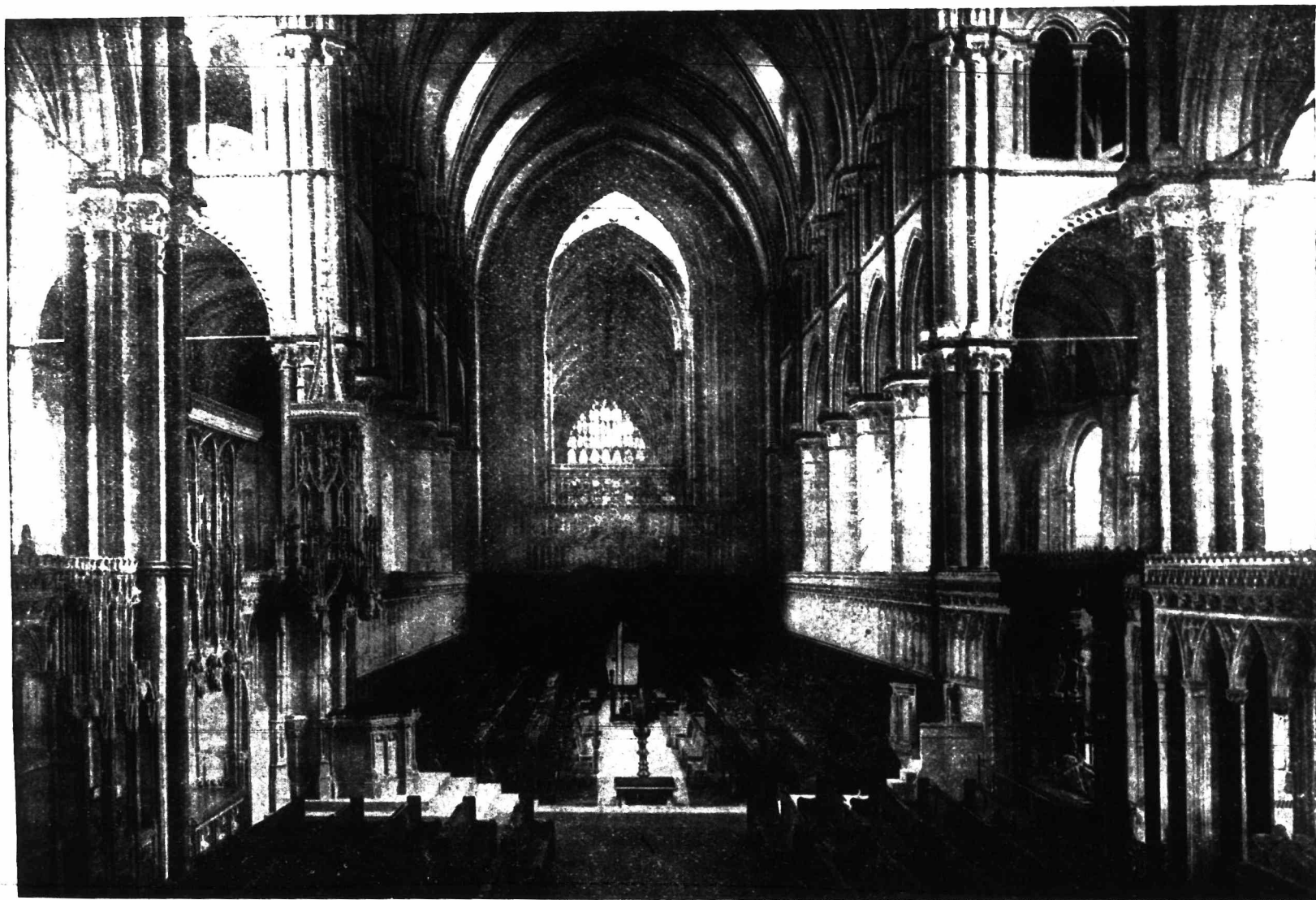


for the sake of that which he regards as right, for the fulfilment of duty. This is a universal experience, for although the moral powers are differently educated in different peoples, the fundamental principle of morality, the sense of right and wrong, exists in all. If, however, there were no God—no spiritual principle—in the universe, these moral ideas would be an illusion. If matter were all, then there would be no good but material good—life, health, pleasure. All beyond—honour, loyalty, justice—would be mere names. This, then, is our alternative. We cannot have morality and atheism together; and if we reject the belief in God, then morality has no existence. But if this goes, what value is there in life? In conclusion, he said that in nature, in man, and in history, we have a revelation of God. Whether we could have a higher revelation than this they would have to consider next Sunday.

