

but I do not therefore advise that any legal proceedings should be taken against him. Such a step would only give exaggerated importance to a matter which is really of very little moment. Every similar transgression of the law, whether by Romanists or any other Dissenters, is ultimately more injurious to the offenders than to the Church. Your wisest course will be to remind your own people (with reference to what was stated—I hope ignorantly—by the Romish priest) that the Church of England does believe in an intermediate state as clearly as the Church of Rome, and far more in accordance with the Catholic Faith; but that we do not make merchandise of our belief, nor work upon the fears of the ignorant by teaching them that the gift of God can be purchased with money."

A sad disaster occurred on the 8th at Vienna in Austria. More than a thousand lives are supposed to have been lost from a fire which took place at the Ring Theatre; no precautions having been taken against such a catastrophe. As soon as the fire appeared the gas was turned off, and most of the unfortunate inmates had no means or opportunity of escape.

#### THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

THE Church now sounds her last herald notes of the season which precedes Christmas, and we seem to hear the cry of the procession as it approaches—"The Bridegroom cometh! go ye forth to meet Him." One will shortly stand among you, who will bring from on high the peace of God which passeth all understanding. And in the services of to-day, the person of St. John the Baptist is only less prominent than that of the King whom he announced as having already come. For four hundred years the prophecy of Malachi relative to the appearance of the Prophet Elijah had been pondered over and closely studied by the Jews. They expected nothing but a literal fulfilment of the prophecy—which literal fulfilment will doubtless take place before the Second and more glorious appearing of Messiah in all the splendor of His kingly authority. In the meantime, the coming of the Messiah as the Man of Sorrows demanded the appearance of a herald who should come in the spirit and power of Elijah, and thus give a germinal fulfilment to the prophecy.

As a general rule, God does not appear to allow any great truth or any great blessing to burst upon the world without some kind of preparation. Prophecy had been some such preparation; but then prophecy had also foretold the coming of the Baptist, and the object of the Baptist's preaching was anything but an unmeaning one. Prophecy had, it is true, spoken of Messiah; but it was the Baptist's business to point Him out when He did come. In one respect, St. John the Baptist was in the kingdom of grace like those gifted men in the world of thought, or in that of practical life, who are always in advance of the mass of the people generally. They are like lofty mountains whose summits the sun has already lit up, while he has not yet risen upon the plain beneath. Truth has come to them as its destined forerunners. And these men seem to illustrate the order of God's providence. Rarely does He so take us by surprise as to dispense with some similar preparation for what He is about to teach or to do. We see the signs of the Son of Man, whether in the course of events or in the intellectual heavens—we see the signs of dawn which tell of the coming day.

#### DEATH OF THE BISHOP OF ALGOMA.

WE can scarcely express our feelings of the deepest regret at the awfully sudden death of his Lordship the Missionary Bishop of Algoma, which took place while he was on a visit to Toronto, on the 7th instant, between one and two p.m. He had been unwell for some time past, but no outward appearance, not seriously so, and no uneasiness had been expressed by his friends. On the morning of his death he rose as usual, and expressed himself as feeling better than he had done for some time past. He spent some hours in attending to the work of his diocese. After which, on preparing to leave the house where he had been staying, he fell down in the hall and expired in a few minutes. Dr. Temple on arriving at the house pronounced life to be extinct, and expressed his opinion that death had been caused by disease of the heart.

The deceased Bishop being of a most kindly and genial disposition, and never having mixed in the bitterness of ecclesiastical squabbles, had many warm friends, who were called upon on the 3rd of November last to sympathize with him on the loss of his beloved wife. Mrs. Fauquier for many years had been an invalid, but yet of a most active mind and benevolent disposition; and as a city contemporary remarks, "to her zealous co-operation and assistance may be said to be due in a great measure the success which has attended the efforts of the deceased Bishop to forward the interests of his diocese. The intelligence of this last bereavement will be cause of wide-spread grief throughout the diocese of Algoma."

