

His Lordship the Bishop addressed the class, in presence of an overflowing congregation, in his usual happy style.

## British News.

### ENGLAND.

#### TRAVELERS' SKETCHES.

*Dear Sir:* This will be my last letter from dear old England. By God's preserving mercy I trust to be at work again in Canada before next month opens. In an early letter your correspondent made the very safe assertion, "I am not musical." Although there are no good grounds for amending that assertion, yet I begin to feel that there must be music in all men's phrenological conformation if only it can be 'got out.' During my last week in England it has been my high privilege to attend the triennial Music Festival of Gloucester, Hereford and Worcester, at the first named Cathedral city. These festivals of the three choirs have now been held for 154 years. The object for which the proceeds are devoted must commend itself—the Fund for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of deceased Clergy within the Dioceses. A few years ago, Canon Barry and others, doubtless from conscientious motives, succeeded in breaking the sequence of the meeting of the "Three Choirs," and resolved the usual sacred performances into a series of special services in the cathedral and concerts in the city of Worcester. This proving a practical failure of the chief objects for which the meetings were originally instituted, has set on foot so strong a reaction in favor of the traditional festival, as to result in the greatest success of the one just closing.

Since the performance of the most sublime sacred music, accompanied by words of Holy Scriptures, cannot and has never failed to leave good impressions on the minds of hearers, it appears to be rather hypercritical to class such performances with those which have very rightly moved the indignation of all who would keep a 'house of God' free from its abuse as a place of amusement. The Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol, in his sermon at the opening service, expressed this very well when his Lordship said: "I should feel myself acting with something more than unkindness to the silent and uncomplaining recipients of this Christian bounty, if at a critical period in the sequence of these Festivals, I fail to put private opinions somewhat in the background, or refused to appear in this place to press upon them the cause of the widow and orphan. The sacred performances are spoken of by the Bishop in most appropriate terms: "A great series of the noblest and most heart-moving forms of praise wherewith it has entered into the heart of man to adore and to glorify his Maker."

The week begins with a full choral service—led by the united choirs of the three cathedrals—at which also the corporations of the three cities were present, and at which the Bishop made his powerful and moving appeal in aid of the charity. The first oratorio was the perennial *Elijah*. This first heard in Gloucester some thirty years since, increases rather than diminishes in popularity. The Cathedral was full, showing that this last work of the great Mendelssohn is always a safe one with which to begin the Festival. The principal singers were Madame Patey, Mlles. Albani, Vernon and Made. Sophie Lowe with Messrs. Santly, Cummings, Lloyd and Meybrick. The orchestra, under the conductorship of the Gloucester organist, was composed of some 200 voices and perhaps a hundred instruments. These voices are all well-trained and the instrumental music the best that can be obtained. A 'critique' of the Oratorio I cannot pretend to write, and I would that I had words at my command to express the grandeur and pathos of the various portion—solo, chorus, instrumental and other notable singers.

Madame Patey's rich contralto in the "Sanctus" at the rendering of which the whole audience rose to their feet, seemed the singer's noblest mode of appreciation, that perfect silence which is felt when at the close, the "bated breath" of thousands is given forth in one great rushing sound. Madame Titiens—the favorite—

had been secured but her illness prevented her attendance. It was a trying moment for Albani when she rose to take Titiens' place in the air "Hear ye Israel" with its inspiring sequel "Be not afraid." She proved herself an excellent substitute for the great *prima donna*.

The next day was taken up in the rendering of Bach's *Passion* and Beethoven's *Engedi*. The evening was given up to Mendelssohn's *St. Paul* and Haydn's *Creation*. Parts of *St. Paul* were most beautiful, especially the air "The Lord is mindful of his own" with all the sublime pathos of the full rich contralto voice of Madame Patey.

Nevertheless coming between the great favorites *Elijah* and *The Creation*, this oratorio was not so enchanting as it would undoubtedly be alone. The first part of Haydn's *Creation* was by the opinion of all "musicals" whom I have since spoken with a "triumph" for conductor solos and orchestra.

The instrumental introduction was a wonderful representation of chaos. The chorus "And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters," rising gradually in force and volume until it culminates in the joyful shout "And there was light," seems to lift the hearer and set him down in the primeval world as the first light broke forth illuminating God's good works. Here again Albani surpassed every expectation. Her highest notes are given with but little effort, and throughout she has exquisite taste, displayed in naturalness of manner and that reverential demeanor which must ever be a characteristic of any who truly feel these sublime words, and the place in which they are rendered to the praise and glory of the Almighty Creator. Her power of voice and perfect training are apparent in the marvellous accuracy with which she drops from her highest notes to one far lower. The next day's performance was miscellaneous. The whole is to end with Handel's "Messiah," which, I need hardly say, is the popular favorite, and will undoubtedly again draw the greatest number of visitors. On the last day there is to be a choral service rendered by the full orchestra. In order to secure any comfort at all, it became necessary to admit to this service in the nave by ticket (of course the tickets to this are given). On the day of their distribution it was necessary to protect the two clergymen appointed to give them by a cordon of police, so great was the crowd that pushed forward to secure an entrance to the service. Throughout, the Festival has been a success. The weather, which had been very threatening, was all that could be desired. The congregations were large, and the music excellently rendered. But the most pleasing feature has been the order and most perfect reverence, another of those many signs which go to show a better and more reverential feeling for things sacred, in the populace. O happy England! to be the arena of the most wonderful and healthy revival in true Catholic Christianity, that the world has seen for many generations.

