

His visible Person. And all who are admitted into the complete fellowship of Christ's religion are enabled to realize the blessedness of that Presence and of a Communion with Him. It is the heritage of the whole Church, an anticipation and a type of the full fruition of His glory which shall be realized in the world to come.

During the forty days that the Saviour remained on earth after His Resurrection, there were many events which took place, showing that although in His human nature He was not yet glorified, yet a change had passed over the corporeal elements of His outward frame, so that its characteristics were no longer confined to the grosser features under which the disciples had known their Lord, and which had been of a kind with which we are familiar. He was not yet glorified, but His body had evidently become endowed with characters we are accustomed to consider as belonging to the nature of pure spirit. He changed His personal appearance as best suited the purpose of His several visits, for it was not alone that the eyes of those who conversed with Him on the way to Emmaus were holden, but also because "He appeared in another form unto two of them, as they walked." He suddenly vanished out of their sight, when the conversation was finished. He afterwards suddenly appeared among them in such a way that at first they thought the appearance was that of a pure spirit. Again, on another occasion, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, Jesus suddenly appeared among them in so incomprehensible a manner that, in their alarm, they supposed it a visit from the disembodied spirits and were affrighted at the appearance. We may reasonably believe that if a change so great as these events would indicate had come over the body of Blessed Lord after His resurrection, an infinitely greater change still was accomplished when on passing into the Heavens, His body became glorified, fitted for entrance into the unveiled presence of the Almighty Father, for participating in all the glories of Heaven, and for becoming the medium of controlling universal nature, of diffusing the blessings of His administration throughout creation, and of communicating the benefits of His Mediatorial Kingdom to all the faithful participants of His grace and mercy.

The perpetual presence of Christ, in His Human as well as in His Divine nature, with His Church, is of vital importance to the validity of the Christian Ministry, and of all the acts of that Ministry, to the assurance we may have that, in all our faithful acts of worship He is with us, and especially that, in the one great act of Christian worship, our prayer is heard and answered, "that we receiving these Thy creatures of bread and wine, according to Thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's Holy Institution, in remembrance of His death and passion, may be partakers of His Most Blessed Body and Blood."

CHURCH MUSIC.

THE Sacred Harmonic Society of England, gave, last month, the Oratorio "Palestine" by Dr. Crotch. The perform-

ance was received with great satisfaction by the numerous audience. The name of Dr. Crotch is but little known to the rising generation, and it requires, therefore, the presentation of a work of such unquestionable power as "Palestine" to prove that he was more than a Professor of Music in the University of Oxford, and an acknowledged authority on the theory of his art. The work is one of undoubted ability, the style being somewhat like that of Handel. The Orchestra, although occasionally too loud, especially in the more quiet concerted pieces, gave generally much effect to the rich instrumentation with which the work abounds; and the choir afforded ample evidence of the careful training of Sir Michael Costa, who conducted the Oratorio as if it were a labour of love.

The 46th annual Lenten performance of "The Messiah" by the same society derived peculiar impressiveness from the solemnity of the period. The grand choral lament, "Surely He hath borne our griefs," and the triumphal choruses, "For unto us," "Hallelujah," and "Worthy is the Lamb," were among the several great effects of the evening. Sir M. Costa conducted, and Mr. Willing was at the organ. Rossini's "Moses in Egypt" is to be produced by the Society on May 24.

The annual Passion Service was held in St. Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday in Holy week, when portions of Bach's sublime St. Matthew's Passion music were performed, with full orchestra and augmented choir, conducted by Dr. Stainer. Heard, as intended, in a place of worship, and as part of a religious service appropriate to the period, the sublime music produced a special impression on the vast congregation assembled in the Cathedral.

Handel's fine but neglected Oratorio, "Belshazzar," was lately performed in Manchester, under the direction of Mr. Charles Halte. It is an exceedingly long Oratorio, yet there are very many beautiful parts to be enjoyed in it. The chorus of Babylonians in the second part threw a rich glow of colour over the scene of revelry; indeed, so thoroughly did this grand choral piece move the audience that it was enthusiastically redemanded. As a rule, the choruses were magnificently sung, especially "See from his post Euphrates flies," "All Empires upon God depend," and "Ye tutelary Gods," with the following: "Sesach, this night is chiefly thine." In all these the skilful organ accompaniment, written for the work by Professor Macfarren, came out with fine effect, carefully and unobtrusively played as it was by Mr. Walker.

It is now definitely arranged that the Norwich Musical Festival will begin on the 15th October and extend over the three following days. The Conductor will be, as usual, Sir Julius Benedict.

The services in connection with the consecration of the first portion of the Cathedral Church of St. Peter's, Adelaide, South Australia, held in the Octave, commencing Saturday, December 30, 1877, and ending Sunday, January 6, 1878, were highly creditable. The Bishops of Melbourne and Ballarat

were present and assisted in the services. The Organist and Choirmaster deserve the highest praise for the excellent music they provided. Anthems by Barnby, Stainer, Goss, and Berthold Tours were all faultlessly rendered. A large organ, of splendid tone, three manuals and thirty-four stops, built by Bishop & Son, of London, was used on this occasion for the first time, and was much admired.

We are glad to note that the Sacred Harmonic Society of Hamilton, Canada, is undertaking the arduous work of presenting to the public some of the Oratorios of the great masters, and we wish them every success. The Society lately gave "The Creation" in its entirety, to a crowded house of over 1000 persons. The chorus and orchestra numbered about 180 performers, and acquitted themselves well in the difficult music with which the Oratorio abounds.

IN MEMORIAM.

BY the death of George Augustus Selwyn, Bishop of Lichfield, the Church of England loses the chief one amongst her prelates, who could a short time ago be accounted as lending more distinction to the episcopal office than he derived from it, an eminence which he had shared with two other home bishops who predeceased him by a little time, Wilberforce and Thirlwall, but with no other during his career save Robert Gray, of Cape Town, and his own pupil, John Coleridge Patterson, of Melanesia.

Thus writes, with the unimportant alteration of a word or two, one of our English contemporaries, and although the eulogy this paragraph is intended to express for the late Bishop of Lichfield is by no means exaggerated, we should have been disposed to add one or two more to the list of those who have conferred a lustre upon the episcopal office—such, for instance, as Bishop Milman, of Calcutta. The esteem and admiration in which the deceased prelate was held was as nearly as possible universal—the exceptions consisting only of a few persons, who are not only extreme men, but so entirely given up to party considerations as to be absolutely blind to the transcendent merits of one of the most eminent and remarkable men of the present day. Not alone churchmen of a particular school but all classes and all grades, even the denominations and those who advocate no religion at all, are constrained to join in the tribute of praise so freely given to this departed Christian bishop. Even the *Weekly Despatch* is high in its eulogiums of so eminent a man. Under the heading of "A good Bishop," it has the following remarks:—"Whenever he has come forward, it has been on the right side. His remarks during the debates on the Irish Church question are remembered for their fearlessness and pungency, and his Church policy has always been of a kind to win respect even from those who could not altogether agree with him. It is a pity that more of our Church dignitaries are not imported from the colonies, for though we could not always have such a bishop as