

THE "HABITUAL WORSHIPPER." WHO IS HE?

IT is much to be hoped that something will be done by the approaching Toronto Synod to define this important personage—the *habitual worshipper*. The Church in this Diocese finds itself in the very extraordinary position of having her officers elected and of being legislated for by men who seldom or never attend her services, and some of whom are even unknown personally to the clergymen and churchwardens. All that is required of those who vote at the vestries of free churches is that they shall annually sign a document stating that they are habitual worshippers at the particular church in the vestry of which they claim to vote. And we know of at least two churches in Toronto, and of several more in the country, in which the most important questions that could come before a vestry were decided at the last Easter meetings by men who had never been seen within the walls of the church during the previous year. What can be said of the clergymen and of the former churchwardens who sanction the false signatures of such men, we will not presume to determine. But of this we are quite certain, that there is no other religious organization on the face of the earth that would submit to so shameful a scandal. However widely the ecclesiastical franchise may be extended, there can be no doubt that it ought to be confined to those who are *bona fide* full and accredited members of the congregation in which they vote. They ought indeed to be regular communicants, or they can have no reasonable claim to dictate to those who are full members of the Church. But the fact that the declaration has to be signed *annually* is a sufficient indication of the intention that those who claim to be members of a vestry, or to vote for the election of lay representatives, must have been "habitual worshippers" during the previous year. And it would require the acumen of no less respected an individual than a Vice-Chancellor to make it appear that a man is an "habitual worshipper" in a church, for a period during which he has not been seen within its walls.

In our correspondence columns will be found one or two letters on this subject, and we trust that something will be done at once to remedy so scandalous a state of affairs. We are persuaded that a great part of our trouble in this Diocese may be traced to the source we refer to.

CHURCH MUSIC.

BACH'S "Passion" (St. Matthew) was sung at St. Paul's Cathedral, London, England, on Tuesday before Easter, in the evening. The Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's threw the whole area of the dome, as well as nave and aisles, open without tickets, the only places which were reserved being the seats in the choir and choir galleries. Many persons remained after the ordinary afternoon service to secure good seats, and by 7 o'clock the cathedral was completely filled by a congregation mainly composed of the middle classes, but with a very fair sprinkling of really poor people. The choir and clergy entered at 7 o'clock, among those present being Prebendary Wilson (the Vicar of Tottenham), the Master of the Charterhouse, the Archdeacon of Middlesex, Canon Liddon, Canon Gregory, the Archdeacon of London, and the Dean, the two latter of whom conducted the Bishop of London, not to his throne, but to the centre stall opposite that ordinarily used by the Lord Mayor. The latter part of the Communion office was then sung by one of the minor Canons, the 51st. Psalm being exquisitely rendered anti-

phonally by priest and people; the Passion music immediately followed. During the parts were they were requested to do so the congregation reverently stood up, and perhaps the most striking feature in the whole service was the pause in the middle for silent prayer, the effect of silence kept by so vast a multitude on their knees being remarkable.

The Holy Week special services have been held at WORCESTER CATHEDRAL as in past years. Besides the regular services there was a shortened evensong on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, at 8 p. m., at which successive portions of Bach's Passion Music (St. Matthew) were sung, and an address given on "The words from the Cross". On Good Friday there was a special evening service, at which what may be called the 'Passion Music' from the *Messiah* was sung, and a final address given on 'Glorying in the Cross'. The cathedral choir is strengthened on these occasions, so as to number about 100 voices; and the nave of the cathedral is always thronged night after night with worshippers of all classes. The addresses were given by the Revd. Alfred Barry, D.D., as Canon-in-residence.

TORONTO HOSPITAL FOR SICK CHILDREN.

THIS charitable institution which has now been in operation for some time, has issued circulars addressed "To all children in the Dominion of Canada," intended to interest them in behalf of the institution, and telling them how they can very materially aid the enterprise. The promoters wish the children of the Dominion to follow the example of their little neighbors in the United States, in what they did for St. Luke's Hospital, New York. They request the children to take a cot for their own and to call it "The Canadian Children's Cot." Then to save their pennies, earning more than ever by little services about home, and send the amounts to the Honorable Mr. Justice Patterson, 422 Jarvis Street; or William Gooderham, Esq., Corner of Carlton, Sherbourne Street, as trustees of the *Cot Endowment Fund* of the Hospital for sick children. The amount required is not large—not much over \$1000—and no doubt can soon be raised.

