

MANY people believe, and the statement is often published, that Toplady, who wrote the familiar hymn, "Rock of Ages," was not a Churchman. The question, if question there be, is set at rest by the following extract from a letter recently written to Rev. Mr. Dean by Sir W. H. Wills: "May I say that Toplady was never a Nonconformist minister! For some years he was curate in sole charge of my parish of Blagdon, on the Mendips, about eight miles from Wells and four miles from Wrington, where Hannah More long resided at Barley Wood. Toplady was one day overtaken by a heavy thunderstorm in Barrington Coombs, on the edge of my property, a rocky glen running up into the heart of the Mendip range, and there, taking shelter between two massive piers of our native limestone rock, he penned the hymn 'Rock of Ages.'"

UNTRUTHS and errors die hard. Once in a while the statement is boldly made, or by sublety implied, that much of the property now possessed by the Church of England rightly belongs to the Roman Catholic Church. In the columns of the Roman Catholic press and in other publications such claims are unblushingly made. "Therefore, it cannot be too widely known," says Mr. G. H. F. Nye, "that the Roman Catholic Bishops in England not many years ago gave their opinion on the matter very decidedly, and in quite another sense." Mr. Nye prints a copy of the "Declaration of the [Roman] Catholic Bishops, the Vicars Apostolic and their coadjutors in Great Britain," published in 1826, Section IX. of which reads as follows:

On the claim of British Catholics to the property of the Church establishment in England.

British Catholics are charged with entertaining a pretended right to the property of the Established Church in England.

We consider such a charge to be totally without foundation. We declare that we entertain no pretension to such a claim. We regard all the revenues and temporalities of the Church establishment as the property of those on whom they are settled by the laws of the land. We disclaim any right, title, or pretension with regard to the same.

This is not the declaration of one or two men, but bears the signatures of ten bishops. Our readers should secure a copy of Mr. Nye's pamphlet, published by Simpkin, Marshall & Co. (London) at sixpence.

Parry Sound Mission.

REV. W. EVANS, INCUMBENT.

The local paper -- *The Canadian* -- says the annual Harvest Festival, under the auspices of the W.A. of Trinity Church, took place in the Music Hall, as announced, on Tuesday evening, Oct. 25th. The hall was tastefully decorated for the occasion, and the tables were laden with the good things that the ladies of Parry Sound know so well how to prepare in an appetizing manner. A large number partook of the hot supper, and enjoyed it exceedingly, keeping the waiters busy until all were amply satisfied, and yet there were lots of good things left over to be disposed of by auction at the close of the entertainment. The Rev. Wm. Evans, the incumbent of Trinity Church, presided and opened the intellectual part of the programme with an address. The choir and an orchestra provided good music and added much to the enjoyment of those present. Miss Evans and Miss Jukes sang solos, and the two little Misses Foot played a duet on the piano. The programme was very entertaining and appreciated by the large audience present. At the conclusion of the programme Mr. Joseph Lawrence acted as auctioneer and disposed of the good things that were left over from the feast, and performed his part in an able manner. The ladies are to be congratulated on the success of the festival.

Report of the Missionary Bishop of Algoma.

To the Most Reverend the Archbishop of Ontario, Metropolitan:

MY LORD ARCHBISHOP,—In obedience to Canon XI. of the Provincial Synod of Canada, I beg to submit my report of the Missionary Diocese of Algoma. I can only report, however, for the period (seventeen months) during which I have been in charge of the diocese.

OFFICIAL RETURNS.

During the period alluded to I have baptized 8, held 78 confirmations, confirmed 523, celebrated Holy Communion 74 times, delivered 288 sermons and addresses, consecrated 3 churches and 3 cemeteries, held 3 ordinations, at which I have admitted 2 candidates to the diaconate and 3 to the priesthood, transferred 5 clergy and received 3. I also attended the Lambeth Conference in the month of July, 1897, and presided at the Triennial Council of Algoma during the first week of June in the present year.

GENERAL DIOCESAN STATISTICS.

Church population (per census, 16,457), per Ruri-Decanal Reports, 9,329; com-

municants, 2,646; Sunday-school scholars, 2,866; teachers, 275; baptisms, adults, 52, children, 1,057; total, 1,109; churches, 77; parsonages, 24; parish halls, 7; Clergy—Priests, 29; deacons, 2; superannuated, 1. Total, including the Bishop, 33; catechists, 1; candidates for Holy Orders, 3.

Total offerings, as per Ruri-Decanal Reports, for the two years up to last Easter (devoted to stipends of missionaries, current parochial expenses, church and parsonage building, Domestic and Foreign Missions and other objects), \$33,438.64.

These figures afford a complete answer to the charge sometimes made against Algoma that she does little or nothing for herself. It is only fair, however, to state that a few sums for special purposes, received from outside sources, are included in the above amount.

CLERICAL CHANGES.

The following clergy have been commended to other dioceses: The Rev. H. C. Aylwin, to Prince Edward Island; the Rev. S. H. Morgan, to King's College, Nova Scotia; the Rev. J. McConnell, to the Diocese of Marquette, Mich., U.S.A.; the Rev. M. C. Kirby, to the Diocese of Canterbury, England; and the Rev. William Hunter, to the Diocese of Toronto.

The following clergy have been received: The Rev. T. E. Chilcott, of Trinity College, Toronto, from the Diocese of Saskatchewan and Calgary; the Rev. Laurence Sinclair, formerly of Algoma, from the Diocese of Albany, New York, U.S.A.

The Rev. Edward Lawlor, owing to ill-health, is not now in active service, but he retains his place in our list of clergy.

The list of clergy now working in Algoma, together with their post-office addresses and various outstations, is as follows:

Names of Clergy.	Central (P. O.) and Other Outstations.
Rev. A. H. Allman	Uffington Parbrook Oakley
" Robt. Atkinson	Marksville (St. Joseph's Island) Richard's Landing Jucelyn
" Jas. Boydell, M.A.	Bracebridge Falconberg
" C. H. Buckland	Bur's Falls Ely
" W. A. J. Burt	North Bay Callander Bailey Settlement
" A. W. H. Chowne, B. D.	Emsdale (Rural Dean of Parry Sound)
Rev. T. E. Chilcott, B.A.	Ebberston Sand Lake Port Carling Gregory Port Sanfield Beaumaris
" A. J. Cobb	Powassan Nipissing Restoul Trout Creek