

for you all, if ye urge me further in this matter! I am your Archbishop, my Lords,' he continued, looking fiercely into the line of faces before him, and meeting nowhere a glance that did not quail before his. 'I have held the See of Canterbury this four years past, and I mean to hold it for four years to come. That is my answer to your request. It will be best for us all, that it is dropped at once, and never renewed.'

He looked as if he expected the petitioners to retire, but they kept their places. 'My Liege,' resumed the Bishop, 'you somewhat misapprehend us. We are not present here to-day to ask that a successor to the holy Laurence may be appointed.'

'Ay, indeed,' broke in the King, 'then what in truth is it that ye seek?'

'We have to entreat that, of your grace, you would permit a day of general Intercession throughout the realm to be ordered; for the purpose of offering prayers to Almighty God, that He would put it into the King's heart to appoint a fitting person to hold the See of Canterbury.'

The King made no reply for several minutes. He was apparently too much astonished at the extraordinary character of the petition to know how to answer it. At length he said in a tone between jest and earnest, 'Ye ask me to give you license to pray for my conversion to your view of the matter? Eh, is that it?' There was no answer, and he proceeded. 'I know not why I should object, my Lords. Ye can pleasure yourself methinks by so doing without harming me. Pray as much as ye like, and as often. Only, my Lords, be not over sanguine that your prayers will avail you much.'

The Lords, spiritual and temporal, retired from the interview, having obtained as much as they had hoped for—rejoiced, indeed, that the audience had terminated without some furious explosion of the Red King's wrath. It may perhaps be matter of surprise to some readers, that the great nobles, many of whom were anything but remarkable for their devotion to religious duties, should have felt so greatly aggrieved at the King's refusal to appoint to the See of Canterbury. But the Primate in those days, was something more than the mere ecclesiastical head of the Church. He was the chief officer of the State—in many things, the recognized leader of the barons. His power was sufficiently great to hold that of the King himself in some degree in check; and, while the office was in abeyance, the rights of nobility and people alike were infringed, with an impunity which would not otherwise have been possible. Having so far carried their point, they now held a consultation as to the exact nature of the services to be celebrated, and the prayers offered, on the contemplated day of Intercession. Anselm, who still remained the guest of Abbot Serlo—the King persistently refusing him permission to leave the kingdom—was requested to draw up the necessary forms. He at first refused to do this; remarking, with truth, that it was not for a foreigner, and one who did not belong to the higher ranks of the Church, to take precedence of the English Episcopate. But having been earnestly pressed by the Bishops themselves, he at length consented. As soon as all was in readiness, the Bishops despatched messengers throughout their dioceses, to the Abbots and Priors of the various monasteries, to the cathedral and secular clergy, and those in charge of private chapels, ordering that on an appointed day—early, it is believed, in the season of Epiphany—a devout supplication should be made, throughout the length and breadth of the land, entreating the Great Ruler of the Church to take pity on her afflicted State, and so order the course of His Providence, that a faithful shepherd might be set over the neglected flock. The injunction was everywhere obeyed; and, it is said, with much fervor and solemnity.

The King, who, in the interim, had removed from Gloucester to the borders of Somersetshire, heard the particulars of what had taken place with feelings of mingled curiosity and amusement. Many a bitter jest was broken by himself and his courtiers on the topic, as the early days of Spring came on. But it was strange to observe how Rufus' mind dwelt upon Anselm, and his supposed pretensions to the Primacy, notwithstanding that the latter had never, by word or deed, shown any desire for the appointment.

'What think you of Anselm?' he asked of one of his barons, after some conversation had passed on the favorite topic of the day.

'He is a hol' man,' said the nobleman addressed, 'one who lives for God alone, and cares for naught on earth.'

'For naught on earth,' repeated the King angrily.

'What, not even for the Archbishopric of Canterbury?'

'For that least of all,' answered the other boldly.

'You believe that, do you?' cried the King. 'I tell you that if Anselm had but the faintest hope that I should give it him, he would rush headlong into my embrace. But, by the holy Face of Lucca,' he repeated fiercely, 'other Archbishop of Canterbury than I, there shall not be.'

He was still venting the bitterness of his hatred towards Anselm in loud and angry invective, when he suddenly fell, as if a heavy blow had struck him. He was carried instantly to his bed, and the leeches were sent for. But the King's malady, whatsoever it might be, was beyond their power to cure, or even alleviate. A despatch was instantly sent for John de Villula, accounted the most skilful physician of the time; but he, on his arrival, could do nothing for his patient's relief. The news spread rapidly in all quarters; the magnates of the realm, the Bishops, Earls, and Barons, crowded to Gloucester, whither the King had been conveyed; all filled with anxiety to know what the issue of their sovereign's sickness might be.

The prevailing thought in men's minds was, that God had heard the prayers of His Church, and was working on the King's conscience in consequence. This opinion was strengthened, when they found that he still continued obdurate to the remonstrances of his spiritual attendants, and that his illness seemed hourly to increase in its severity.