The diocese over which his Lordship presided was constituted in 1873. It includes the Muskoka territory on the east of the Georgian Bay, extending north-west beyond Fort William on Lake Superior, to Pigeon River. The entire length of the diocese is about eight hundred miles, and the width about two hundred. The population is about 14,000, a large proportion of whom are Indians, many of them in a state of heathenism. Over this large diocese consisting of a tract of country, most picturesque but in many parts extremely rocky, and for several months in the year locked up in the rigors of a northern winter, the deceased bishop has laboured with unremitting zeal and anxiety for more than six years, during which period he has been more successful than might have been expected from the limited amount of means placed at his command, has secured the affections of his people, besides largely increasing the number of those who sympathized with him personally and also with the onerous work of his difficult diocese.

His Lordship was in his sixty-fifth year at the time of his death. He was born and educated in England, and prepared for the ministry by the late Bishop of Toronto. He was incumbent of East Zorra for twenty-eight years, was a very moderate, but very good Churchman, and being intent on the solemn duties he was called to fulfil, never meddled either one way or the other with the petty ecclesiastical squabbles into which some ardent minds are disposed so eagerly to enter, and in consequence may not have satisfied in every respect the wishes of extreme "party" men. The diocese in which he was the first bishop is the one which of all others has been solemnly and repeatedly recognized throughout this ecclesiastical province as the one "missionary diocese" we are all bound to support—although it must be confessed that the assistance furnished to the late Bishop in funds for

the work of the diocese, was much less than the necessities of the case required, and far less than he had a right to expect from the engagements that had been voluntarily made on his behalf. In consequence of the importance of this our missionary diocese we have always taken the greatest interest in the late bishop's work, and endeavoured to do and to publish what we could, that might be calculated to be of any service to him in his undertaking. His Lordship has repeatedly acknowledged his appreciation of our efforts, and has many times expressed his warm thanks for our appeals on his behalf, which he stated were a great help to him in his diocese.

We trust that the lamented death of the Bishop will be the means of calling the attention of Churchmen in the dioceses of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, Montreal, Ontario, Huron, and especially those in the diocese of Toronto, to the duty and responsibility devolving on them in regard to the missionary diocese of Algoma—without forgetting the engagements into which they have entered for the same object.

The funeral took place on Sunday afternoon. The service was conducted by the Bishops of Toronto and Niagara. The ex-choir of Holy Trinity and the choir of St. George's assisted in the musical portions of the service. The clergy of the city and the students of Trinity College, with a large number of Churchmen attended. On the casket containing the remains of the deceased were two beautiful floral decorations presented by the Churchwomen's Mission Aid Society. Another floral design, bearing the word "Rest," was sent by the congregation of St. Thomas's, Bracebridge. The pall-bearers were the Rev. Messrs. Rainsford, Langtry, S. Jones, Ven. Archdeacon Boddy, Senator Alexander, Judge Barton, Judge McQueen, and Mr. Lount, of Bracebridge. The body was placed temporarily in a vault at St. James's cemetery.

#### "SYMBOLISM."

THIS is a subject which, unfortunately, has been the cause of many a bitter controversy. Some time ago there was published a sermon of the Bishop of Lincoln on Ecclesiastical Art, in which he mentions the Cross and Crucifix. He defends the use of the former and condemns the latter. The former, he shows, is a very telling symbol against Romanism if used in a proper way:—being empty, that is, without a representation of Christ's body it would teach a real spiritual presence, not a carnal; whereas the crucifix would certainly be a most appropriate symbol, if we believed in the doctrine of transubstantiation.

Of course some people are entirely opposed to symbols of any kind, or even symbolical language. As regards the latter, if we took the language of the Bible it would certainly be a most complete reply to their opposition. If symbolism is in danger of being misused, we should certainly guard against any such misuse; and if the language used in hymns, etc., is in danger of losing everything of a practical nature, then indeed that should be also guarded against. Yet in our zeal we must remember that our very religion itself although so intensely real and true, is taught by our blessed Lord and His Apostles in the most highly symbolical language. In a sermon upon "Imagination," by the Rev. James McCau, D.D., Incumbent of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Glasgow, Scotland, we find him saying:—"The one book from which our religious knowledge is obtained is from first to last