

Poetry.

SONG FOR THE TIMES.

NO. V. 11.

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED TO THE CHURCHMEN OF CANADA.

OUR CHURCH AND QUEEN.

Our Church and our Queen, we loyally sing,
For both are well worthy the tribute we bring.
And none our allegiance shall move,
Though her foes would deprive her of station and name,
Unhurt by the sword, unsathed by the flame,
The Church stands unshaken, forever the same,
And the Queen we loyally love.

For our Church and our Queen, undaunted we stand,
Though treason and crime stalk unchecked thro' the land,
Boutling the good and the brave;
Unchanged by oppression's fierce turmoil and strife,
True Britons in peace, and when battles are rife,
From our Church and our Queen we part but with life,
And Britons descend to our grave.

The life-giving Church, bath made England great,
For the Church is the only true bulwark of state,
And a bulwark she ever has been;
And Canada too, to be great, must be good,
So we'll stand on the ground that our ancestors stood,
Always ready our faith to seal with our blood,
Our watchwords the Church and the Queen.

The venomous shaft would be hurled at the Queen
Did the Church not present her fair structure between,
A butt for dark envy and crime,
Yet when those who in malice assail her to-day,
Forgotten, in dust, shall have mouldered away,
The Throne shall be filled, the Church hold her sway,
Triumphant in every clime.

WILLIAM OSBORNE.

St. Catharines, June 23, 1850.

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY.

August 4, 1850.

THE GOSPEL.—(St. Luke xix. 41—47).—The lamentation of Christ over the holy city was one of the events of that memorable day, on which He entered in triumph into Jerusalem, amid the rejoicings of his disciples, and the hosannas of the multitudes. The ministry of our Lord was now ended. He had for a period of three years appealed to his own people by his holy life, his wondrous miracles, his divine teaching, and He now approached the hour of his rejection, crucifixion and death.—Standing in the courts of the temple, He recalled to mind the glories of the former house, its vast magnificence, its solemn dedication under king Solomon, its splendours under the long list of the kings of Judah. He saw the rich array of courts, in which for so many centuries the sacrifices of the faithful had been offered, and the prayers of the faithful had been poured forth to the throne of Heaven. He witnessed the holy of holies with its sacred furniture, in which, in the mediation of the priesthood, and the ordinances and institutions of the law, his own most holy work had been typified to the Jewish Church. He recalled to mind, the speedily to be accomplished, destruction of this magnificent building, the miseries, evils, and sorrows to be visited upon the inhabitants of that beloved land; and He poured forth the tears of love, sympathy, and compassion. This history affords another instance of that wonderful union, under all circumstances, of the twofold nature of our Lord; and is another example of the wisdom by which every event which evidenced the human nature of Christ was intimately and immediately connected with some proof of his divine power. While the manhood of our Lord is proved by his shedding the tears of human sorrow, in contemplating the future distresses of his people; the truth of his divine nature is asserted, by his declaring before the assembled nation, "My house shall be called the house of prayer." Jesus weeps as a man, while He assumes to Himself the attributes of God. This portion of Scripture is suited to the collect of the day, as the one bids us to offer our petitions, and the other points out the place, in which those petitions should be presented: the temple or house of God.

A PARISH CHURCH.

(From *Ancient English Ecclesiastical Architecture*, by FRANK WELLS.)

A Parish Church always consists of Nave and Chancel. It was not a church without both. The average length of Chancel was one-third the whole length of the building. Almost without exception the ancient churches were built east and west, that is, with the Chancel towards the east. Doorways were not placed in any front with an eastern aspect.

These few points are mentioned in which all churches agree; their other features varied almost to infinity, but these important principles seem never to have been departed from.