Diocesan Intelligence.

NOVA SCOTIA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

SYDNEY MINES.—This parish is growing and improving, the communicants have quadrupled in three years.

ROSETTE.—The Rev. W. S. Gray is doing good work here—free seats—\$2,000 spent on chancel furniture—communicants increased seven fold in sixteen years—are good proofs of his ministry.

PICTOU.—The corner stone of the new church of St. James, was laid by the Rector on Ascension Day, fifty years after the consecration of the present edifice.

ALBION MINES.—Four services were held in this parish during Intercession Week, for missions. On Ascension day a majority of the very fair congregation remained to receive the Blessed Sacrament.

BAYFIELD.—Has been deprived by death of a devout parishioner, in the person of Mr. Elisha Randall, aged eighty-four, whose mother before him was the mainstay of the church in this parish.

HALIFAX.—Rev. R. Wainright has assumed the secretaryship of B. F. Missions, hitherto held by Rev. D. C. Moore.

Trinity Church.—The free church is likely (we are sorry to see) to lose Mr. Ancient. The mother church (St. Paul's) seems wanting in maternal care.

HUBBARD'S COVE.—The highly respected Rector (Rev. H. Stainer) had the satisfaction of presenting fifty-seven persons to the Bishop for confirmation on the 12th inst., no man works harder or more steadily.

MONTREAL.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Rev. Robert Ker's address is Mansonville, P.Q.

The ascension of our Blessed Lord was devoutly observed both in city and country. The congregations were not large. It is but seldom we can collect large congregations for week-day services, but I believe that the observance of the Holy days and seasons of the church are growing in favor with church people in this diocese. Earnestness and perseverance on the part of the clergy will do much to stamp the character of the lessons to be derived from these days and seasons upon the hearts of the people. It is refreshing to see the people able to let the cares of the world go for a few hours on a week day and to devote them to the strengthening and refreshing of their souls.

On the evening of the 22nd the Rev. N. Maynard, Rector of St. Paul's, Brooklyn, N. Y., delivered a lecture in the St. George's Hall, on the Cathedrals of Old England. The lecture which was very interesting and beautifully illustrated, was enthusiastically applauded. At the close on motion of Canon Baldwin, seconded by the Rev. Dr. Sullivan, the following resolution was carried and presented. "That the audience are deeply indebted to the Rev. N. Maynard, Rector of St. Paul's Brooklyn, for his brilliant and most instructive lecture.

Synod.—The Synod of the Diocese will meet on Tuesday 17th of June.

Christ Church Cathedral.—The Princess, and the Marquis of Lorne attended Divine Service at Christ Church Cathedral at 10:55 a.m. Two carriages left the Windsor Hotel, the first contained Mrs. de Winton and Captain Harbord, the second the Princess and the Marquis. They drove along Dorchester and University streets to St. Catharine Street. As the Royal party entered the church the whole congregation arose, and the organ under Mr. Fowler pealed forth the National Anthem. The clergymen that took part in the service were the Bishop, Canons Baldwin and Anderson, and the Revs. N. Maynard and McLeod. The Princess joined heartily in the responses and singing. The Bishop preached an excellent sermon from Acts 1: 9.

ONTARIO.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

BROCKVILLE.—At the annual vestry meeting held in Trinity Church on Easter Monday, J. E. Browse, M. D. was appointed clergyman's warden, and W. H. McKonkey was elected peoples' church warden, Mr. A. E. Richards being elected delegate to the Diocesan Synod. It was decided to continue the envelope system for the ensuing year; also to put printed cards on the backs of the seats, requesting strangers and others, as the seats were free to all, to give liberally.

It was stated that the five cents a week subscriptions for the building fund had amounted to nearly \$1000 during the past two years.

It being desirable to change the hymn book, a meeting of the congregation was held after the adjourned vestry meeting, and the Hymnal published by the S. Y. C. K. adopted.

The parochial collection for the mission fund of the Diocese, amounted this year to \$80.

The services of Easter Sunday were particularly earnest and bright. The congregation was good, the music joyous, the number of communicants greater, and the offertories larger than ever before.