

Dr. Dart was consecrated Bishop of New Westminster in St. Paul's Cathedral by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Benson), on St. Peter's Day (June 29th), 1895, and soon afterwards set sail for Canada.

The new bishop, accompanied by Mrs. Dart and their four sons, arrived in his diocese in the third week of August. His Lordship was met by the Rev. George Ditcham, and the Rev. A. Shildrick, rector of Holy Trinity Cathedral, and the Rev. H. H. Gowen, rector of St. Barnabas' Church, who welcomed the bishop and Mrs. Dart to the diocese. On reaching New Westminster, the Executive Committee of the Diocesan Synod were introduced to the bishop. A carriage was waiting, and the party were driven at once to the See House, all being much fatigued after their long journey, which, however, they greatly enjoyed. A public reception for the bishop and Mrs. Dart was to be held at an early date. The bishop and his family spent Sunday, the 18th of August, at Yale, with the Rev. C. Croucher.

It is probable that the headquarters of the diocese will be changed before long from New Westminster to Vancouver, which has become a very much larger town than New Westminster, and gives promise of being a better centre for church life and work.

THE ARCHBISHOPS OF CANTERBURY.

BY THE EDITOR.
(Continued.)

REIGN OF ELIZABETH. (b)



THE true Reformation of the Church of England may be dated from the consecration of Archbishop Parker. A new series of Archbishops, so to speak, commenced with him, for all dependence upon and connection with the Church of Rome, or any foreign church, was, for all time to come, swept away. Cranmer, though a reformer, had had many dealings with the pope and also with Cardinal Pole, who, though possessed of a strong feeling of sympathy with Protestant doctrines, was himself the papal legate in England. But Matthew Parker was to occupy ground completely different from that of all the Archbishops who had preceded him. This was deeply felt and clearly understood by all persons at the helm of Church and State at the time, and therefore unusual care was taken at his consecration. Roman Catholics have always seen the force of this, and, therefore, have busied themselves in every way to throw discredit if possible upon the validity of English orders. With a view to this a story was published relative to the bishops of Queen Elizabeth which was eagerly seized upon by some Rom-

anist writers and industriously circulated, but which no historian now of any reputation, no matter what his views of religion might be, would venture to endorse, for the strongest refutation of it is to be found in Roman Catholic histories. It was a story invented by an exiled Roman priest more than forty years after the consecration of Archbishop Parker, and was to the effect that a number of clergymen—some bishops or ex-bishops—met at a tavern called the "Nag's Head," and that one of them laid a Bible on the shoulders of each of the others saying the words, "Take thou authority, etc.," and that they then all stood up bishops.

When we turn from an absurdity like this to true history we find a very different state of things.

In the first place, the consecration of Dr. Parker, to the Archbishopric of Canterbury, was looked upon as an event of the greatest importance by those who were to be engaged in it, or who were interested in the welfare of the Christian church. The Church of England had just fully and forever emerged from Romanism and from the supremacy of the pope, but she was most anxious not to cut herself adrift from the ancient Catholic Church; of which she had always been a most essential part. Therefore great care was to be taken that the long line of Archbishops and bishops which connected her with the past should not in any sense be broken, nor its historic importance weakened. Dr. Parker was elected Archbishop on the 1st of August, 1559. He was not consecrated till the 17th of December.

It was, it is true, an unsettled time. Most of the dioceses were vacant and there were several bishops without sees. Even the Archbishopric of York was practically vacant, Dr. Heath, the occupant, having retired into private life on the accession of Queen Elizabeth on account of a difficulty which he felt in acknowledging the queen's supremacy. Yet there were bishops in England—many of them, about the validity of whose orders there could be no doubt whatever. Such were William Barlow, who had been Bishop of Bath and Wells; John Hodgkins, suffragan Bishop of Bedford; Miles Coverdale, late Bishop of Exeter; and John Scory, late Bishop of Rochester.

These prelates met in the chapel of Lambeth House (the London residence of the Archbishop), on the 17th of December, 1559, at six o'clock in the morning, and there, reverently, and with all due forms of solemnity, using the second ordinal of Edward VI., consecrated Matthew Parker the seventy-first Archbishop of Canterbury.

But this by no means proved a settlement of all the difficulties of the hour. Like Dr. Heath, Archbishop of York, who could not take the oath of supremacy, there were several bishops in exactly the same position. They