

The Church Guardian.

Upholds the Doctrines and Rubrics of the Prayer Book.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi., 24.
"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude: 3.

VOL. V.]
No. 41.]

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1884.

\$1.50
[PER YEAR.]

ECCLIASTICAL NOTES.

In a sermon delivered recently at St. Anne's Church, Manchester, from St. Luke xxi. 31, the Bishop of the diocese said that one of the signs of the times was the steady growth of the feeling of justice between man and man. He thought, also, that there was a strong instinct abroad in favor of goodness and righteousness. There was certainly at the present time, a wider sweep given to Christian charity—he meant in the kindness which ought to prevail between man and man, and in the sympathy with every good word. He also thought there was a more real sense of religion. People were beginning to feel that the vital part of religion was "to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly before God." Any man who made up his mind to serve Christ would find fewer difficulties in the way now than at any former period in the history of the country.

THERE has lately been discovered in Trier the coffin containing the remains of Bishop Paulinus. The sarcophagus is hewn out of a single stone. Within it was found a coffin made of some foreign wood, and in a wonderful state of preservation. The workmanship is excellent, and it is adorned with one gold and two silver plates, on each side of which are engraved the initials of our Saviour with the Alpha and Omega. On another silver plate are two plastic representations. The coffin was evidently originally suspended, for it is provided with four rings and four hooks. All the parts of the coffin are of the 4th century, A. D., as also is the costly silk found both within and without.

A scheme has been started in Scotland which would find much favour in Canada and be of immense importance to our clergy. It is proposed to form a theological book club connected with the Church, with a view of supplying books, such as ministers require, at a cheap rate. The capital is £16,000. An annual subscription of £2 would secure books to the value of £6. Not only theological books, but works of philosophy and science are included. Something of the kind is needed here. Our clergy are so poorly paid that it is impossible for many of them to get theological works which are usually very expensive. Consequently the loss to the Church and the people cannot be estimated. With increased salaries will come an increased and better store of books, and a higher standard all around. A suggestion worth noting is that which recommends the Provincial Synod to start a theological book club for the purpose of supplying books to the clergy at a very much reduced rate.

THE Bishop of Albany is in a fair way of seeing the desire of his heart accomplished. Work on his new cathedral will soon be begun. The estimated cost of the cathedral will be \$500,000. At first, there will be built a "provincial building" at a cost of \$150,000 from which the cathedral proper could be completed. The building will be one worthy the honour of God. The following are the dimensions—The external length of the edifice will be 260 feet; average breadth, 95 feet; height of spires, 203 feet; central tower, 180 feet; roof 110 feet; nave walls, 76 feet. The interior dimensions will be, choir, 91 by 35 feet; nave,

99 by 40 feet; crossing, 40 feet; transept, 100 feet wide; nave vault, 70 feet high, central dome, 113 feet high.

The American Church deserves the greatest credit for its activity in erecting these grand and impressive visibilities of God's presence among men. We need more of such edifices in an age when there is so much infidelity in the air. A cathedral with its ever-recurring round of daily services; its bells almost defiantly flinging forth day by day, the message of a loving Father's invitation; and its staff of clergy which become the central leavening power of the diocese; the mighty power exercised by these influences have scarcely yet been fully realized by the Sons of the Canadian Church. What more lasting monument could be erected to one of our rich men than that of a majestic cathedral: or to what better use could our Churchmen devote their means. Nearly all our dioceses lack this one grand central monument. Men of riches! give your offerings now, or at least do not forget a cathedral fund in your wills. Every son of the Church! give as the Lord hath prospered you and let our dioceses have their central churches worthy of manly Canadians, our devoted Bishops, and of the everlasting glory of God.

A preacher recently said in a sermon on "Limp Christians":—We may live to see men calling themselves Christians, and differing in no single item from Mohammedans; in fact, even now there are religionists among us who are not so near the truth as the followers of the false prophets. Oak has given place to willow; everybody has grown limp. Out of the generality of limppness has come an admiration of it. A man cannot speak a plain word without being accused of bitterness, and if he denounces error he is narrow-minded; for all must join the Universal Admiration Company or be placed under ban and be howled down."

A clergyman from South Australia writes an interesting letter concerning a case of early confirmation in his own parish. He says:—"About four years ago a Greek, living in my parish, brought his little boy, aged 7½, for Confirmation. The little fellow, as is the case with all our children in this parish, knew his Catechism thoroughly and I promised to present him at our next confirmation. I told our late Bishop (Merriman) his age, which was then 8¼, and his answer was, "Can he say the Catechism?" On my answering in the affirmative; he remarked, "Then, if he be presented, I cannot refuse him." Since then our children are confirmed before 10 years of age. Many have been confirmed very late in life, and my experience is strongly in favour of the old maxim, "Train up a child, &c."

Outside Testimony to the Church's Value.

Dr. Schaff, a learned Lutheran professor of New York, says:—"During the century the vigorous life of the Church has been further shown by the restoration of cathedrals and construction of churches, in the creation of new episcopal sees at home and the rapid extension of the church and episcopate in the colonies. At no time in its history has it been stronger and more vigorous than now; more alive with theological discussion and achieve-

ment; more competent to cope with infidelity; more solicitous to relieve the poor and fallen; more munificent in its gifts for the conversion of the heathen, or more adapted to secure the esteem and gain the respect of the Anglo-Saxon people."

The evangelist George O. Barnes is certainly no partial witness, yet he writes to a Kentucky paper:—"After all, rail at her as we will, there is no church on earth like the Church of England; no holy army of martyrs like to hers; no ritual so pure and uplifting; no giants of theology like hers; no history, on the whole, so honorable."

And an eminent non-episcopalian says:—"The Episcopal Church preserves a very high grade of dignity, decency, propriety and permanence in all her public offices—no transient observer can adequately value this treasure of a birth right Churchman.

"To be using to-day the self-same words that have through the centuries declared the faith or made known the prayer of that mighty multitude, who being now delivered from the burden of flesh, or in joy and felicity."

"To be baptized in early infancy, and never to know a time when we were not recognized and welcome among the millions who have entered the same door.

"To be confirmed in due time, in a faith that has sustained a noble army of confessors, approving its worth through persecutions and prosperities, a strength to the tried and a chastening to the worldly-minded.

"To be married, by an authority before which kings and peasants bow alike, asking benediction upon the covenant that without respect of persons binds by the same words of duty, the highest and the lowest.

"To bring our new-born children as we were brought, to begin where we began, and to grow up to fill our places.

"To die in the faith, and almost hear the gospel words soon to be spoken over one's own grave as over the thousand times ten thousand of them who have slept in Jesus.

"In short, to be a devout and consistent Churchman, brings a man through aisles fragrant with holy association, and accompanied by a long procession of the good, chanting as they march a unison of piety and hope until they come to the holy place where shining saints sing the new song of the redeemed. And they sing with them."

And the Rev. Thomas K. Beecher, a Congregational minister, says of our Church as an educator.

"The Episcopal Church is excellent in her provisions for Christian education and pious drill.

"Churches that avowedly receive very young infants as members must necessarily provide education for these accepted children. Accordingly the Episcopal Church is characteristically a church for the training of children.

"In the Prayer book and Church Almanac you find the Christian year divided into periods separated by high days—monuments and memorials of Christian story.

"In connection with this calendar is a system of lessons, in following which the reader is led through the entire Bible each year, and through its more profitable parts monthly or oftener.

"He who for years has been a Churchman, and yet remains ill-grounded in Scripture, shows himself to be an unworthy son of a very faithful mother."