

ends, but striving together for the glory of God, what do we behold? Division, contention, exclusion, church against church, family against family, nay, the members of the same family in strife and contention with one another; baptism against baptism, altar against altar, pulpit against pulpit, and even the sacramental table of the Lord Jesus, fenced around with denominational regulations, making it, instead of a feast of love, an occasion of ill will and hatred. How comes this to pass? I speak the truth; let no man decline the inquiry. How comes it to pass, that the Lord Jesus Christ has been so disappointed in the result of that prayer which he offered up to his Father, just before he suffered, for the unity of his church? Let others answer as they may; as for me, this is my deliberate judgment. To no other single cause more than this, is it to be ascribed, that the order of the church given to it by the apostles, under the immediate and plenary inspiration of the Holy Ghost, has not been preserved. Good men, honest men, pious men, have been betrayed into the persuasion, that this was a matter of little or no importance, or that the circumstances in which they have been placed, justified a departure. Whether the divided parts of the body of Jesus Christ will ever again be brought together, and form one beautiful whole, 'fitly compacted by that which every joint supplieth'—no man knoweth. That such may be the result, all true christians will never cease to pray.

To be continued.

For the Colonial Churchman.

CHURCH PROPERTY AT THE REFORMATION.

Essay 9.

Henry VIII. having, by several enactments of a sweeping character, overthrown Papal Supremacy in England, completed his design with regard to the Church, by suppressing all monasteries, convents, and religious houses, throughout the kingdom. The vast revenues which annually accrued to these various institutions, were confiscated, and declared to be part and parcel of the sources from which the royal exchequer was usually replenished. An act of Parliament relating to church matters was passed in the thirty first year of his reign—1540—and gave to these measures the sanction and authority of law. It provided that "all monasteries, convents, religious houses, colleges, and hospitals, dissolved, or to be dissolved hereafter, be conveyed to the king, his heirs, and successors, forever." *Collier's Ec. Hist. vol. II. 165.*

From the wording of the title of this act it will be perceived that other laws had previously been passed for the suppression of such Ecclesiastical foundations as were known to be in the interest of the Roman Pontiff; and that the work of confiscation had been gradually advancing until its completion by the act under consideration. Indeed four years before the period of which I speak, a law had been passed for the suppression of all monasteries under £200 per annum, by which measure the revenues of 376 of these institutions had been impropriated to the uses of the royal exchequer. The whole number of the religious houses of various descriptions that were suppressed during the reign of Henry VIII. is said to amount to 1148; their yearly revenues, which in every instance were confiscated for the service of the crown, are stated at £183,707 13s. 10d. sterling. *Salmon's chron. 50.* If we assume that according to the calculation of modern accountants, money has decreased in value twelve times since that period, the sum just stated will amount in British currency of the present day to £2,204,492 6s.

The King's intention with regard to these vast revenues was undoubtedly to appropriate them again to the maintenance and support of the reformed establishment. Indeed, Strype in his memorials, has preserved a document which is the production of the royal pen, and which fully proves the integrity he intended to observe with regard to the property of the church. This document specifies no less than twenty new Bishopricks to be made in addition to those which had been constituted by the papal authority before the reformation; naming seven other establishments to be improved and enlarged. *See appen. vol. I. No. cvi.*

There is here sufficient proof of the integrity of

the king's intention in these matters. But the course which he was advised to adopt for the accomplishment of his wishes, disconcerted in some measure his original plan. A number of commissioners were appointed, under the title of the Court of Augmentations, with power to enforce and receive payment of the confiscated revenues of the church, and to invest all monies thus received for such purposes as might thenceforth be deemed advisable, these commissioners were commonly selected from among those who had most ability for conducting public business, and who had more or less remotely an interest in the property, with which they were provisionally entrusted. The consequence was that through some neglect or mismanagement, the accumulated revenues thus collected found other channels than those for which they had been designed by Henry; and only six Bishopricks had been created instead of the twenty which he contemplated. These are *Westminster, since united to London, Oxford, Peterborough, Bristol, Chester, Gloucester.*

The preamble to the act which created these Bishopricks was in Henry's own hand-writing, and is a fair specimen of the style which was generally used in public documents during his time. It is in these words: "Forasmuch as it is not unknown, the slowful and ungodly lyff, which have bene used among all those sects, that have born the name of religioyse folk: and to thentent that henceforth many of them myght be tornyd to better use as hereafter shall follow; whereby God's word myght better be set forth, children brought up in learnyng, clerks noryshed in the universities; old servaunts decay to have lvynges; almys howses for poor folk to be aid; reders of Greke, Ebrew, and Latyne, to have good stipend; dayly almys to be mynstrate; mending of higheways; exhibition for mynysters of the Chyrch: It is thought therefore unto the kyng's Highness expedient and necessary that mo Bishopricks, collegial and cathedral chyrches, shall be establyshed, instead of those foresaid religioyse howses: within the foundation whereof these other tytys afore rehearsed shall be stablished. *Strype's mem. vol. I. 541.*

