

less than on the continent of Europe, that the preservation of learning and religion is instrumentally attributable in the dark ages : but as soon as the mind of Europe was once more roused into activity, we find the Church of England asserting anew her independence, and the connection with Rome severed, which, when its work in the divine counsels was accomplished, had become at once a drag on her energy and an alloy to her purity. Somewhat in this way do the struggles and trials of our Church in past ages, if rightly read, transmit to us their lessons of encouragement, and "we build our hope for the future on our knowledge of the past."

W. H. P.

CONSTANCY TO AN IDEAL AFFECTION.

I.

Thou faithful one, in cloud or calm, for ever by my side,
Oh, constant still when all are changed, Oh, true whatever betide !
Companion in the Heaven of dreams, the hope of better years,
Consoler in this waking world of sorrow, pain and tears !

II.

Alas ! and other eyes are changed, and other words are cold,
But thine unfaltering from the love I yearned for oft of old ;
Those eyes of wondrous loveliness that but to dreams belong,
That voice the soul of all I loved, the magic voice of song !

III.

And yet, as I have fancied oft, that brighter time may be,
When happiness and human love reveal themselves in thee ;
Thou longed for friend and beautiful, who liv'st but in my dreams,
And yet with years that give thee life, the mystic future teems !

IV.

I know not, all is as a dream that dies and melts away,
A fading picture whose bright hues are fleeting day by day ;
To the hearts pure cloister only can we flee from life's dull throng,
The lovely and the beautiful are ours alone in song !

C. PELHAM MULVANY.