

Eastern Jews, and the Bishop is not overlooking the realities for Ritualism. The Hebrews, who are thronging back to their own land, show a desire to respond to the advances of the English Church when she appears in due order and dignity. The Roman and Greek Churches are well housed, and we should certainly not be behind them in taking an established position in our mutual ancestral home, and on that ground no doubt many persons will support the scheme and send liberal donations to the Jerusalem and the East Fund at Messrs. Coutts & Co., London.

GENERAL CONVENTION NOTES.

The General Convention—the Great Council of the Church in the United States—sembled in triennial meeting at Baltimore, Md., on the 5th of October inst., the first proceeding being service in Emmanuel Church, corner of Reid and Cathedral Streets, on the morning of that day. The Bishops present (including the Bishops of Fredericton and Niagara from the Canadian Church) numbering in all some 60, went in full robes in procession from the hall adjoining to the Church, many of them also wearing the hoods of the colleges from which they had received degrees. It seems worthy of note, however, that on such an occasion as this the wide-awake Church in the United States should lose an opportunity, in such a city as Baltimore (where the Roman communion exercises so strong an influence by its pomp and display) of impressing the multitude, sectarian and otherwise, which surrounds it, by failing to have in its orderly, reverent and imposing procession all the Clerical and Lay delegates attending the Convention. Yet so it was; to the loss, we are convinced, of considerable influence, since there is no denying the fact that people are largely impressed by what *they see*; and a procession of lay delegates followed by 208 clergy in their robes and hoods, and they again by the 60 or more Bishops composing the House of Bishops of the Convention, would undoubtedly have exercised much greater influence than that of the Bishops *alone*, though that *was* a procession imposing and impressive. Then, too, the effect in the Church itself of this immense white robed order of the priesthood must have influenced largely, alike the service itself and those who attended it.

A processional hymn was sung as the procession of Bishops advanced up the centre aisle. The Bishop of Minnesota began the office for the administration of Holy Communion, the Epistle being read by the Lord Bishop of Fredericton and the Gospel by the Bishop of Maryland. The sermon, an exceedingly able and noteworthy one, was preached by the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Alabama (Dr. Wilmer) from the text of John vi, 68, "Then Simon Peter answered him, 'Lord, to whom shall we go, thou hast the words of eternal life.'" The Holy Communion was then administered, the Bishop of Minnesota acting as Celebrant and the Absolution being pronounced by the Presiding Bishop, the Ven. Rt. Rev. Dr. Williams, of Connecticut. The musical part of the service was rendered by the choir of Emmanuel Church, assisted by members of the St. Cecilia's Guild, and it is needless to say, was exquisitely beautiful; but,

nevertheless, we missed the surpliced choir of men and boys which seems particularly suitable and desirable at such a grand Churchly function as the opening service of the great Council of a National Church.

The House of Deputies (corresponding to the Lower House of the Provincial Synod of Canada) holds its sessions in the Church itself, a custom which has been observed for many years, but in which it appears to us, notwithstanding the character of the work in which the House is engaged, and the admirable order kept, there is, nevertheless, much which seems to detract from the sanctity with which the Church ever surrounds the buildings set apart by her for the service of Almighty God; and again we venture to think that the Church in the United States thus loses an opportunity of enforcing Churchly teaching.

The delegations from the various dioceses are seated in the church according to dioceses, each having its particular place plainly indicated by a large placard visible throughout the building, the arrangement conducing alike to order and expedition, since the chairman is enabled at once to announce a member who wishes to speak and does so systematically in some such form as "the Deputy from the diocese of _____" as each member rises to speak. A more admirable chairman than the Rev. Dr. Dix, Rector of Trinity Church, New York, who was again chosen unanimously as the presiding officer of the House of Deputies at the present Convention, it would be hard to find. Dignified, prompt, kindly, but firm, he maintains order and directs with much ability the proceedings of the House. He is ably assisted, however, by the Rev. Dr. Hutchins, the General Secretary of the Convention, himself possessed of great administrative and organized ability, and who has most ably filled the position of Secretary for a number of years past.