Yours truly, W.

Gloucester, Sept. 6, 1877.

In connection with the Cambridge scheme of extension, the foundation of a University has been laid at Nottingham. On the occasion Mr. Gladstone discussed the affairs of the French nation, and gave his version of the Eastern Question.

The young Greenland whale, caught on the Labrador coast, and conveyed to London at great cost and trouble, has died in the Royal Aquarium at Westminster for want of a sufficient supply of saltwater, and fatigue occasioned by the voyage across the Atlantic.

Cardinal Riario Sforza, Archbishop of Naples, whose name has been mentioned as the probable successor of the present Pope, is dead. It was expected that in his person a reconciliation between the Papacy and the Kingdom of Italy would be effected. This hope is gone.

Prince Leopold, who it is said is about to take orders in the Church of England, while on a visit lately to Sir Coutts Lindsay, at Balcanes in Scotland, was about to proceed on a certain Sunday with his host to the Episcopal church, when, it is said, at the

last hour, in obedience to the Queen's commands, he attended the Presbyterian Kirk. The royal Family as a matter of state policy have to change their faith every time they cross the border. On the same principle they would of course attend the Church of Rome in Lower Canada and the temple of Juggernaut in India.

John Whittle, a man of independent means has been fined \$5 and costs, by a bench of magistrates, for "brawling" in church. His object was to drown the voice of minister whilst addressing the congregation.

The Bishop of Rochester, following the advice of his legal advisers has finally refused to license the Rev. Malcom McColl as curate-in-charge of the parish of St. James' Hatcham. To license a friend of Mr. Tooth to the curacy, the Bishop is advised, would virtually be to ignore the requirements of the Public Worship Regulation Act in the case.

A letter was written and signed by several of the leading Evangelical Churchmen, urging the attendance of those of that school of thought at the Croydon Congress in order, "to maintain the Protestant character of the Church of England, and to vindicate it from possible misrepresentation during the proceedings of the Congress." The letter states that "a meeting for the purpose of asking God's blessing on each day's proceedings will be held daily at the Greyhound Hotel at 9 a.m." The object of the meeting is certainly good, but the place of holding it rather of a strange character!

#### FOREIGN MISSIONARY NOTES.

\* FRANCE.—The Archbishop of Bourges, in view of the late elections, that took place on Sunday, issued a form of prayer that God who holds the destinies of nations in his hands would so cause "that the elections may return an assembly, strong, united, conservative, Christian," and that would oppose an invincible resistance to the efforts of Radicalism." Such a prayer in this country, we take it, would be held an unwarrantable interference with the free exercise of the franchise and would doubtless void the elections.

In their Declaration of Principles the Alt-Catholics say, that "as men of reason they reject as unworthy of the Catholic Church, the doctrine and practises of Ultramontanism, called Roman, but not even Christian; doctrines which have given birth to the dogmas of the Immaculate Conception and Papal Infallibility," the consequences of which in a religious point of view have been to "exalt the worship of the Virgin above that of Christ, and the Pope above that of the Church, and in a political point of view, to "subordinate the temporal to the spiritual authority, the power of the State to that of the Church." They declare themselves to be "neither Revolutionists nor Sectarians," but "belonged to that large Catholic family, both ancient and modern, who had always promoted reforms within the bosom of the church, without even seeking to break away from it."

A pigeon proprietor has been charged in a French frontier town with having systematically, evaded the duty on imported tobacco by flying them across the boundary, each laden with a packet of the article tied to its body.

UNITED STATES.—The Church Almanac, prints the following statistics of the American Church for 1876: Dioceses, 45; Missionary Districts, (including Africa, China, and Japan), 13; Bishops, 60; Priests and Deacons 3,192; whole number of Clergy, 3,251; Parishes, about 2,800; Ordinations 214; Churches consecrated, 53; baptisms (reported), 41,453; Confirmations (reported) 26,954; Communicants (reported) 284,836, (estimated) 286,000; Sunday School Teachers (reported), 24,894; Sunday School pupils (reported), 296,509; total contributions for all purposes, as reported, \$6,804,448.

The American Consul at St. John's Newfoundland, has purchased from a seaman who was wrecked at Hudson's Bay two spoons supposed to be relics of the Franklin expedition, one of them