

ON INCREASE OF THE EPISCOPATE;
OR
A DIVINELY CONSTITUTED MINISTRY
UPON THE APOSTOLIC AND PRIMITIVE BASIS.

" Religion fr'om her estate
Without her Episcopate;
Where beams the Mitre, there the tide
Of heavenly influence is supplied
Facile and full; and the abounding river,
In that exclusive line will flow for ever,
Gather'd in receptacles pure,
Or shed in shining links, which none may sever
While Heaven's eternal laws endure."

Voices from Early Church.

THE importance of this subject, I am disposed to think, will be admitted by all, and I am only fearful that it may suffer at my hands, through the pressure which Christmas and New Year's services and festivities always add to the otherwise over-occupied attention of a rural clergyman, so that, literally, I can only give you the desultory thoughts of a day. Any effort, however feeble, may, yet, in a good cause be blessed from on High, and bring forth fruits notwithstanding the unskilful sower, or it may incite others, more fully competent to perform rightly what has only been indifferently attempted.

The subject, then, presented for our brief consideration is none other than the fulfilment of our Lord's great commission to the eleven Apostles: "Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world." This is the Charter of the Christian Church, and is most significant, both as to the Agents who were to be appointed for the work and the great end to be accomplished.

The latter was not solely the announcement of the glad tidings of the Gospel, but the making disciples of, the Christian culture, the