

THE CHURCH OF OLD ENGLAND.

JANUARY, 1867.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.

At the Evening Service on Sunday last a very successful attempt was made by the Clergy, Churchwardens, Organist, and Choir, to make the singing and musical parts of the Service more congregational in their character than has hitherto been the case. To induce the congregation, as well as the choir, to chant and sing the praises of God, and to use the organ as a *help* and *guide* to devotion, and not merely to *listen* to it as an instrument for producing the concord of sweet sounds, circulars suggesting instructions to all who *can* sing, but do not, were freely distributed over the Church. By these the congregation were earnestly requested to join heartily in the singing and responses. For the accomplishment of the desired end several of the members of the Morning Choir placed themselves in the body of the Church, and by well sustaining the various parts of the Service which, in the *responsive* system of the Church Service, belong to the congregation, and invite, by their very construction, all to join, produced a volume of sound inspiring in its effects and devotional in its character. The words of the psalms and hymns, were firmly and clearly rendered to the chants and tunes to which they were set. And it is felt that a little perseverance in the same direction, and united effort, on the part of all, will produce that cordial co-opera-

tion which will secure the praises of God, being sung "with one mind and one mouth" by all the congregation.

The Sermon, on the occasion, was preached by the Rev. Canon Loosemore, on the subject of "Church Music," founded on the text Ephesians, v. 19. "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing, and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

After referring to the Exhortation of the Apostles that the *inward* melody of the heart might accompany the *outward* melody of poetry and singing when the early Christians used their psalms and spiritual songs, the preacher went on to show that it was the ancient and general practice of the Church that the whole assembly joined with one mouth and one mind in singing psalms and praises to God. *Alternate* psalmody, or the *responsive* system of music, was shewn to be of very early date, such as is in use in Cathedrals and generally throughout Christendom, fulfilling the apparent intention of the heavenly mind, agreeing with the practice of the Jewish and Primitive Church, and bringing out more satisfactorily than any other method the sense of Holy Writ itself. The scientific or professional mode of treatment was disclaimed, as belonging more to the province of others; to guard and exemplify the practical part being the special prerogative of the Clergy, that