

The Benefits of Church Teaching—The Church in Buffalo.

THE man who charges us with being Romanizers must lack either clear perceptions or high principles. We claim to ourselves the high praise of being emphatically—the men of the Prayer-Book! Nor are we chargeable with vanity in making this assertion; we simply follow the dictates of mother-wit, or, may we venture to say, of holy simplicity, in following honestly the teaching of Christ's Holy Catholic Church as enunciated by the wise and Holy Fathers of the Anglican Reformation; hence we are not men of the Articles, or of the Ordinary, as separate from each other, but of them both as a blessed whole.

We confess that to us the composition of our Book of Common Prayer often appears to be little less than miraculous. The high principled yet almost cold caution of its Articles being illuminated by the holy fervour of its primitive and truthful services. The yearning for vital alterations, which occasionally leaks out from extreme individuals in both the parties in the Church, is indeed amongst the most striking indications of its framers having been graciously guided in the true *via media* between Rome and Geneva. Thus, despite of the painful error manifested, we could not but feel amused the other day, with a professedly earnest member of the Church, who, when we were endeavouring to convince him, from the teaching of the Prayer-Book, of the erroneous character of certain Calvinistic dogmas, told us, that the Prayer-Book needed considerable amendment, as "it was written during the dark ages!"

Another strong evidence of the scriptural and catholic verity of the Prayer-Book, as a whole, is this, that in proportion as its principles are faithfully taught, and its practice earnestly and loyally carried out, there the Church is found most steadily to flourish. Popular preaching and a bland adaptation of principle to the fashionable theology of the day, may be the readiest way to personal distinction and a crowded church during the few years of a talented and accommodating incumbent;—but for the spread of the Church in a city, and the planting of its foundations deep and broad, irrespective of the talent or presence of its earthly agents, commend us to a Paul-like, earnest, loving, yet fearless, enunciation of the *whole* truth of Christ,

as set forth in our Prayer-Book; accompanied, as far as possible, with the primitive practice therein inculcated.

We could bring many mournful evidences of the truth of the principle here laid down; by pointing to clergymen, worthy men in their personalities, but whose lax church principles seem to have sapped the very foundation of their holier energies, until the church in their towns or cities has barely maintained a decent existence; again we could lay our finger upon individuals holding similarly unsound church-principles, but whose talent, in unison perhaps with personal energy and devotion, has enabled them to crowd their churches, and perhaps make the church the fashion in their own localities; but beyond all is "thick darkness", the masses are unreached; and, with the death of the incumbent—the popular divine—the glory of the Church may, in that place, be said to depart! Surely these things ought not to be. We repeat, however, that we could give many such instances of the present unsatisfactory results, or future desolation of unsound Anglican church principles—in doctrine and practice. But this would be a most unpleasant, and perhaps an invidious task; and, it is the less necessary, as we happen just now to have it in our power to point our readers to the particulars of a much pleasanter picture; and yet one which will equally well vindicate the truth of the principle we have asserted, namely, the necessity of sound Prayer-Book-ism, if we may be permitted to invent a phrase, in order to permanent evangelical usefulness.

The name of the able and catholic-minded Rector of -St. Paul's, Buffalo, the Rev. Wm. Shelton, D.D., is to many of our readers, "familiar as household words;" and it is to the success with which it has pleased the great Head of the Church, to crown his labours, and those of the like-minded faithful Priests of the Sanctuary who have come, one after another, to share his holy toils, that we refer, as tending to show the happy results of sincerely endeavouring, quietly and earnestly, to carry out the teaching and spirit of the entire Prayer-Book.

Very recently our reverend friend completed his twenty-seventh year in Buffalo. Since he first set his foot in that city, "what hath God wrought"? We are perhaps too fond of complaining; the Church has unquestionably to en-