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THE BISHOP'S CHARGE

(Continued from page 1.)

The first synod under the new bishop was held on the 9th of April, 1862. The diocese covered an immense area, some 20,000 square miles, and was almost entirely a missionary field. The country was settling rapidly, though there were large portions of it still uncleared and uncultivated. The people in the rural districts were comparatively poor, but the majority of them were able to do more for the support of their church than they did. Like a great many Church of England people still, they had never been taught to give; they thought the church existed for them, without any responsibility on their part for its maintenance. They loved it, but never thought it necessary to make any sacrifices for it. They never realized that they were stewards for God, and that the giving of their substance was an act of worship, and that God required this from them.

Occupies Third Place.

So we find the bishop at his synod in 1864, three years after his consecration, saying that he had increased the number of his clergy by thirteen additional men, and that he could have increased it much more largely, if he only had the means to support them, and that the necessities of the work absolutely demanded such an increase. The church was first in the field, but she did not cover the ground which in time was taken up by others. She took too much for granted, and was satisfied with conditions which were unsatisfactory. What is taking place to-day in the North-West took place in this and other dioceses in older Canada, so that instead of occupying the first, we occupy only the third place numerically. The clergy in those days were largely men from the universities of the old land, who had come out prepared to endure hardness and were not afraid of work, though in doing their work, they often made mistakes; and no wonder, for they did not understand the people, and the people did not understand them. The conditions they met with were so different from those they had been accustomed to at home. Their mistakes, however, were of the head, rather than of the heart; they were strong men, physically and mentally, and have left enduring marks behind them. They were in the church not for what she could do for them, but for what they could do for her, and for the souls of men. They were not looking for town parishes, or easy berths; they had come to spend, and be spent, as good soldiers of Jesus Christ. One of their mistakes was not going out after the settlers and compelling them to come in. They did not use the method which Moody has characterized as "hand-picking"—i.e., having personal dealings with people, talking to one at a time, getting into his life, finding out his difficulties and helping him. They regarded the mission in the wilderness as similar to the parish church at home and their position, and work like that of the rector in the old land, where he was often magistrate as well as parson. They held any number of services, and preached good sermons, often over the heads of the people, and not infrequently over empty benches, sermons worthy of being preached in any of the churches at home. They expected the people to come to the services they held, but they did not, while some one calling at every house, one of the people, knowing them and how to talk to them, possessed of a strong voice, a good deal of zeal and confidence, and a ready utterance, would get those people who stayed away from church to come and hear him, and to mistake, as some one has said, "perspiration for inspiration." Another mistake was the failure to teach those who came to church their duty as stewards of God. They were afraid they might be thought to be begging for themselves, and they would have starved rather than make their wants known, and often they had wants. Another mistake was a certain officialism and coldness of manner of which they were unconscious, a matter of inheritance, which kept simple folk at a distance and led them to fear rather than love the parson.

There were sixty-six clergy in active service, at the formation of the diocese. This number had increased at the time of the division, in 1896, when Ottawa was separated from us, to 134, more than double the original number. We were then left with sixty-five active and nine retired and superannuated clergy, making seventy-four in all. We started, therefore, on our second period of existence and of work, with practically the same number of workers which the original diocese had when it began its work, with, however, a very much smaller area to cover, only about half the original field, and with very much better conditions, I must say, I cannot understand how the work of the church can be hidden and pass out of sight, as it too often does.

Archbishop Lewis said that during the first twenty years of his episcopate, he confirmed an average of 1,400 a year—28,000 persons altogether. the church? They should have been the church? They should have been all communicants, and active workers. Just think what an army like that could do! The fact that no visible effects result from the large numbers that are confirmed, that no impetus is given to the church's work, means that in the past, as I fear is not infrequently the case in the present, either proper care is not taken in preparing candidates for confirmation, proper instruction is not given, or proper shepherding does not follow. With many, the work with the class ends with the confirmation service. This should not be so. The time of preparation for confirmation is a time of great opportunity to a clergyman, and of great responsibility. If properly used it ought to take great temptations, and powerful influences, to draw any of the candidates away from the church, and from being followers of Christ. I fear, in many cases, it consists merely in hearing the catechism said, giving no explanations or helps.

