

**THE CHURCH OF THE REFORMATION.**

(The following letter appeared in the *Church Review*, London, England, and is we think worthy of reproduction in our Columns.)

SIR,—It is an old and oft-repeated argument used by the enemies, aye, and sometimes the friends of the dear old Mother Church, that she was founded and launched into the world by "good King Hal," of pious memory. In my peregrinations I have had to contend with people who are ardent and vehement enemies of the Church of this land, and the misrepresentations that are cast broadcast about with such plausibility, remind us that we must needs be ever ready to defend and argue for the truth. Now there are innumerable points concerning the subject of this letter which must needs be dinned into people's ears until they thoroughly understand the *bona fide* facts of the case, and it is with this object in view that I claim your indulgence. In the first place, when we use the word "Reformation" we use it in this sense, "a removal of what was new, and a restoration of what was old," for, in the words of the fathers at the Nicene Council A. D. 325, we echo, "Let the primitive customs prevail." The Church of England must have already been in existence, else how could she have reformed herself if she were not. And now as to what Henry was instrumental in *really* doing. That Henry VIII, did not design to separate from the Universal Church appears by the learned and excellent letter written by Tunstal, Bishop of Durham, by the King's desire to Cardinal Pole, dated July 13, 1536, and part of which I quote for the sake of brevity. "His full purpose and intent is to see the laws of the Almighty God purely and sincerely preached and taught, and Christ's faith without blot kept and observed in his realm, and not to separate himself or his realm any wise from the unity of Christ's Catholic Church, but inviolably at all times to keep and observe the same," &c.

That the Church of England had been existing centuries before the Reformation candid and unbiased people cannot but admit, if they can lay any claim to having studied the question; for without deviating from the question, it is a historical fact that St. Augustine converted the Saxon inhabitants of a part of England (Kent) who had invaded that region and dispossessed the ancient British inhabitants, but they relapsed into heathenism in a little more than twenty years after the arrival of Augustine. And on the authority of several ancient writers we know that there were Christian Bishops in Britain several hundred years before Augustine landed there, and the proofs forthcoming are: Tertullian, who lived in the second century after Christ, Origen in the third, who speaks of "Britain consenting in the worship of the true God," and St. Alban was martyred at Verulam (now called after himself) under the Roman Emperor Diocletian (A. D. 305) nearly three hundred years before the landing of St. Augustine. This being the case, it is unnecessary to enter into detail further as to the existence of the English Church before the Reformation. Suffice it to say that the Church is one and the same both before and after the Reformation; not a State-made Church, but a clean, pure branch of the one Catholic and Apostolic Church, and only Protestant in the sense given her by Dr. C. Wordsworth, in the *Theophilus Anglicanus*, which I quote in conclusion:—"The Church of England as a Church is as old as Christianity. Her Protestantism is indeed comparatively recent, and this for a good reason, because the Romish errors and corruptions against which she protests are recent; but the fact is that as the universal Church for the maintenance of her Catholicity was protesting at the first four General Councils, as she protested at Nicaea against the heresy of Arius, and at Constanti-

nople against Macedonia, as she protested at Ephesus against Nestorius, and at Chalcedon against Eutyches, so the Church of England became Protestant at the Reformation in order that she might be more truly and purely Catholic, and as far as Papal errors are concerned, if Rome will become truly Catholic, then, but not till then, the Church of England will cease to be Protestant."

If this letter will incite to a greater study of the question, which I trust may be the case, I shall say, with heartfelt thankfulness, *Laud Deo.*—R. V. Hawkins.

**NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.**

**DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.**

**MONTREAL.**—*The Cathedral.*—Mr. Horton Corbett organist, is giving every Tuesday afternoon during Lent a recital on the Cathedral organ. The first took place on the 19th inst., and was much enjoyed. The opening number was an Elegy in C. minor, and it was followed by a Berceuse from Gounod. An air "My Heart Ever Faithful," Adagio from Spohr that came next served as a good introduction to the Prayer from Cappoci and the melody in G from Guilmant. The concluding number was a stirring march from Smart. The programme was admirably arranged and it will be seen that it contained two numbers from the English, German and Italian schools. These recitals will doubtless be much appreciated.

