

long as the means used are right. If the organ or the choir, or both together, usurp the place of the congregation, and sing for them, then they should be dispensed with. But which ever way is best found to lead the whole congregation to join together in the song of praise should be adopted by each congregation, of course under the due restrictions imposed by our Presbyterian form of Church Government. And this is the course sanctioned by our Synod, the most just and, therefore, the wisest decision that could have been arrived at.



WHEN noticing the presentation of the Church agent's report to the Synod in June last, we promised to return to the subject on some future occasion. We are able to redeem our promise now to advantage, as, the report being printed, we can more easily comprehend all its matter and more fully appreciate its merits. Mr. Croil has in this production rendered signal service to our Church, and not only to her but also to the country at large, by so valuable a contribution to its history. There was a time when our Church occupied a comparatively more conspicuous position in Canada than she does to-day, and when her ministers and members played no unimportant part in the affairs of the colony, so that her early history is intimately interwoven with that of the whole community. Whilst we are on this subject we are tempted to notice one statement in this book which is most interesting, namely, that on page 77, which says that the Church barely missed engaging the services of the late venerable Bishop of Toronto, who at one time made proposals to become the minister of St. Gabriel Street Church, Montreal. Imagination taxes herself in vain to conceive what the result might have been to our Church had that application, of which we believe there exists a notarial copy in this city, been successful. Excellent men we had and have in the ministry of our Church, but none possessing the energy and activity of mind, or the taste and disposition for semi-political life displayed by Bishop Strachan, which contributed so much to the prosperity and aggrandizement of the Protestant Episcopal Church in this country.

These are not the first leaves our author has gathered in the field of historical liter-

ature, he having already some years ago, in a sketch of the county of Dundas, contributed a chapter to the history of our country. But we fancy that, pleasant though it may have been to him to trace the early history of the county in which Providence has cast his lot, the compiling of this document has been a work still more congenial to his taste, as, being fondly attached to our Church, we believe the subject was one which far more engaged his heart, as he knew he was serving her interests most effectually in this work. Mr. Croil has laid our Church under the deepest obligations by his zeal and devotion to her interests as an elder, as an enlightened and far-seeing agent, and now as her historian. We hope he will pardon us for speaking out thus plainly whilst he is still within hearing. We do not utter the language of mere compliment in so speaking, but the sincere and earnest feeling of our Church at large; and we do not sympathise with that false delicacy so prevalent in the literary world which refuses to a man the just acknowledgment of his merits until after his death. Those must have been words of deep satire which the greatest of all earthly judges of human nature put into the mouth of Mark Antony:

"The evil that men do lives after them;
The good is oft interred with their bones."

We fancy that this sentence was meant to convey a sly sarcasm at the expense of Brutus; for Shakespeare could not have committed the blunder of putting these words in their literal sense into the mouth of so knowing a man as he characterized Antony, in the face of the popular adage as well known then as now "*Demortuis nil nisi bonum.*" We do not wait to enquire why it is that during their lifetime men never receive the acknowledgment their merits deserve, and when, if it is on all hands felt to be deserved, it would be both a satisfaction and encouragement, but we fear the explanation is not very creditable to the race. We should like Mr. Croil to be assured, whilst he is living and has still the prospect of a long life before him, and whilst it may be a gratification to him, that he enjoys the warmest gratitude of the Church for the manifold and valuable services he has rendered her, especially during the last two years, in visiting every congregation within her bounds, and in some cases even the individual families of the congregations, in counselling and encouraging them in their difficulties, in aiding them to obtain a more perfect organization,