

OUR PARISH.

Our Easter Mouday meeting of Parishioners, was not as largely attended as on some previous occasions, but the proceedings were entirely harmonious, and the condition of the Parish financially proved to be a little different from what could be desired, but not from what might have been expected. Expenses which were not provided for, but which could hardly have been avoided, have caused a deficiency, which the people will be called upon to make up, and we know they will do so promptly, as there is no blame resting on any on account of it. The annual account, distributed in the pews of the Church, gives full particulars of expenditure and receipts.

Most satisfactory, however, was the account given by our Venerable Rector, whom we may speak of as our spiritual Warden. He has long been in connection with our Parish, and the harmony existing, and the onward progress of the work of which he is the Director, give him pleasure and encouragement. The approval of the people is to him a great reward, for he and his devoted helper, Mr. Abbott, have worked untriflingly and harmoniously together, and we believe, with good effect; while others, moved by their example, and won by their zeal and kindness, have labored cordially with them in various departments of Parish work. The valuable services of the Bishop and Canon Gilpin, as also those of our devoted Organist, and of Choristes, and others, were remembered, and suitably acknowledged. The public Church services have been well sustained and appreciated during the last year; we may hope that attendance on those of the present year will be larger, and more persistent on the part

of many, and that results desired and expected may be more conspicuous than ever.

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THE MONTH IN PROSPECT,
MAY.

We learn from works received as authoritative, that among the Romans this was the *mensis maiorum*, or month dedicated to the elder persons of their community, while the next was the *mensis juniorum* or month of the younger people, and that thus most probably arose the names of May and June.

May 1st.—May day is yet celebrated with more or less of observances; here our young people go in groups to gather wild may flowers, rejoicing in these first floral tokens of the opening season. There remain yet usages which have had their origin in the worship of the Sun under the name of Baal, by the Celtic nations, hence the festival *Beltain*. In Ayrshire, Scotland, they kindled Baal's fire in the evening of May day, till about the year 1790. The Romans held games called Floralia, from which the May day jollities of Modern Europe seem to have directly descended. Some two or three hundred years ago it was impossible to sleep in some parts of England on May morning. Immediately after midnight the people were all astir, wishing each other a merry May, and went forth with music and blowing of horns to some neighboring wood, where they employed themselves in gathering branches, which they brought home and planted over their doors, so that the village looked quite a bower. The citizens of London went a Maying in this fashion, marshalled in parishes, their Mayor and Aldermen went also, and we read of Henry 3th and Queen Catherine,