At length some one in authority took upon himself to send for Anselm, who was still in retirement, at only a few miles' distance from Gloucester. The latter instantly obeyed the summons. William received him with unex-

pected cordiality, and listened reverently to the counsels he offered—all the more so, perhaps, because he evinced no more consideration for the dignity of his royal patient, than he would have done for the meanest peasant. He required him to confess, and declare his repentance of, the many sins with which his conscience was charged—his debaucheries, cruelties, unjust exactings, and lawless acts of tyranny. Further, he obliged him to promise, that if he should be restored to health, he would enact just and pious laws, and govern his realm in accordance with them; that he would make full restitution to all whom he had wronged; and freely forgive all who had done him wrong. Rufus willingly acceded to all his demands. Nay more, of his own accord he offered to confirm his promises by a solemn oath. A deed was drawn up by his direction, formally setting forth, and ratifying, them by the most sacred objurations. It was signed by his own hand, and the Great Seal of England was affixed to it. He even went beyond what Anselm had required. He ordered the release of all, who were in confinement for debts owing to the crown; and granted an amnesty for all offences committed against him. Anselm, after a lengthened interview, took his leave of his royal penitent, having succeeded, far beyond his hopes, in awakening his conscience.

But the King's malady did not abate. The attendants of the sick chamber reminded one another that the Prior of Bec, notwithstanding all his zeal, had been silent respecting the most important matter of all—the appointment of an Archbishop; and at length they suggested the omission to the sick man himself. It is probable that William was already cognizant of the fact. Raising himself, as well as he was able, in the bed, he said in a feeble but distinct voice: 'I choose for the office, the Abbot of Bec, the holy Anselm!'

There was a cry of delighted surprise. Anselm was instantly sent for, and again introduced into the royal chamber. When he learnt the purpose for which he had been summoned, he positively refused the office—alleging his unfit for the post; his allegiance to a foreign sovereign; and his engagement to his own Archbishop, as well as to the brethren at Bec. It was in vain that all present tried to change his resolution. The King himself, who was fully persuaded that his own recovery depended wholly on Anselm's acceptance, implored him with an earnestness, which for a moment seemed to overcome his reluctance. Finally the crossier was brought, and forcibly thrust into his hand. He was then carried out on the shoulders of his partisans, and presented to the people as the new Archbishop. Within a short time afterwards, Rufus was restored to health.

This is a strange story, yet one which seems well authenticated; nor has it, I believe, ever been questioned by any historian of credit. It is the fashion with many to hold cheap, days of public Intercession, such as the present; and account them, at best, as forms and ceremonies, decorous it may be, and commendable, but attended with little practical result. But wiser men will hold that there is far more credulity in accepting the idle theories broached, after the fashion of the day, by hasty and shallow thinkers, than in believing that Almighty God still deals with mankind, as He did with Nineveh of old, when He heard the united prayer of the nation, and changed his stern purpose respecting them. Therefore it is good to sanctify a Fast, call a solemn assembly, gather the people—that the Priests, the ministers of the Lord, should weep between the porch and the altar, and say 'Spare Thy people, O Lord.' 'More things are wrought by prayer,' says the laureate, 'than this world dreams of.' None of us can tell how many dangers have been averted, how many judgments remitted, how many national offences pardoned, how many blessings obtained, through the annual observance of the Church's Days of Intercession.

CONCRETE HOUSES.

In the first settlement of this country, when wood was abundant, the largest, and therefore the best, because the most mature, trees were selected for frames and lumber; and houses properly built of such material, were thoroughly satisfactory and durable. But the axe and—what is infinitely more destructive—the fires, have very greatly reduced the quantity of valuable timber in our forests, so that wood material for building purposes is now far more expensive than formerly, whilst at the same time it is of a greatly inferior quality, owing to the smallness and immaturity of most of our mill-logs.

It is clear that true economy now calls upon us to construct our buildings of something less perishable than the sort of wood which is now available to most of us. Stone and brick are abundant but skilled labor requisite for construction with such materials, is as yet expensive. We have but few who would undertake stone masonry or bricklaying, whilst almost every native Nova Scotian is more or less of a carpenter.

Now there are materials "lying loose" round us, which with the addition of lime or Port cement, can be wrought into the shape of beautiful, warm, and most durable houses, by any person who has skill enough to draw a straight line and nail two boards firmly together. These materials are good sharp sand, free from loam and salt, gravel, also free from earthy matter or salt, and broken stone or pebbles—not from the sea-shore, unless they are washed in fresh water or rain before being used.

These, with Portland cement or lime, being properly mixed and built, will form a wall as solid as that built by the ancient Romans to shut out the Scots from England, over seventeen hundred years ago. Concrete was a favorite material with those faithful workers, who built for all time, and who were amongst the best stone-cutters and masons the world has ever seen.

Concrete is well known as a most durable material in modern days. It was largely used in the construction of the Suez Canal. It is also much used by army engineers in the construction of fortresses and other places requiring great strength and durability. In 1870, at York Road in Halifax harbor, I was shown by the Colonel of Engineers a concrete wall in process of construction, as well as a magazine of the same material, which had been built some years before. In answer to a question as to its du-

rability, the officer informed me that a short time before, when it was necessary to make a hole in an underground wall of concrete, which had been built some seventeen years, the workmen were obliged to perforate the solid mass by drilling and blasting, as they could effect their purpose in no other way. So much for the strength of concrete, when properly built of fit materials.

