

PAY YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS.

IN this number of the DOMINION CHURCHMAN envelopes are enclosed for subscribers (who have not yet paid) to remit their arrears, and also their subscriptions in advance.

All arrears must be paid up to the end of 1888 at the rate \$2.00 per annum, one dollar additional will pay up to 31st December, 1889. We trust this will be a sufficient hint for all to kindly forward their subscriptions immediately. Those who have already done so, will be doing a kind favor by forwarding \$1.00 for a new subscriber, so that we may be able to double our subscription list, and thus be placed in the same position as we hope all our subscribers will be, in having a "Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year."

A THOUGHT FOR CHRISTMAS.

THE changed attitude of humanity since the day when "Christ was born in Bethlehem," may be expressed as the difference between expectancy and realization. That there existed a marvellous longing for and looking forward to some supreme deliverer prior to the Incarnation is declared by all history. That since Christ came no such sense of anticipation has been manifested is one of the demonstrations that He was the desire of all ages, the One who fulfilled the longings and expectancies of humanity. In the People's Bible is a passage which so eloquently puts this, that we give it as a thought for Christmas and take the opportunity of commending this valuable work to those who are looking out for a suitable gift for the season.

"It would seem as if throughout the ages the whole series of events has been running up into the personality of One Man. Christians believe that all these initial and intermediate movements have culminated in the person and reign of Jesus Christ, Who is the Son of man, the embodied ideal of humanity. Have all the ages been groping for the true King? There have been stopping places indeed, and places which have for the moment afforded considerable security and contentment. But even in those cases time has developed some higher instinct or intenser yearning, and soon the age has moved on towards another and grander personality. Instincts and aspirations of this kind must have some deep meaning. It is evident that they were not meant to be limited by any immediate experience, but were charged with still higher energies and endeavours, unfolding in due time, and directed unflinchingly to a supreme end. It is the Christian belief that in the fullness of time God sent His Son, and that in the Son of God there is sufficient to satisfy every desire or aspiration for personal primacy, official dignity, supreme benevolence, and complete redemption. The human mind cannot transcend the personality of Christ. Even readers who are not theolog-

cal are bound to admit that in Christ, humanity seems to culminate.

Jesus Christ could not have come before in the history of the world. The very moment of His advent seems to be a revelation of an over-ruling Providence, fixing all times, bounds and issues, and doing all things by a might and a will neither to be calculated nor controlled by man.

Instead, therefore, of looking forward to some coming One, who will solve all mysteries and subdue all tumult into order, we look up to the ascended and glorified Christ and find in His mediation a pledge that in due time God shall be all in all."—People's Bible, Vol. IX., page 12.

MUSIC IN ENGLAND.

ONE of the many popular errors that prevail even in England, is that the old land was ever behind Germany and Italy in musical knowledge and taste. That part singing is a Yorkshire discovery is beyond dispute, and that the people of that county are incomparable as chorus singers is well known. On the continent there may be more musical culture of and amongst a certain class, but that the whole people of any nation have ever at any time shown a greater love of music than the English no one can affirm. We have heard foreigners express the greatest surprise at hearing a Yorkshire congregation singing some familiar hymn, wherein persons of the humblest rank, without the knowledge of a note of music, were heard taking part in a self-arranged harmony that was remarkably effective, and close to a scientific score. At this Christmas season tens of thousands of choristers and instrumentalists will be stirring soon after midnight to go round the villages and towns making the air vocal, bidding all "Christians awake, salute the happy morn!" There is in no part of the world such a musical celebration, so universal, so demonstrative of the passion for sacred music in a whole people, as the Christmas Festival in England. The gifted composer, Sir Arthur Sullivan, has made the history of English music a study. As President of the Birmingham and Midland Institute, he recently delivered the annual address. He took music as his subject. Among the many advances of our country in the last half century, none, he said, had been greater than that of music. Publications and performances are now so extraordinarily multiplied that the masterpieces—not only of the old composers, but of the most modern writers—are brought within the means of every one, more so probably than in any other country, and England has thus so far the chance of again assuming the position that she held many years ago, of being at the head of Europe as a musical country. She was once (as I believe the most Teutonic of German historians now allow) a long way in advance of other nations, yet how little is this known or acknowledged by ourselves. So far back as the year 1230 a piece of music composed by a monk of Reading

(John of Fornsete was his honoured name, and the MS. of his work is at the British Museum) was far in advance, both in tunefulness and expression, of anything else produced at that time. I allude to the celebrated glee in six vocal parts, "Summer is a coming in," and observe that that pre-eminence implies many years—I might say centuries—of previous study and progress on the part of our countrymen. But we need not trust to implication only. Records exist to prove how diligently and enthusiastically music was pursued in England from the reign of King Alfred to the time of the Reformation. Here are a few facts. In 550 A. D. there was a great gathering and competition of harpists at Conway,—an early Eisteddfod. In 866 King Alfred instituted a professorship of music at Oxford, and there must have been concerted music in those Anglo Saxon times, for in the British Museum is an old picture of a concert consisting of a six-stringed harp, a four-string fiddle, a trumpet and a crooked horn. Curiously enough, this is, with the exception of the horn, exactly the same combination of instruments that we see nearly every Saturday night playing outside a London public-house. I have not noticed whether the background of the picture I allude to represents the corresponding locality of that period. Even then music had begun to exercise an influence on trade; the metal industry and joinery must have already benefitted by it, for in the 10th century the monk Wulston gives a long description of a grand organ in Winchester Cathedral, and St. Dunstan, famous for his skill in metal work, at the same date fabricated an organ in Malmesbury Abbey, the pipes of which were of brass. Long before the Conquest three-part harmony was practised, and is spoken of by the chroniclers as the "custom of the country." Thomas a Becket, on his visit to France to negotiate the marriage of Henry II., took with him 250 boys, who sang in harmony of three parts, which is expressly recorded to have been "in the English manner and till then unheard of in France." It is a satisfaction to know also that in those days musicians were well paid, for at the wedding of Edward I.'s daughter every King's minstrel received 40s., equal at least to £20 in these days. After dwelling on the influence which music had exercised, Sir Arthur Sullivan concluded by saying:—"I have endeavoured to show you how England was at one time in the foremost place among musical nations, and I would now only urge you to use all your efforts to restore her to that proud position. The means lie in education. We must be educated to appreciate, and appreciation must come before production. Give us intelligent and educated listeners and we should produce composers and performers of corresponding worth. Much is now being done in England for the higher education of musicians."

Sir Arthur Sullivan paid high compliments to the Royal College of Music and the Academy of Music for their services in musical education. We may fitly conclude by alluding to the institutions which in Canada represent