



CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL, ENGLAND.

(See page 248.)

the Church receive as little harm as possible. He would encourage them when dispirited, cheer them when wearied, and stand by them when falsely accused. He would be the friend of every one of his clergy; their confidant in whatever difficulties might arise; for he would feel that while he himself was the *pastor paritorum*, the whole flock in his diocese was really *his* charge, and that the priests and deacons in their respective spheres were executing their ministry as his vicars in those special duties to which they were ordained. He would feel that *their* work was *his* work, and that his duty in a parish was only begun when he came to confirm the young. He would fix upon new centres of work, and never leave one unoccupied. There is more than we are familiar with in the true idea of the episcopal office; but it is not possible to carry out this idea unless the office is widely extended on the primitive model.

Of course, for this to be done, there must be a wider extension of the episcopate. It is not possible for any bishop properly to oversee and know as he ought to know a diocese containing more than fifty parishes. A bishop cannot administer a diocese through the post office alone, any more than a priest can discharge the duties of his parish by the same means. What

is wanted is the *personal* influence, the *personal* touch, the *personal* knowledge of men and things. And if our bishops were thus brought into real contact with their clergy and their parishioners, their influence would be immense. There would be nothing they could not accomplish; for there is yet left in the hearts of men something of the old traditional respect and reverence for the sacred office of the ministry in all its degrees, but especially for the episcopal office, which would at once respond to the call of duty when made by those whom we all are glad to recognize as our "fathers in God."

Then the bishop should be a "statesman," and have a *plan* sketched out for the extension of his office, and the consequent creation of new centres of religious life and activity. Undoubtedly, the expansion of the Church in the Dominion, such as it is, has been largely due to the extension of the episcopate; and there can be no doubt that if during the last twenty years, in which in this whole ecclesiastical province we have stood still in this matter, we had boldly and courageously proceeded on the lines laid down by the famous Bishop Strachan for Ontario, the Church would have been far stronger than it is at the present moment. Not a single diocese has at any time been set apart