

presbyters ; and for the reception of communicants in good standing in other evangelical churches on presentation of a letter of dismissal or other satisfactory evidence, were adopted. It was thought desirable that another Bishop should be elected to assist Dr. Cummins in the new church, wherefore Dr. Cheney of Chicago was called to that office. He was consecrated on the 14th ult., in the presence of an immense congregation which crowded his church. Provision has been made for holding the General Council of the new church annually on the second Wednesday of May. During the meeting, Bishop Cummins said that he had the names of twenty-five clergymen of the Protestant Episcopal Church, who were ready to join in the new departure so soon as parishes were ready for them. The tone of the meeting is said to have been exceedingly tender, solemn and resolute.

Of course *Churchmen*, especially *high Churchmen*, look upon this movement as scandalous, and steps have been taken for the trial and deposition of the *schismatic* Bishop. Unfortunately for them, however, they cannot deprive him of the mystic touch whereby apostolic lineage and succession is conferred upon others, which they claim Bishops possess, but which Dr. Cummins disclaims. For our part we feel more sympathy for, and interest in the Reformed Episcopal Church, than in the English or the nominally Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States. May the rich blessing of God rest upon the Reformed Episcopal Church and upon the Old Catholics.

PLYMOUTH CHURCH.

Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, recently summoned Theodore Tilton, one of its members whose name has been conspicuous in connection with the Woodhull-Clafin scandal, in regard to the pastor, Henry Ward Beecher, to answer to the church on the charge of slander. Mr. Tilton in defense, stated that he had not attended the church for four years, and did not consider himself a member ; wherefore, on recommendation of the examining committee, and by advice of Mr. Beecher, his name was simply erased from the roll of membership without any reprimand, the statement at the same time being made that this course of procedure had previously been adopted by the Plymouth Church. This Church action has been sharply criticised by the Congregational press, and its legitimacy challenged by two of the leading sister Congregational Churches in Brooklyn. These churches sent a letter of remonstrance to the Plymouth Church and requested the pastor and members to meet committees appointed by these sister churches to revise their late action in this matter. A large meeting of the members of Mr. Beecher's Church was held on November 28th, when these overtures were considered. It was moved in amendment to a motion, that this request be granted, to the effect that they, the Church, take exceptions to the letter, as based upon public report only, and that it contained a threat to withdraw fellowship, and while avowing a readiness at all times to be regularly advised, admonished, and censured by sister churches, Plymouth Church is not ready to reverse the order of pro-