



ST. LUKE'S CHURCH, SAULT STE. MARIE. (See page 198.)

the monasteries. The ruthless work was carried on by Thomas Cromwell, afterwards Lord Essex, the ready upholder, and sometimes executioner, of King Henry's cruel deeds. Yet a little resolute policy on the part of the Archbishop might have resulted, at least, in the saving of the buildings.

The dissolution of the monasteries, many of which were very wealthy, was due, to a great extent, to the king's insatiable greed for money. It was undertaken ostensibly in the interests of religion and education, yet very little, compared with the vast amount of money that was confiscated, was used for this purpose. Beyond the somewhat meagre endowment of five new bishoprics, those of Peterborough, Gloucester, Chester, Bristol, and Oxford, nothing much was done for the Church from the spoliation of the monasteries.

The old ecclesiasticism was broken up with a severe and unmerciful hand. The shrine of Canterbury that had been considered so sacred—that of Thomas à Becket—was visited, and every relic, which had been gazed at with such awe by the thousands of pilgrims that came from far and near to kneel at it, till the old stone steps leading to it were worn uneven by their knees, was torn away. The bones of the murdered Archbishop also were torn up and burned, and he was to be called a saint no longer.

These were sharp measures, and prepared the country for a new state of things. Yet the

king was still in doctrine a Romanist. He had discarded the pope and the monasteries and was favorable to an English instead of a Latin liturgy, and to the free use of the Bible in English, yet he burnt a poor creature named Lambert because he could not believe that the bread and wine of the blessed sacrament were the actual and material body and blood of our Lord.

And in all these things Archbishop Cranmer, of course, had his part. He was an obedient servant to a very hard master. Every now and then the Archbishop had to perform some office relative to the frequent marriages of the king. Anne Boleyn was no sooner beheaded than he married Jane Seymour, to whom in due time (in the year 1537) a boy was born at the expense of his mother's life. The Archbishop officiated at the christening, and the child was called Edward.

The condition of the country was deplorable. The "new learning," which came afterwards to be known as Protestantism, had spread far and wide throughout the land and sometimes it took the wildest and most extravagant form, as in the case of Anabaptists, who seemed to know no law or reason in religion. Whether from alarm at this or not, the king conceived the idea of establishing in England a Catholic Church, which should be entirely separate from Rome. And as he viewed matters, there were certain characteristics of a Catholic Church which should be maintained. These were six in number: first, a