

blessed and holy must they be who have part in the first resurrection. Manifestly on such the second death shall have no power. "He that overcometh," saith God in the next chapter, "shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

The word in the text, translated "shall reign," is in the present tense in the Alexandrine M.S., and so would have to be rendered, are reigning. This confirms the opinion that St. John is speaking of a period which had already begun when he was writing. All the greatest commentators, such as the great St. Augustine and Bishop Lightfoot, consider that "this xx. chapter containeth a brief view of all the times from the rising of the Gospel to the end of the world."

There have been, and there are, those who suppose that this passage of Holy Scripture promises that Christ will appear in power and glory, and raise the saints from their graves, in order that they may reign with Him on this unchanged earth for a thousand years before the general resurrection. Those who held this opinion in the first ages believed that Jerusalem shall be the seat of empire and enjoy to the full all that temporal power and greatness could bestow. This doctrine of the millenium has been somewhat refined and spiritualized by those who held it in modern times. But, however refined, the difficulties attending a reasonable conception of a visible reign of Christ on earth are so insurmountable as to compel in the thoughtful the rejection of the idea. It is hard to conceive how ordinary conditions of life, and society, and business—men buying and selling, marrying and giving in marriage, subject to affliction, and suffering and death, passing through a state of probation, and yet mixing with those who have come back from the grave and hades, and the visible Christ reigning amongst them,—it is hard to conceive how all this could co-exist, and life still be a state of probation. This doctrine has never been received by the Catholic Church, because she considered it out of harmony with the general teaching of Holy Scripture, as well as with this book of Revelation itself.

The millenarians suppose that the bodies of the saints will be raised, and as perfect men in body and soul reunited, they will reign with Christ on the earth a thousand years. But St. John says not that he saw the bodies, but the souls of those who *who had been beheld* for the witness of Jesus, and that they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. It is the martyrs of whom St. John is here speaking, their souls have an honored place in the Paradise of God. They live and reign with Christ, and in the victories which he is winning over the world, the flesh and the devil by the power of the ascended Lord, may be truly said to be reigning with Him.

There seems little from this passage to support the opinion that Christ for a thousand years will establish a glorious and happy reign on earth with His risen saints. It is impossible to conceive that the influences of such a holy and blessed period would result in nothing better than that state of rebellion and iniquity, which we are told, in the following verses, shall succeed it. "When the thousand years are expired Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and he shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, the number of whom is as the sand of the sea."

Not only would such a reign of Christ on earth overturn the state of probation such as we are now undergoing; but as seeing is believing, how could it result in such a sinful and unhappy state as it is predicted shall follow im-

mediately upon those days? What, we may ask, could be the object of such a reign, visible, glorious and happy, if rebellion and wickedness are closely to follow it?

(To be continued.)

Diocese of Fredericton.

ST. JOHN.

The daily noon-day Lenten meetings for men in the Church of England Institute rooms, under the auspices of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, were commenced on Monday, 12th Feb., the opening meeting being attended by fully a hundred men, old and young. A most interesting and helpful service was held, lasting about twenty-five minutes, including an earnest address by the Ven. Archdeacon Brigstocke, on "A Knowledge of God."

Trinity Church.—The Young Woman's Guild and the Young Men's Association of Trinity Church held a most enjoyable meeting on the evening of the 12th, at which a sketch of Tennyson's life was given by the Rev. Mr. Eatough, accompanied by readings and songs from his poems.

The bi-monthly meeting of the C. of E. Sunday School Teacher's Association was held on Tuesday, Feb. 13, in Trinity Church schoolhouse. The subject of the evening, "The Christian Life a Sacrifice," was dealt with in a capital manner by Rev. A. G. H. Dicker and Rev. W. H. Sampson.

St. Luke's.—A grand concert was held Tuesday evening week in St. Luke's Church Schoolhouse by the Sabbath school children in aid of the poor of the parish. It was very largely attended and an excellent programme was carried out, many of the little ones acquitted themselves most creditably.

Diocese of Quebec.

LENNOXVILLE.