—The account of the consecration of Bishop Thornloe will appear next week.

through the endless ages of eternity, we have been conscious every moment that the crown of womanhood, with its attendant duties, was ours. We may have thrust the consciousness to the back of our minds, have let the weeds and tares of this world choke the noblest and highest thing which has ever striven to grow there, and gone carelessly and idly on our way, leaving to others what should have been our greatest joy and most sacred duty, the care of our little ones; or we may have cultivated the consciousness, and gone about with Margaret Fuller's prayer perpetually in our hearts and lives, "God help me; I am a mother of an immortal soul." In either case the revelation, the inspiration has been ours—is still ours while life and opportunity last—to lead us on to the blessed moment, when, with all our children gathered round us on our Lord's right hand, we hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant, and in proud humility echo His own cry, "Lo, here am I and the children whom Thou hast given me;" or, if we neglect and de-

often the fond and foolish, who cannot deny their children what they know to be bad for them; who foster their pride, vanity, and selfishness by indulgence; who teach truth and honesty, the need of prayer, and fear of God with their lips, and in their daily lives give the lie to their own teaching; who forget that if they would have their children enter in at the strait gate and tread the difficult and narrow way which alone leads to eternal life, they must not drive and push them, but lead, and they will surely follow. . . . Would that the mothers of England would wake to their duty and their power; would realize that they cannot begin too early to train their children for heaven; that it is not fine clothes, or good food, or a good education that they should strive to gain for them, so much as training which will fit them for the kingdom of heaven; and that they cannot neglect the means of grace which our Church offers without teaching their sons and daughters to esteem them lightly. But alas! we do not think; we drift idly on with low aims and mean ideals; we



CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL CHOIR—LOOKING WEST.

MOTHERHOOD: ITS HELPS AND HINDRANCES.

Mrs. Phillp, for some years president of the Birmingham Mission of Women Workers and a member of the Executive of National Union says: The idea of motherhood has in all ages been a stimulus and an inspiration. The power and possibilities of motherhood itself have been recognized as limitless. Its sublime power of self-sacrifice and its enduring persistence are presented to us in our Bibles as the type of the holiest, highest love; and its sweetness and joy inspired the greatest painters the world has ever seen, and have given us such pictures as Raphael's "Madonna" and Holman Hunt's "Christ in the Temple." . . . From the moment our first-born lay by our side, and the first thrill of joy and pride at the conscious enlargement of our existence stirred our hearts, to be quickly followed by the awful thought that we had had a responsible share in bringing into being a little soul that was going to grow and grow, to exist in joy and sorrow

spise it, to lead to a moment as terrible, as overwhelming, as the other will be glorious, when our account of our use of this priceless talent of motherhood will be demanded of us, and we shall have nothing to offer but a miserable record of lost opportunities and wasted wealth of chances! I think the hindrance which we have most to fear is that which comes from our own weakness, that fatal want of thought by which, as Hood so truly tells us, far "more ill is wrought" by women than "by want of heart." Most mother-hearts beat true enough; most mothers passionately desire the good and well-being of their children, and are ready for any personal sacrifice and self-denial which will secure it. The tragedy of the thousands of mothers who are even now breaking their hearts in this England of ours over daughters who are fallen, and sons who are lost and dead to all that is good, is that they would have given, would now give, their very lives to save them. It is not the heartless and wicked women who always turn out the worst children; but alas! so

let opportunities slip through our fingers, the precious early years pass away, our sons leave us unarmed for the fight, and our daughters slide into motherhood as unfitted and unprepared for its great responsibilities as we were ourselves. And what helps have we to oppose to these and other hindrances? Thank God, our helps are many. There are the kindness and goodness of neighbour-mothers, the special care for children which has ever been part of our Church's system, and, above all, the ever-present aid and presence of God the Holy Spirit. And in these latter days that presence and aid has been very visibly manifested; for, working as He does in this dispensation by human means and instruments, God put it into the heart of a wise woman to start that band of mothers pledged to work and pray for their own and "other mothers'" children, which we know as the "Mothers' Union"—a band which has grown and strengthened, and now extends to all parts of our own islands and our colonies. Its rules are very simple. Each

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