*Trinity Church.*—On Tuesday evening the 19th inst., a scientific *Conversations* was held in the lecture hall of the Church. After a few words from the chairman, the audience examined the various attractions laid out for their inspection. The Bell Telephone company exhibited the police alarm box, the same that is in use in Toronto and by which a constable on beat can, without leaving, communicate his requirements to the Central station. They also showed the system of underground cables. One piece of cable about two and a half inches in diameter had 300 wires in it. They had established an office in the hall, and messages were sent and received from all parts of the city, also as far as Ottawa. There were a number of incandescent lights supplied from the Julien storage batteries. These were exhibited by Messrs. M. D. Barr & Co. Dr. Alexander Johnson of McGill College gave a series of most interesting magnetic and electrical experiments. The microscope exhibitions by members of the Microscopic society proved a source of great attraction. Mr. Henry Mott, of McGill university, showed a number of rare coins, books, etc. Among these were the city police regulations for 1817; "The Pilgrim's Progress," edition 1678; and the programme of the opening of Trinity Church twenty-five years ago. Various optical and scientific instruments were shown by Messrs. Hearn and Harrison, Opticians. Mr. J. O. Flaherty exhibited and worked a Remington type writer. During the evening an orchestra rendered several selections of music in a charming manner. Coffee, ice cream, lemonade and cake, were also supplied and enjoyed.

*St. Stephen's.*—The Rev. H. T. Bourne, of the Peigan Indian Mission, Diocese of Calgary, addressed the congregation of St. Stephen's Church on Sunday evening last, and the Sunday-school at 4 p.m. in the interests of his Mission.

Several appeals in behalf of the building fund of this mission have been made through the Church papers during the past year, and have not been very heartily responded to. Mr. Bourne is now, with the consent of His Lordship the Bishop, and the clergy of the different churches, about to make a personal appeal to the members of the Church in this city for contributions to this fund. It is for the purpose

of erecting a Church-school and home on the Peigan Indian Reserve near Fort Macleod. To complete these buildings it will be necessary to raise at least \$1,600. The Indian Department have promised \$400 towards this project, and also to ration the boarding pupils. Mr. Bourne asks for volunteers to aid in this work. "Ask of Me and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession."

**POINT ST. CHARLES.**—*Grace Church.*—The Rev. John Ker was formally inducted as Rector of the parish, in succession to the late Rev. Canon Belcher, on Sunday evening last by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, who preached, and in warm terms commended the new Rector to the people of the parish. There was a large attendance, the Church being crowded. One of the first matters which probably will demand attention on the part of the Rector will be that of supplying accommodation for the many who we believe cannot obtain even sittings, much less pews, in Grace Church. The parish is rapidly growing in influence, owing to the large influx of people through immigration, and the presence within its limits of the Grand Trunk workshops; and the well known earnestness and energy of the new Rector will find ample scope for exercise. May every success attend him in his new field of labour.

**DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.**

**PORT MEDWAY.**—On Thursday evening, the 28th Feb. the Bishop administered Confirmation in the Church of the Holy Redeemer at Port Medway when the Rector presented 14 candidates for the imposition of hands. Of those candidates, seven were males, and seven females, and all of them were married and the heads of families with the exception of one of the females a girl of twenty-one whose father and mother were also among the number. The little Church was literally crowded to its utmost capacity and the whole congregation were very attentive to the Bishop's words of wise and fatherly counsel to the Candidates. After the service some few of the leading male members of the congregation had the pleasure of meeting the Bishop at the Rectory, and were much pleased with the kindness and friendly greeting which his Lordship so invariably extended to all who call upon him.

On the following morning the Bishop drove to the Parish Church at Eagle Head, and at 11 o'clock held another Confirmation, when 21 candidates were confirmed, nine males and twelve females, while of these all were young and unmarried except one man, who however, is not by any means an old man. The Parish Church is quite a large building, but it was well filled at this service, so many taking this way, and this opportunity of welcoming the Bishop in their midst. Besides the Rector, who presented the candidates, there were present with the Bishop the Revs. J. Spencer of Petite Riviere, and A. W. M. Harley M. A., Curate of Liverpool. The latter acted as the Bishop's Chaplain on this occasion, as Mr. Spencer had done on the previous evening. After service the Bishop and Clergy were entertained at the house of Mr. William Wentzel Sr., at Eagle Head, and there met Mr. Jacob Wagner who is indeed one of the chief pillars of the Church in this Parish. At three o'clock there was another service in the Church when the Rector was inducted by the Bishop, previous to the evening service. The Rector said the prayers at this service as well as played the organ, and the lessons were read by the Revs. Spencer and Harley. The Bishop preached a plain but powerful sermon on the character of the Ministry as representing our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ to the people. Long may such sound teaching be remembered and acted upon both by the Rector and the people.