



CHRIST CHURCH, WEST FLAMBORO'.—DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

"We are Christians." But—"Cæsar is benignant; throw a few grains of incense on the brazier yonder, before the figure of Jupiter." Answer, "We are Christians." "Think of your wife, Olinthus, and your little children there." But even the little children cried out, "We are Christians." And, again, "Christians to the lions," was the howl of Roman civilization; to which the hungry yell of the loosened beasts was tame in comparison. And to this we owe it that we ourselves are not savages; and these are the achievements at which men who boast of illumination presume to mock. Men—did I call them? Creatures, rather, who, but for the Gospel, would have been themselves the mere whelps of females, unfit to be called women, and if not sensual as Messalina, yet ferocious as Fulvia. Yes, we dare to say it; it is Christianity—Christianity only—that has made us men; men born of women. Humanity itself is a new creation in Christ Jesus. Compare any heathen with a Christian worthy of the Name, and observe the contrast. *Ecce homo!* Yes, Christ is the true manhood; but even in the disciples of Pilate's victim—"Behold *the Man*."

Brethren, we want sturdy Christians in these days. Too many who are named of Christ adopt an apologetic tone. Even white-robed priests waste their lives trying to steady the Rock of Ages upon the shifting sands of physics, and putting the sciolists of empirical philosophy in place of the evangelists they have sworn to expound. Do not misunderstand me. True science is divine. The Gospel created modern science, and has nursed it into strength. Show me one demonstrated fact in Nature that conflicts with the Faith of the Christian, and I succumb; but what have we to do with theories written as on the sea-shore, for the next tide of rising thought to wash out forever? Here, then, we stand with St. Paul: "Let God be

true and every man a liar." So say all the great lights of science—the presbyter Copernicus, and Kepler, and Leibnitz, and Newton—"Childlike sage! Sagacious reader of the works of God, and in His word sagacious." But let us cease from man. "The heavens declare the glory of God, and its expanse showeth His handiwork." We are Christians. Oh! that we were more worthy of our calling; for the poorest slave that falls asleep in Jesus, knows more in that first moment of waking in eternity than all the learning of the world can teach. Even

here, he knows Him "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge;" and there he sees those treasures unveiled forever. "He *knows*, even as he is known." This is our inheritance as Christians.

## OUR CATHEDRALS AND CHURCHES.

### NO. I.—CHRIST CHURCH, WEST FLAMBORO'.

**T**HE first services in connection with the church, of which we give an illustration above, were held in the township of West Flamboro' over half a century since, by the Rev. Mr. Millar, of Ancaster. But no effort was made to establish a congregation until about the year 1839, when the Rev. Wm. McMurray, now Archdeacon of Niagara, established regular services in the school house on the fourth concession, and awakened such an interest in the church and her ordinances as to have no less than eighty persons, of all ages, admitted into the church by baptism in one day. For years afterwards the services were conducted on a week evening in the old Union meeting house on the Galt road, near where the present church stands.

The present substantial building was erected under the Rev. Rural Dean Osler, M. A., Rector of Dundas and Ancaster, at a cost of about \$2,500, and consecrated in 1865 on the day of opening by the late Bishop Strachan. For years the services were conducted at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday. But in the year 1875 Rev. A. B. Chaffee was appointed curate in charge, and began the two services on Sunday. Mr. Chaffee resigned at the end of the first year and removed to the Diocese of Toronto. For a time the church was vacant, until it was united with B verly, under the