It may be well at first to give a general idea of an English country Parish Church. It is not a cathedral whose stupendous grandeur overwhelms us with indescribable awe; no majestic organ rolls like thunder the deep notes of praise along the vaulted aisles; no organs constantly ascend echoing from groin to groin till lost in the tangled maze of stone suspended as it were high above our heads: it boasts none of this glory—simple, substantial, beautiful, it has braved the storms of centuries: time seems to have witholden his withering hand, and instead of approaching with stealthy footsteps to mar or steal the few simple ornaments which adorn it, he has flung a garland on its brow, which renders it the more alluring. High above the green trees which encircle the sacred pile is seen the tall spire shooting up as straight as prayer to heaven; surmounting each gable is seen the cross, telling to the world around of Him who was lifted up for our

salvation and become the summit of all our desires. We approach nearer, we rest beneath the Lyche gate,* and meditating on the period we may rest there for the last time, our spirits become tinged with something of the devotion which lingers there as the genius of the place. Treading on the turf beneath which our fathers are slumbering in peace, we gaze by turns on each feature of the holy edifice. Its plan is cruciform and in it we trace the foundation of our faith; buttress and pinnacle tell us how the Church of Christ is strengthened and adorned by the services of her ministers: windows numerous and intricate in design show us how various and apparently complex are the methods by which the light of life is poured upon our mind: battlements tell us where to look for strength when trouble is at hand: cornice and string-course—legend and device—canopy and niche—angel and saint, all convey a lesson which sinks deeply in our hearts. We enter the edifice through the lowly porch.—The font awaits us at the door, and we remember that without repentance and baptism there is no entering the kingdom of heaven. Benches made for prayer and not for sleep form no distinguishing mark between rich and poor in this common home where all are equal in the sight of Him who made them what they are. The roof spangled with stars and braced and girded to withstand the howling blast and crashing tempest, bids the Christian feel that beneath the canopy of heaven "come will what may," he is safe. On one hand the writing on the wall warns him of danger, on the other it assures him of victory: one text whispers strength to the young, another support to the old. Are we bowed down with sorrow? the very floor can instruct us in our grief. Are we elate with joy? pillar and arch, clerestory, and roof, have in them something to increase and sanctify it. The Chancel separated from the Nave typifies a state of existence beyond the gates of death: its increase of ornament, the greater delicacy and richness of its carvings, and above all, the Altar whereon is commemorated the sacrifice of the Lamb of God assures us (if we have but eyes to hear, eyes to see, and hearts to feel) of the triumphant future, when the Church shall have exchanged her garments of sorrow and labour for the glorious apparel of everlasting felicity and rest.

MEMOIR OF SIR ROBERT PEELE.

From the *London Chronicle*.

The right honourable baronet was the eldest son of Sir Robert Peel, Bart., who amassed an immense fortune as a cotton-manufacturer. The position of the elder Sir Robert Peel gave him influence, and his political abilities and personal probity rendered him an influential member of the House of Commons, in which assembly he represented Tamworth for eight-and-twenty years. He reached his 60th year, and lived to see his favourite son, in whom he had, at an early period, beheld the future statesman, holding the important and responsible office of Secretary of State for the Home Department. In the year 1773, in conjunction with Mr. Yates, he established a large cotton-manufactory at Bury, in Lancashire. The establishment soon attained extraordinary prosperity. It is stated, that by the year 1803 the firm had in their employment no fewer than 15,000 persons, and that their contribution to the Excise in the shape of duty on printed goods amounted to no less than £40,000 a year. In 1787, Mr. Peel married the daughter of his partner Mr. Yates, and the subject of our memoir was the eldest of a family of six sons and five daughters. Mr. Peel soon became a land-owner on a large scale in the counties of Warwick, Lancashire, and Stafford; and in the year 1790 he was first returned to the House of Commons for Tamworth. He was one of the warmest supporters of Mr. Pitt's policy; and his admiration of that statesman and of his system was carried almost to the point of devotion. He felt very strongly on political questions. Shortly before he was returned to Parliament, he published a pamphlet, entitled "The National Debt Productive of National Prosperity," of which the title alone indicates the quality and character. Mr. Peel's loyalty to his country and to his political principles took a more substantial shape than even that of consistent Parliamentary support; for when, in 1798, the Government appealed to the community for pecuniary support in the war against France, the firm of which he was the head gave no less a sum than £10,000. In 1800 he was created a baronet—an honour well earned by his long political services. In 1812 he was made a Privy Councillor. Some notion of the wealth amassed by this gentleman in the course of many years of manufacturing enterprise may be formed from the fact, that when, in June, 1830, his will was proved, the personal property was sworn at £1,200,000.

