

THE LATE BISHOP CUMMINS.

"TELL THEM TO GO FORWARD AND DO A GRAND WORK."

The Right Rev. GEORGE DAVID CUMMINS, D.D., the founder and Presiding Bishop of the Reformed Episcopal Church, was born in the State of Delaware, Dec. 11th, 1822. He graduated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa., in 1841, was ordained a Deacon of the P. E. Church in 1845, and a Priest in 1847. Princeton College conferred upon him the degree of D.D. in 1850. He had successively charges of parishes in Norfolk, Va., Richmond, Va., Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Md., and Chicago, Ill. Whilst in charge of Trinity Church, Chicago, he was elected Assistant Bishop of Kentucky, and received consecration in Christ Church, Louisville, in that State on the 15th of November, 1866, seven Bishops taking part in the ceremony. The Ritualistic practices and tendencies of certain churches in the See of Kentucky being censured by him, and finding that neither his example nor influence were sufficient to effect a reformation within the Episcopal Church, he and a number of other clergymen who, in other parts of the country, had a similar experience, met during the winter of 1873-4, and organised the Reformed Episcopal Church. This movement, which had for its object the purification of the Episcopal Church from the baneful effects of sacramentarianism and excessive ritual, and the establishment of fellowship with other Christians, was one of great significance, and the manner in which it has spread shows that many had felt the need of some such change.

On the 8th October, 1873, Bishop Cummins made his memorable address before the Evangelical Alliance then in session in the City of New York. Four days afterwards he assisted in the administration of the Holy Communion in Dr. John Hall's *Presbyterian Church* in a service which will never be forgotten by those who had the great privilege of participating in it. Bishop Cummins ever referred to it afterwards as one of the sweetest and most blessed of the experiences of his life.

Soon after appeared Bishop Tozer's letter of appeal and complaint against Bishop Cummins for the *awful crime* of joining in prayer and praise to Almighty God and partaking of the Holy Communion with other *Clergymen and Laymen* in a *Presbyterian Church*.

On the 2nd December, 1873 the Reformed Episcopal Church was organized in the City of New York by 7 Clergymen and 17 Laymen, when Bishop Cummins, having resigned his position as assistant