

natural science, *as we now interpret them*, point to conclusions apparently in contradiction the one to the other. But as our knowledge of the true meaning of those written documents has been ever increasing with ever superadded study, though yet confessedly imperfect, so may we believe that the voice of history and the language of nature will be better known by far with every

century of earnest study, while the world shall yet endure, and that sooner or later it shall be found, as in part we have already learnt, and do now without doubt believe, that God, the Creator of all, speaks but one consistent message, though it be written in diverse characters, by diverse means be revealed, and only in imperfect measures understood of men."—W. B. M.

CHURCH NEEDLEWORK.

IT has been the custom of all ages to offer to the House of God such things as would add to the beauty of its ornaments, and the solemnity of its worship.

Nor has such work been confined to men alone. It has been the especial privilege of women to devote their skill in needlework, and their taste in adornment, to beautify the Church; and societies, in order to encourage and distribute such work, have of late years become general.

The "Ecclesiastical Embroidery Society" in England has been at work for many years. Its members have freely given their time, their skill, and their means to prepare and send out altar cloths, and other articles of Church furniture, to some of the most distant parts of the world. In English churches, as well as in the Cathedrals of Auckland and Nelson, New Zealand, Natal, on the coast of Africa, and in our own Cathedral Church of Fredericton, the work of these devoted daughters of the Church may be seen, the skill and care bestowed on their beautiful work showing their sympathy with all who are striving to build up the Church in distant colonies, and their own largeness of heart in adorning Houses of God, which they have never seen, and may probably never enter.

The recently consecrated Bishop of Niger, Dr. Crowther, in writing from his diocese to his friends in England, says:—"My old parishioners, and their earnest desire to help me in my new work, are brought vividly to my mind whenever I put on any part of my robes, and my spirit is cheered and strengthened by the recollection of their kindness and assistance."

These robes were doubtless made by the ladies of his parish, by whom he was highly esteemed.

The accounts of work done by the ladies of England, received here from time to time, stimulated the desire of a few earnest-minded Churchwomen to attempt a similar society for the benefit of the churches in this diocese, many of which are scantily provided with even the common decencies of worship. Similar it is, as regards its objects, but not similar in the sort of work executed by its members. The elaborate and expensive altar cloths and carpets suited to cathedrals, and in keeping with their other ornaments, are not required for the humble mission churches of New Brunswick: the decent surplice, the fair linen cloth, the suitable napkins for the communion of the sick, the hood, stole, or bands for the clergy, and in the more flourishing parishes, with richer congregations, the comely altar-cloth, pulpit-frontal, and bags for collecting the alms, are the chief wants, which the society is endeavouring to supply, and for which it desires the help and sympathy of Churchmen.

About two years ago a few ladies in Fredericton agreed to make for the church then building at New Maryland, (a mission within six miles of the city,) an altar-cloth and chancel carpet. The design for the carpet was supplied by the architect of the church; it is worked in wool, in various emblematical devices, each intended to convey some Christian truth, and on the steps facing the kneeling communicants, are two scrolls, with the texts,—*"I am the Vine,"*—*"Ye are the branches,"* thus reminding them of Him through whom alone any sacrifice or service is acceptable to their Heavenly Father.

Great interest was felt in the work by all who were engaged in it, and though it proved more expensive than was at first expected, yet it showed how many were ready and willing to