The subject of our present memoir was born on the 5th of February, 1788, in a small cottage in the neighbourhood of Chamber Hall, near Bury, the then family mansion, which was at the time under repair. It is said that he received the foundation of his education under the personal superintendence of his father. He was then sent to Har-

* The Lyche Gate was the covered gateway at the entrance of the church yard, where the corpse was rested until the priest issued from the church to meet the procession.

row, where he was a contemporary of Byron; and was afterwards entered a gentleman commoner of Christ Church, Oxford. Here he soon distinguished himself, exciting the most favourable anticipations of his future career. In 1808 he attained a double first class. As soon as he was at legal age (in 1809), he was returned to Parliament as a member for Cashal. Early in the following year he was selected to second the Address in reply to the Royal Speech, on the opening of Parliament. It is recorded that his first speech was decidedly a successful effort; and, considering that he was scarcely 22 years of age, it is remarkable that he should so soon have taken his position. Before the close of the same year he was appointed Under Secretary of State for the Home Department. He very early displayed those administrative abilities which distinguished him in every official position throughout his career; so that, on the 12th September, 1812, he was appointed to the important post of Chief Secretary for Ireland. He had previously been made a Privy Councillor. Mr. Peel's secretaryship extended over a period during which the Government was compelled, from the state of affairs generally, to present itself to the people in an imperious rather than a paternal aspect. In the early part of 1814 he brought in a bill to provide for the better execution of the laws; and it is in no spirit of retrospective reproach, but rather to evidence the change that has come over men's minds, that we record the fact that the particular kind of outrage which seems to have especially called for the Bill was that called "carding"—so named from the perpetrators applying wool cards to the flesh of the persons whom they tortured. The bill had passed through its early stages, when Mr. Peel substituted for it a new "Insurrection Act"—a sufficient evidence of the state of the country, and of the difficulties with which the young statesman had to grapple. The next occasion of importance on which we find him taking part in the debates was Sir John Newport's motion on the 23rd of April, 1816, for an address to the Prince Regent, condemnatory of the conduct of Ministers in their general policy with regard to Ireland, and more especially in respect to their repressive measures. This motion gave rise to a very warm and protracted discussion. Mr. Peel moved a counter proposition by way of amendment, which was ultimately carried in opposition to Sir John Newport's motion. In 1817 he introduced that system of police in Ireland which has been found so beneficial to the country.

In the same year an important change took place in Mr. Peel's position. Mr. Abbott, then the Speaker of the House of Commons, being raised to the peerage, a vacancy was created in the representation of the University of Oxford. He was elected; and he continued to sit for the University until the year 1826, when he resigned his seat, in consequence of the course which he had adopted with respect to Roman Catholic Emancipation. In 1818 he opposed a motion for the repeal of the window-tax, and, in memory of early associations, he took occasion to speak in favour of exempting the Harrow Grammar School from the operation of Lord Brougham's bill for the regulation of public charities. In the same year he resigned his office of Chief Secretary for Ireland, and assumed the position of an independent member of Parliament, frequently taking part in the debates which from time to time arose. On the meeting of Parliament in the year 1819, Mr. Peel proposed Mr. Manners Sutton for the speakership of the House of Commons, which had become vacant by the elevation, already mentioned, of Mr. Abbott to the peerage.

On the 8th May, 1811, Mr. Horner brought forward a series of sixteen resolutions on the subject of the Currency, of which the most important were, that "during the suspension of cash payments it was the duty of the directors of the Bank of England to advert to the foreign exchanges, as well as to the price of bullion;" "that the only certain and adequate security to be provided against an excess of paper currency, and for maintaining the relative value of the circulating medium of the realm, was the legal convertibility, on demand, of all paper into lawful coin of the realm;" and that "in order to revert gradually to this security, and to enforce meanwhile a due limitation of the paper of the Bank of England, it was expedient to amend the act which suspended the cash payments of the Bank, by altering the time till which the suspension should continue, from six months after the ratification of a definitive treaty of peace to that of two years from the present time." These resolutions were met by, seventeen counter-propositions from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Vansittart, of which one was, "That it is the opinion of this Committee that the promissory notes of the Bank have hitherto been, and are, at this time, held in public estimation to be equivalent to the legal coin of the realm, and are generally accepted as such in all pecuniary transactions to which such coin is lawfully applicable." The Government resolutions were carried, and amongst their supporters were Sir Robert Peel and his son, Mr. Peel. Mr. Horner died in 1817, and was not spared to behold the ultimate triumph of his principles.