The House of Deputies itself embraces within its number men of the highest eminence both in Church and State, and is remarkable to a stranger for the number of men in advanced years, that is, who have past the meridian of their life. In this respect it differs, we think, from our own Provincial Synod in which there are comparatively a far greater number of young and middle aged men. On the floor of the House of Deputies are found such men as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, Judge Davis, a member of the Geneva Award Commission, Judges of State Courts and lawyers of eminence in the various cities of the United States; and among the Clergy, men whose names are familiar the world over for theological learning and great spiritual power. To meet and interchange views with such a body of men and to listen to the debates which take place in the House, and observe the manner in which the business is transacted, is a privilege and an inspiration in itself. Earnestness of purpose, absence of partisanship and a common desire to advance the interests of Christ's Holy Catholic Church seem to pervade the whole assembly.

The Deputation sent from the Provincial Synod of Canada was received by appointment on Thursday, the 6th of October, at half past 11 o'clock a. m. The previous day it had been resolved by the House of Deputies that the House of Bishops should be respectfully invited

to be present in that House when the Deputation from the Church in Canada was received. This, we understand, has not been customary, but the reception accorded to the Deputation from the Church in the United States having been by both Houses of the Provincial Synod, it was felt that like courtesy was due to its representatives. The large number, however, of the Upper House (consisting of over 60 bishops) manifestly made it difficult to comply fully with the wish of the House of Deputies, but the House of Bishops appointed a special deputation of a dozen or more prominent members of that body, headed by the venerable and beloved presiding Bishop himself (the Rt. Rev. Bishop of Connecticut) to attend and introduce in solemn procession the delegates from Canada, which was received as it passed up the main aisle of the Church by this large and influential body standing, and on reaching the platform the members of the deputation were received by the presiding officer of the House and severally introduced to the meeting as follows: (1) As representing Newfoundland, the Lord Bishop of Newfoundland; (2) as representing the Provincial Synod of Canada, the Rt. Revs. the Lord Bishops of Fredericton and Niagara, the Rev. Canon Mills, B. D., of Montreal, and Dr. Davidson, Q. C., of Montreal, Lay Secretary of the Provincial Synod, all of whom were accorded a most cordial and attentive reception, and on the conclusion of their addresses upon motion were heartily accorded by the presiding officer, seats upon the platform then, and whenever they chose during their stay in Baltimore to attend the meetings of the House.

The afternoons of the first and second days were devoted almost entirely to the consideration of the proposed amendments to the Prayer Book which, if we rightly understand them, are marked by a strong conservative character, and also by this that they seem to tend to bring the American Prayer Book still more closely into harmony with that of the Church of England.

As in the Provincial Synod of Canada, the third day of the session is devoted entirely to the consideration of Missionary work, and it was our privilege to be present during the whole of a day whose proceedings will long linger in remembrance and be an inspiration. The House of Bishops attended as a body in the House of Deputies, and owing to the advanced age of the presiding Bishop, the joint deliberation of both Houses was presided over by the Ven. Bishop Clark, Bishop of Rhode Island. Addresses were delivered by Bishop Nichols, of California, as to the work upon the Pacific coast; by Bishop Garrett, of Northern Texas, as to work in the southern part of the United States; by Bishop Talbot, of Wyoming and Idaho; by Bishop Dudley, of Kentucky, speaking largely in regard to the work among the colored population of the south; by Bishop of Minnesota, a well-known apostle of the Indians, in behalf of the Indian population; by Bishop Hugh Miller Thompson, of Mississippi, on work in the Mississippi Valley, wherein he considered the great future and centre of the American nation to be placed; and in the evening by Bishop Hare, of South Dakota, in regard to the work in China and Japan.

After the reading of the general report of the Board of Missions by the Rev. Dr. Langford, the chairman stated that it was usual to receive the next announcement, viz: that of bequests and legacies by departed sons and daughters of the Church, standing; whereupon the whole body as well Bishops, and Clerical and lay delegates, as the large number of people present in the Church filling the galleries, rose to their feet and listened to a long list of bequests and legacies made during the past three years; and it finished in one voice and with a fervor never to be forgotten there rose from the large assemblage at the call of the presiding Officer, that