THE CHURCH AND THE PEOPLE.

FEBRUARY 1889

fruits of the pious liberality of past ages, and can thus, like Saint Paul, make the Gospel 'without charge.'

The rich can pay for new churches for themselves as well as for any other luxury; but if the Church of England is robbed and plundered the poor will suffer a loss that a thousand years will hardly make up to them again.

The Church Defence Society has pulished the following, which we gladly reprint, as its object is precisely that which we are endecovouring to serve in this column :—

TO CHURCHMEN. WHAT WE FIND:

- 1. Considerable misapprehension amongst all classes respecting the History of the Church, her property and endowments, and consequently much misrepresentation of the Church's true position.
- 2. A powerful organisation called 'The Liberation Society,' which teaches that 'both ancient and modern buildings [thus including all Churches], as well as all endowments, now appropriated to the use of the National Church, must be regarded as National property, at the disposal of the State.'
- 3. A Society which maintains further that, ' with such exceptions as may be determined on, the Cathedrals, Abboys [such as Westminster, Beverley, &c.], and other monumental buildings, should be under National control, and be maintained for such uses as Parliament may from time to time determine.'
- 4. An extraordinary ignorance among Churchmen, both of what is being thus taught, and of the mischievous extent to which such teaching is being disseminated.
- 5. A common feeling among Churchmen that, while the Church's work is her best defence, no other defence is needful.

WHAT WE WANT:

- 1. To spread sound information on Church History, Church Property, &c., at least as widely as misleading publications on the same subjects to the number of three millions annually are circulated.
- 2. To arrange for the delivery of sermons, the holding of lectures, and the circulation of leaflets, according as may seem most desirable, and so to kindle new love and reverence for the Church, to strengthen her children in their attachment, and to fortify them with all necessary arguments for her defence.
- 3. To preserve to our country and children the greatest of our national blessings, and to maintain for the service of Almighty God all that by the piety of past generations has been dedicated to Him.

WHAT WE DO NOT WANT:

- 1. To see Religion banished from our Schools, from the Legislature, and generally from our National life.
- 2. To see Churches, venerable with the holiest associations, appropriated to secular uses, or for unchristian and anti-Christian services, or, as in Ireland in some cases since Disestablishment, closed through inability to maintain them.
- 8. To see a Clergy of inferior class and capacity powerless to influence the educated Laity.

WHAT YOU MAY DO:

- 1. Take pains to ascertain the truth respecting (a) the history, (b) the working, and (c) the right of the Church to her revenues.
- 2. Help to bring this knowledge home to others by subscribing to the Church Defence Institution, by distributing its various publications, especially 'The National Church,' and giving it all the moral support in your power.
- And so do your part in preserving to your country that which is its greatest glory our National Christianity.

PERSEVERANCE.

'THE conditions of prayer which shall be heard are: 1. A right faith; in My Name. 2. A right life; if My words abide in you. 8. That we be members of His Body; if ye abide in Me. 4. And confidence as to the very subject of our prayer; believing that ye shall have them. 5. Perseverance.'