In 1871, I saw at Montreal, in the office of an architect, who was at that time constructing a house of this material in the suburbs, several small blocks of concrete, which he kept for the inspection of inquirers. They were of various sizes, and of great hardness, strength, and straightness of outline.

In 1873, in New York, I visited the works of a concrete company on Long Island, I think opposite 85th street, New York. Concrete is made here in imitation of sandstone, red or grey, and not being laminated, or formed in successive thin plates, like that material, but in one homogeneous and compact mass, is much stronger than any natural sandstone. Indeed, in consequence of its laminated structure, that beautiful sandstone known as "Cath stone," when set on its edge, or at right angles to the way in which it was formed in the quarry, will not bear a heavy pressure, but will yield at the edges.

The New York concrete is made of sand and Portland cement, by a patent process, and colored in the making to resemble red or blue sandstone. It can be furnished in that city from 25 to 75 per cent. cheaper than natural sandstone, according to the ornamentation bestowed upon it. The jambs or pilasters, trusses and cap of a street door in brown sandstone would cost \$280—the door being of 4 feet opening,—whilst the same pieces, fully as handsome, and very much stronger, in concrete, would cost but \$80, and still afford the company a clear profit of 10 per cent. This establishment also makes marbleized work—beautiful for churches, and to cost about the same as fine hardwood finish. I saw there stone frames and mullions for large triplet and other church windows. These are made in pieces of from one to three or four feet in length, easily built up into an entire window, and cost very much less than the same work in natural sandstone.

This artificial stone has been tested by hydraulic pressure, and found to be capable of sustaining a pressure of 60,000 lbs. to 4 cubic inches.

Pier No. 1, North River, New York, is built on a concrete foundation.

In 1873, happening to be at Toronto, Ontario, and hearing that a concrete house was in course of erection at Norway, near that city, I visited it, and being on the spot for some days, took special care to ascertain all I could concerning the mode of building, and its cheapness and durability. There were three other houses of the same material near the one which was being built—all handsome, substantial-looking buildings, and all giving great satisfaction to their owners. The gentleman with whom I was staying greatly regretted that he had built with wood, and not with concrete.

I must now transcribe from my notes two plans of mixing concrete—one obtained at Norway, Ontario, from the person who was superintending the building of the house which I saw, and the other transcribed from directions sent to this person by an old and experienced builder, a Scotchman, living in Kincardine, Ontario. Both agree, however, substantially, though the reader will observe the greater caution and care of the older man.

METHOD OF BUILDING A CONCRETE HOUSE.

Lay out your wall-lines. Dig your foundation-trenches and fill in with concrete mixed with cement. Gravel or concrete foundations must be as strong for a concrete as for a stone house. The foundation wall must be thicker than the wall of the building, for this reason, and must be carried up one foot above the surface of the ground.

Gravel for foundations must be clean, i. e. free from sand, and its smallest pebbles must not be less than a half inch in diameter.

Take of this gravel and broken stones five parts to one of Portland or Thorold (Ontario) cement. Mix small batches of this at a time, as cement soon hardens, and fill in your trenches, not laying more than one course of a foot deep in a day. Foundations of this material, if on a solid bottom, are not affected by frost.

To build the walls:—Lay on the foundation walls the sills. To these fasten perpendicularly two rows of studs, as high as the walls are intended to rise, and from outside to outside, the thickness of the wall apart. The studs must be of uniform breadth, say three inches, and as they are intended to remain in the wall and be covered by it, they should have small pieces of inch board tacked on the outside to receive the mould-boards. These short pieces of inch-stuff can be pulled off as the mould-boards are taken up from course to course, and the inch space filled in with concrete, so as to cover the studs with the material, and hide them when the walls are finished.

The mould-boards are of one-and-a-half inch stuff. It is well to have a set of these, say 13 inches wide, to go all around the building. Tack your mould-boards to the studs, so that when a course is filled in and is stiff enough to have the mould-boards moved up, the nails may be easily drawn. When you come to an opening, such as a door or window, in the wall, set in a rough case from "skin to skin" of the wall, but like the studs, having strips of an inch in thickness, to be afterwards pulled off, so that the case may be covered with concrete in finishing.

The studs need not be more than two inches thick, and strap blocks should be put between the studs, 16 inches apart to receive lathing. These strap-blocks should be narrower at the outside than the inside, so as to dove-tail into the wall.

THE MATERIAL.

TORONTO PLAN.—Take 8 bushels of gravel to one bushel of good strong gray lime. Slack the lime thin, and let it stand in the box not less than three hours before using. Then mix the "wash" thoroughly among the gravel and coarse sharp sand, free from loam, until every particle of the sand and gravel is wet with the lime.

Mix according to the above proportions, enough material for one course a foot deep all around the walls,