The financial and monetary condition of the country having, between this period and the year 1819, engaged the serious attention of the Govern-

ment and of Parliament, in the February of the latter year a committee of secrecy was appointed to inquire into the state of the Bank of England, with reference to the resumption of cash payments. Of this committee Mr. Peel was appointed chairman; and the first step taken was, to report their opinion "that all payments in gold should be restrained until the report of the committee should be received, and a legislative measure passed thereon." On the 5th of April, Mr. Peel introduced a bill founded on the resolution, and the same night, by means of a suspension of the standing orders, it passed the House of Commons. On the 6th of May, the report of the Committee was presented, when Mr. Peel gave notice that he would call the attention of the House to the subject on the 24th. It was upon this latter occasion, and before Mr. Peel rose to make his speech, that he came into political conflict with his father, whose veneration for the policy pursued by Mr. Pitt urged him to deprecate any encroachment upon the principles which had guided that statesman. The bill, which was commonly known as "Peel's bill," was at length carried into a law, but not without opposition and many unfounded imputations as to the motives which actuated the proposal—imputations not afterwards withdrawn, but which were boldly met by him on several occasions. This great measure for the restoration of the Currency was to have come into operation in May, 1823; but the Bank, having accumulated a large supply of specie, anticipated this period, and recommenced payments in gold in May, 1821. Bank paper had almost entirely recovered from its previous depreciation anterior to the passing of this Bill, and this circumstance greatly facilitated the return to cash payments. This favourable change was partly owing to the failure of the country banks in 1814, 1815, and 1816, and partly to the immense reduction in provincial paper, which, leaving an opening for the circulation of the Bank, raised its value nearly to a par with gold. Paper, which in 1815 had been depreciated 16 per cent. below the price of gold, rose in 1817-18, without the interference of Government, to within little more than 2½ of the value of gold. In a debate on agricultural distress in 1822, Mr. Peel took occasion to defend the bill from the charge that the agricultural interests had been depressed by its operation. In 1835, when Mr. Cayley brought forward a motion for the adoption of a silver standard, Sir R. Peel—while he admitted that the bill of 1819 had increased the distress of the country to a certain degree—contended that it was utterly impossible to escape from the evils of an inconvertible paper currency, continued for above twenty years, without the infliction of some pressure and distress upon the country. "The question was," said the Right Honourable Baronet, "whether we should submit to a temporary evil and occasional injustice, which a return to a better system of currency would at first produce, or continue and persevere in a course which would ultimately lead to ruin." We have referred to the opposition with which, from various quarters, the bill was met. There were not wanting those who even descended to the imputation of personal motives to the author of the bill: and Cobbett, fourteen years after the measure had been in operation, brought forward a very long resolution, which would have pledged the House to address the Throne for the expulsion of Sir R. Peel from the Privy Council, on the ground that he was the author of the measure. A dignified and crushing reply from the Right Honourable Baronet awaited this impudent attempt at dictation. As a technical right, the motion of Cobbett was placed on the minutes of the proceedings of the House, but it was immediately afterwards erased from the journals, as an insult to the common sense of the Legislature.

In following out this subject to its issue, we have of course, anticipated dates, and the natural course of this memoir. It has been already mentioned that Mr. Peel had quitted office, and that he was an independent member of Parliament. In this capacity his convictions enabled him to give to the Government a general support. In February, 1821, the Marquis of Tavistock, having moved a vote of censure against the Ministers, with respect to their proceedings in the case of Queen Caroline, Mr. Peel opposed the motion, and gave his support to the Government. At the same time he indicated the moderation of his views by declining to approve the rejection of her Majesty's name from the Liturgy. In the course of the same year, on the introduction of Mr. Plunket's Roman Catholic Disabilities Removal Bill, Mr. Peel recorded once more, in the most solemn manner, his objection, on political grounds, to the removal of those disabilities. In the course of the same debate, Canning made one of his first speeches in favour of concession. It is curious that in alluding to Mr. Peel, whom he followed, he spoke in strong terms of his personal friendship for that Right Honourable gentleman. On the seventeenth day of January, 1822, Mr. Peel once more accepted office. Lord Sidmouth having ceased to be Home Secretary, Mr. Peel was appointed to that important post which he continued to hold until 1827. In the course of the year 1822, Mr. Canning having introduced a bill to allow the admission of Roman Catholic peers into the House of Lords, Mr. Peel once more