added fulness to the phrase  
Of 'gauntlet in the velvet glove.'

IV  
But since your name will grow with time,  
Not all, as honouring your fair fame  
Of Statesman, have I made the name  
A golden portal to my rhyme:

V  
But more, that you and yours may know  
From me and mine, how dear a debt  
We owed you, and are owing yet  
To you and yours, and still would owe.

VI  
For he—your India was his Fate,  
And drew him over sea to you—  
He fain had ranged her thro' and thro'  
To serve her myriads and the State,—

VII  
A soul that, watch'd from earliest youth,  
And on thro' many a brightening year,  
He never swerved for craft or fear,  
By one side-path from simple truth;

VIII  
Who might have chased and clasped renown  
And caught her chaplet here—and there  
In haunts of jungle-poison'd air  
The wave of life went wavering down;

IX  
But ere he left your fatal shore  
And lay on that funereal boat,  
Dying, unspeakable he wrote  
'Their kindness,' and he wrote no more;

X  
And sacred is the latest word;  
Add now The was, the might-have-been,  
And those lone rites I have not seen,  
And one drear sound I have not heard.

XI  
Are dreams that scarce will let me be,  
Not there to bid my boy farewell,  
When that within the coffin fell,  
Fell and flash'd into the Red Sea.

XII  
Beneath a hard Arabian moon  
And alien stars. To question, why  
The sons before the fathers die,  
Not mine! and may I meet him soon;

XIII  
But while my life's late eve endures,  
Nor settles into hueless gray,  
My memories of his briefer day  
Will mix with love for you and yours.

Harper for January begins its new volume with a number of admirable articles and engravings. Among the best is the first of a series of papers on Jamaica, Past and Present. *Littell's Living Age* brings its sixty-eighth volume to an end with the December number. The selections from English magazines are all readable and interesting. The *Arena*, in its second number (for January), maintains the position of its first issue. It has a number of able and vigorous articles, chiefly of a highly unorthodox character, many of which must receive attention from those who wish to prevent the spread of the opinions which they advocate.

The Protestant Episcopal Almanac and Parochial List for 1890. Thomas Whiteker, New York. 1890. Price 25 cents.

This is a very complete and handy ecclesiastical almanac, containing all kinds of information for Church people in the United States, and something also specially interesting to Canadians. Among other matters of interest will be found the