

the Church, than the *butter-nut* of the country. The birch also works up very nicely into articles of Church-furniture and well chosen pieces of it are particularly suitable for communion-rails.

4. **FONT.** It is the principle of the Church of England to mark out distinctly in her chastened but careful provisions for the public solemnities of Religion, the administration of the two sacraments ordained by Christ; and she therefore rails off the place for the holy table and directs that a stone font be placed in every Church. It is unnecessary to comment upon the slovenly, niggardly and irreverent practice, which nothing but *necessity* can justify, of using some little common household vessel for public baptism; and it is a very objectionable custom which has crept in, in some places and is exceedingly common in this Diocese, to have either a small portable vessel manufactured for the purpose, or a small kind of basin sunk into a shaft or pillar. All these substitutes for a proper font are entirely irreconcilable either with ecclesiastical propriety or with architectural taste. The font, to deserve the name at all, ought to be, as all the ancient fonts are and all which are now introduced into Churches built and furnished at home upon even tolerably correct principles, of a size sufficient to make it at least *possible* to follow the rubric which provides for the case of *dipping in the child*. I do not mean to censure what has been done in times when men were everywhere careless upon these points; but now that those times have gone by, if we aim, in *new undertakings*, at having seemly and correct Churches at all, it is a great inconsistency and conspicuous deficiency, not to have a proper font. Where means run short and it cannot be managed to get one at first, it should be always kept in view, as a thing to be accomplished; and a saving in other points, may commendably be made to gain this object. There are two of our Churches in Quebec, which exhibit fair specimens of fonts,—the Cathedral in which the font harmonizes with the *Grecian* and St. Matthew's Chapel in which it is in keeping with the *Gothic* character of the building. The latter was the gift of a devout Churchman. Mr. Morgan of Quebec undertakes to make fonts to order. The price varies exceedingly according to the more or less ornate character of the article.

The font should be placed as near as can conveniently be managed, to the *entrance* of the Church.

5. **SEATS.** Of all the innovations of modern times which have tended to disfigure our Churches and to give them an unpleasing and un-church-like aspect, there is scarcely any which has been worse, perhaps, than the fashion of constructing and fitting up the pews. I shall not here speak, however, of high-walled boxes, interspersed among more moderate pews, or of *pew-linings* of various hues in the same Church,—these being enormities of which our country-missions are in no danger. I do not at all hesitate to profess myself opposed, in principle, to the system of leased as well as of proprietary pews, which I believe will gradually disappear in Christian Churches—but it is a system recognized by law in this country and must be tolerated while it lasts. Still there can be no occasion whatever, for adopting in new Churches, pews enclosed with *doors*, which are disagreeable to a correct eye and constitute a *considerable and perfectly useless addition* to the *expense* of the structure. The seats may also be made with a rail at the back instead of panels, and here again is a saving of money. The manner in which seats may be made ornamental in a Church instead of disfiguring it, is seen in many beautiful examples in England, and some *approach* to the same thing is to be witnessed in St. Matthew's Chapel, Quebec, and a nearer approach in the Church at Point Levi. The latter, however, is injured in effect by having a row of *doors*. But in the Churches for the benefit of which I am writing, it will generally be necessary to have the seats entirely plain. They will still look better than enclosed pews.

It is *particularly important*, in order to the preservation of Church-rules and the promotion of humble and consentaneous devotion, that there should be low kneeling-benches within the seats, so fixed that the worshippers face the desk and pulpit.

6. **VESTRY.** It is quite necessary to have some kind of vestry, for (if there were no other reason,) it will be felt by all persons that nothing can be more awkward and unbecoming than that the Clergyman should put on or change his vestments in the view of the congregation. One mode of providing for this object, has been pointed out under the *second* head of this letter. Another is to build a small room opening from the side of the Church at the north-east corner—or it may be thrown into the form of a prolongation of the Church, at the east end, lower and narrower than the main building, so as to have the *exterior* effect of a *Chancel*, into which it may ultimately, perhaps, be converted. If there is a gallery at the west end a small vestry may be made in one of the corners under the gallery, which may be balanced by the stair-case on the other side. But galleries, which have been only the creations of necessity to gain room in overcrowded Churches, or, if parts of the original plan, the productions, too often, of a parsimonious calculation to squeeze together the largest possible number of worshippers at the cheapest rate, are by all means to be avoided where no necessity for them exists.

7. **MISCELLANEOUS APPENDAGES.** Chairs should be provided, (as soon as it can be afforded,) within the Communion-rails, having some Church-like character, and, if possible, harmonizing with the architecture of the building. Or two or three contiguous stall-seats of a plain fashion, may be made against the side-wall, within the rails, if they extend to meet it. The stalls in the Cathedral and in All Saints' Chapel at Quebec, with proper modification, might furnish hints for the pattern. The Communion-table should never be seen without a decent cover, either crimson, scarlet, purple, or dark blue, reaching down to the floor, of the best material which there are means at command to procure; and the floor within the rails should always be carpeted.* The kneeling-stools at each end of the Communion-table, as well as for the desk or lecterns, should be covered to match the hangings of the Church. Lecterns require no hangings or trimmings. Those for the desk and pulpit should, of course, match the altar-cloth.

To these directions I may venture to add, as not unconnected with the present subject, a *general* recommendation of strictly enforcing the Apostolic rule, as applied to the appearance and arrangement of material things within the Church, *Let all things be done decently and in order*. Rusty stoves and stove-pipes, and these even left standing in summer,—fire-wood piled up in view within the Church or tumbled about the floor,—unsightly and make-shift provisions for this or that purpose connected with the solemnities of worship, still contentedly retained, which were adopted in the first instance perhaps from necessity,—these are things which should never be suffered in the house of God. They jar against our feelings of reverence and irresistibly convey the idea of a low and cold estimate of the sanctity of christian worship and the value of religious privileges. It is a special duty of the Church-Wardens to guard against the occurrence of any such reproach in the Congregation, and it may be hoped that they will feel themselves happy and honored in preserving respect for the sanctuary of the Most High. Nothing, surely, should be permitted to be seen in a Church, which would offend the eye in the house of a well-ordered family, occupying a creditable position in the world.

It is very true, and it is a truth to be carefully cultivated in our minds, that all exterior decency and solemnity in our worship, are of no avail unless we WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH,—and unless THE LIFE WHICH WE LIVE IN THE FLESH WE LIVE BY THE FAITH OF THE SON OF GOD.

* If that form of communion-table be adopted of which the front and ends are closed with ornamented wood-work, the cover should be only of the *p.