The strong and decided measures which had thus been brought into operation in England by the authority of law, did not I believe extend to Ireland in the reign of Henry VIII. He was the first English monarch who assumed the title of king of the latter country; his predecessors claiming only the appellation of Lord Superior." His authority there had not been so absolute as in England; and all he could contribute towards the establishment of the Irish reformed church, consisted merely in exacting, thro' his Lt. Governor, Anthony Sellenger, an acknowledgement of his supremacy in church and state from the leading families of the nation. It will be remembered that Henry VIII. only established the principle of the Reformation by breaking off all communication with the court of Rome, and declaring himself to be supreme head of the church on Earth. The mode of worship, and the public ordinances of the church continued so long as he lived nearly the same as they were before. The court of augmentations too underwent from time to time an examination of its proceedings before him: and his extreme vigilance kept most of the church revenues, which had been confiscated, under his own control: so that to whatsoever purpose the proceeds were applied, they were still amenable to the royal sanction.

After Henry's death, his son Edward, who was a minor, ascended the throne. His uncle, the Duke of Somerset, was appointed protector of the kingdom; and to his discretion were committed in a great measure the future destinies of the church, as well as the disposal of the proceeds of the court of augmentations. Through the mismanagement of some of the ministers, and probably through the avarice of others, the exchequer of Edward the sixth was never in a very flourishing condition. He was more than once reduced to the necessity of drawing largely upon the revenues which had been entrusted to his care for the benefit of the church: and when the yearly proceeds failed to amount to the measure of his immediate wants, the members of his administration scrupled not to lay unholy hands upon the sacred deposit, and to dispose at a public sale of the church lands for the benefit of the state. In the

second year of his reign, sales of lands to the amount of more than half a million sterling had been effected in one day. *Strype's mem. vol. II. pt. 2. p. 402—409.*

CRITO.

From the Sunday School Visiter.

BROKEN TIES.

*The broken ties of happier days,
How often do they seem
To come before our mental gaze,
Like a remember'd dream?
Around us each discover'd chain,
In sparkling ruin lies;
Nor earthly hand can e'er again
Unite those broken ties.*

*The parents of our infant home,
The kindred whom we loved,
Far from our arms perchance may roam,
To distant scenes removed;
Or we have watched their fleeting breath,
And closed their weary eyes;
And sigh'd to think, how sadly, death
Can sever human ties.*

*The friends, the loved ones of our youth,
They too are gone, or changed;
Or, worse than all, their love and truth
Are darkened and estranged.
They pass us in the glitt'ring throng,
With cold, averted eyes.
And wonder that we weep our wrong,
And mourn our broken ties.*

*Oh, who in such a world as this,
Could bear their lot of pain,
Did not one radiant hope of bliss
Unclouded yet remain.
That 'hope' the sov'reign Lord hath given,
Who reigns above the skies;
That 'hope' unites our souls to heaven,
By truth's enduring ties.*

*Each care, each ill of mortal birth,
Is sent in pitying love,
To raise the ling'ring soul from earth,
And speed its flight above;
And ev'ry pang that rends the breast,
And every joy that dies,
Bids us to seek a safer rest,
And trust to holier ties.*

KING'S COLLEGE—LONDON.

The Annual Meeting of the Proprietors and friends of King's College was held on Saturday at the theatre of the Institution: The Archbishop of Canterbury, as Visitor of the College, presided. His Grace was accompanied on his entrance by the Bishops of London, Winchester, and Llandaff, the Marquis of Bute, Lord Bexley, Sir Robert Ingles, Bart, Alderman Thompson, Alderman Winchester, and other members of the Council, and distinguished persons. The Report was read by the Secretary. It stated that in 1834 the number of scholars in the senior departments was 93, in 1835 it was 105; in the medical department it had increased from 80 to 100, and in the junior school from 381 to 473. The regular receipts for the year over the ordinary expenditure presented a surplus of 858l., and the cash in hand at the present time, over and above all liabilities, was 1,500l., which sum it was deemed expedient to keep in readiness for any alterations that an increased and increasing business might require. The Dean of Salisbury moved a vote of thanks to the Council, for the zeal and ability displayed by them in conducting the affairs of the College. The Bishop of London returned thanks. The favourable appreciation of their labours was the reward they aspired to obtain at the hands of the Proprietary. The Council already possessed a rich reward in witnessing the rapid progress of the College, which, founded on the soundest moral and religious principles, must, under the blessing of God, go on more and more prospering, and prove a powerful auxiliary to the Church in the diffusion of the principles and practise of true religion and solid learning. He begged to state that the Archbishop of York, as Chairman of the Council, intended to have been present, but was prevented by an imperative official engagement. As a member of the Council, he felt it due to state that they received the most efficient practical assistance from the Principal, and the various Professors and tutors of the College.—*London Record.*