THE EPIPHANY.

The feast of the Epiphany is the earliest of those which may now be called the Christmas festivals. The first historical notice of it is found in the writings of Clement of Alexandria (A.D. 200); and in the time of Chrysostem (A. D. 400) it is spoken of as an old and leading festival of the Asiatic church. The earliest distinct trace of it in the west is found in France in nearly the middle of the fourth century. The main object of the proper services from Christmas to Epiphany is to set forth the humanity of our Blessed Lord. The design of the feast of the Epiphany is to show our gratitude to God for admitting the Gentiles to those religious privileges which had been confined to the Jews. The word Epiphany means Manifestation; and there are three manifestations of our Saviour commemorated on this day. The first, mentioned in the collect and the gospel, the declaration of the birth of Christ to the wise men of the east; the second, related in the second morning lesson. the manifestation of the Trinity at the Baptism of Christ: the third is the manifestation of the glory and divinity of Christ by his first miracle of turning water into wine, related in the second evening lesson. The first lessons contain prophecies of the increase of the church by the abundant access of the Gentiles; and the epistle declares that the mystery of the gospel was revealed to them.

Having been requested by a reader to give the names of one or two good books dealing with the question of Christian Socialism, we would mention Bishop Westcott's "Social aspects of Christianity," published by Macmillans, London, Eng.; Archbishop Benson's "Christ and His times," published by the same firm; and "Christ and Social Reform," by Rev. J. Adderley (S.P.C.K.) There is also a little book by Bishop Barry, published by Cassells, London. This last contains a series of lectures delivered at Lambeth, at the request of Bishop Thorold, showing the social characteristics of Christianity as regards the family, property, trade, the nation, and humanity.

The Truro Cathedral Memorial to the late Archbishop Benson was discussed lately at a meeting of the Truro Cathedral Committee, held at Truro, under the presidency of the Bishop, in the unavoidable absence of the Lord Lieutenant of the country. There was a good attendance, and donations of a considerable amount were announced. The question of proceeding with the nave of the Cathedral was considered, and a sub-committee was appointed to draw up a circular and take other steps in furtherance of the object. The total amount of donations announced was about £4,500.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Western Churchman.

Sir,—May I, through the medium of your paper, beg those of my brother clergy who may have parishoners leaving them for Dauphin, to notify me of the fact, stating, if possible, what part of the district they are settling in. There are so many strangers from all parts pouring into this country, and the mission is so large, that it is impossible otherwise to find out all the church people who settle down in out-of-the-way places, where I may not hear of them for months.

Three lines on a post card will not entail much trouble or expense, and may be of great service.

Yours faithfully,

HERBERT C. WAKEFIELD,

Priest in charge of the Dauphin Mission. The Vicarage, Dauphin P.O., Man.

Dec. 31, 1896.

VEN. ARCHDEACON FORTIN

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