The organ recital in the chapel of Bishop's College, by Mr. Arthur Dorey, on Tuesday evening, 13th Feb., proved both successful and most enjoyable. Mr. Dorey is doing much to improve musical taste and render the musical services of the Church attractive throughout this district. The programme consisted of organ selections from Handel, Mendelssohn, Grison, Guilman, and other composers; and hymns and two songs by Miss Cochrane; "What are these who are Arrayed," by Brown; and the other "The Holy City," by S. Adams.

WATERVILLE.

The Rev. E. A. W. King, the energetic incumbent of this Mission, is pushing forward the Church's work by numerous and regular services. On last Sunday no less than four were held at different points in the Mission, and this by no means exceptional.

SHERBROOKE.

It is expected that the Rev. Mr. Hunter of Echo Vale, Lake Megantic, will come to Sherbrooke, as curate of St. Peter's church here.

Diocese of Niagara.

GUELPH.

St. James.—The annual Missionary services were held in the church on Sunday, 28th Jan., when the deputation consisting of Revs. Rural Dean Bevan, of Mount Forest, and Dr. Johnston, of Welland, were present, the former preaching in the morning, and the latter in the evening.

\$27.50 of the \$50, apportioned to this parish has been sent forward to the Treasurer.

There was a large attendance at the first social given by the Young People's Association in the schoolroom on the evening of the 29th Jan. The object is to bring the members of the Church closer together in a social way. During the evening instrumental and vocal music, readings and addresses were given.

During Lent a special course of sermons is being preached on Sunday morning on "The Lord's Prayer," and in the evening on "The Suffering, the Condemnation, the Crucifixion and the Death of our Lord." Week day services are held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On the Tuesday evenings a course of sermons is being delivered by the Rev. R. J. Moore, M.A., of St. Margaret's church, Toronto, on "The Shadow of the Cross."

Diocese of Huron.

LONDON.

The annual meeting of the W. A. M. A. will be held in the Bishop Cronyn Hall, London, March 12th and 14th. His Lordship the Bishop of Athabasca is to be the chief speaker.

Arrangements are being made for the opening of the Cathedral on the second Sunday in April. It will be a handsome structure and credit to the Diocese as well as the city.

Speaking of Bishop Baldwin's visit to St. Catharines and Merriton on Sunday last the *Star* says; "This was the first occasion on which the Bishop of Huron had ever preached in this city, and the large congregation left the church greatly edified and thankful for having had the privilege of having heard one of the Church's most eloquent and devoted chief pastors. Never before in its history has there been such a large congregation as gathered in St. Thomas' Church last night to hear the Bishop. Every chair in the basement was brought up into the church and used. People were obliged to go away. The memory of the Bishop, his unique personality, and his eloquence, will long live in the hearts of the people of St. Catharines."

THE WOMEN'S AUXILIARY.—A union meeting of the London Parochial Branches of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Huron was held last Tuesday night week in Bishop Cronyn Hall. The Dean of Huron presided.

After a few verses of Scripture and prayer, a chorus—"In Jewery is God known," was sung.

Mrs. Boomer read a paper, entitled "Scenes in the Lives of our Missionaries." The paper contained accounts of some moving scenes and adventures in the travels of the missionaries in the great lone land, the hardships, want of food, and perilous adventures by land and water of the noble men who were endeavoring to break the Bread of Life to the sparsely settled inhabitants of those vast territories. Several instances of the piety of the Indians and Esquimaux were related. The paper was largely compiled from letters of the Bishop of Athabasca, Mrs. Bompas, wife of the Bishop of Selkirk, Bishop Ridley, of Caledonia, and several others more or less known by the audience. Mrs. Boomer concluded her paper with earnest appeal to those who had taken hold of the work not to be discouraged, but to press forward in the strength of the Master fearing not, neither taking heed whether the field be great or small, high or low, wide or narrow, at home or abroad.

Miss Moore's solo, "Fear Not Ye, O, Israel," was beautifully rendered.

Then came a paper "On certain missionary tales—what was put into them; what befel them on their journey's end." "Our Tale at St. John's" was discussed by Miss Ford. It