When I was a rector my instruction preparatory to confirmation extended over three months, with a lecture once a week; the service was exactly half an hour long. I began on the stroke of eight, and closed at half past. We had two hymns and two or three collects, which gave full twenty minutes for the lecture, besides time to call the roll. These lectures were open to all, and while in substance, practically the same every year, yet the services at which they were delivered were the best attended week night services we had. The same people attended them, year by year, and the chapel, which seated 120, was invariably full, every seat occupied, and many people standing. I began with fundamentals—the creation, the fall, the atonement, how we are made partakers of it, the means God employs, for He invariably works by means, what we have to do, what God does for us, explaining repentance, faith, baptism, the laying on of hands, prayer, the reading of God's word, the assembling of ourselves together, the holy communion, what the church is, our place in it, and our relationship through it to Christ, the responsibility which rests upon each of us, whether we have little or much, as stewards of God. I then saw each separately, anh had prayer, before confirmation. It was really a revival in the parish, and the lectures were intended to touch both head and heart and they usually did.

Where are the Confirmed?

During my episcopate I have confirmed 8,070. Where are they? The statistics gathered from the different parishes do not show this increase. Surely such a solemn step is not taken by so many as a mere form; surely they have not left the church, yet she does not seem to know them, or where they are. They ought to be looked after. We should not be satisfied with ministering merely to those who come to us; we should go out to seek for the sheep which have gone astray; in the Master's name, to seek and to save that which is lost.

When Bishop Lewis began his work the country was in a very different condition from what it is now; then there were no railways, or automobiles; a lumber waggon was the carriage in general use among the farmers. The roads, where any work was put upon them, were generally corduroy, i.e., with logs laid side by side, close together, and a little earth spread over them. In the winter, the frost would heave these logs above the earth, and make the road almost impassable. These roads are not altogether a thing of the past; they are to be found in different parts of the diocese still; and even with a good spring buggy you would not choose a journey over them for pleasure.

Farming, in those days, was laborious, and unremunerative work; the farmer, then, had no machinery to lighten his labors as he has now; he was often far from market,—received very little for what his land produced. If he got a weekly newspaper, he thought himself quite abreast of the times, and that his lot was cast in a fair place. The people generally, had no idea of the vastness, the productiveness, the mineral wealth, or the picturesqueness of this wonderful country; one of the fairest and richest in the world, destined yet to be a great nation. It covers one-twelfth of the land area of the earth, and is as large as Europe, and larger than the United States. At that time, it was thought of only, as consisting of the maritime provinces, and Upper and Lower Canada,—as it was then called. They had a vague idea of the existence of a stretch of frozen territory to the north, and west, generally known and designated by the title of "The Great Lone Land," supposed to be valuable only for the fur-bearing animals which it harbored, and which the Hudson's Bay company, and the Indians were able to catch. How different everything is now! The country is covered with a perfect net-work of railways, not only in eastern or old Canada, but in the great North-West, as well. We have good roads, on which automobiles can almost everywhere run, except in the very northern, and rocky portions of the diocese, and even there they are greatly improved within the last few years. We have begun to realize what a wonderful country we possess. Thirty-three per cent. of the area of the British empire is within the Dominion of Canada, and the fact that it is a wonderful country is now generally known. The eyes of the world are upon us; people are crowding in by the tens of thousands, from all parts, seeking homes in this favored land; the population of the country is increasing by leaps and bounds. The climate in the west is milder than in the east, except for sudden and occasional drops of temperature.

While we, here in Kingston, the end of February, were banked up with snow, and some had all they could do to keep themselves warm, they were ploughing in Alberta, and the southern part of Manitoba. That is what we once thought was the frozen north. The splendid harvest which God gave us last year and the good prices which have been obtained for all manner of farm products, have created an era of prosperity, for which we ought to render thanks to God, the Giver of all.

Resents Annexation Cry.

Of course, there are some people, going up and down the country now, professional politicians for the most part (though there are some others with them, who know just as little about the matter), who are singing a song about blue ruin, which is coming on our country, through reciprocity with the United States. Whether it would be in the general interests of the country is a question for debate, and about which different opinions may be held. But politicians have not devoted their attention so much to the discussion of this question, as in ringing changes on the cry, that if reciprocity were adopted, it would be the first step towards annexation; that the United States would be buying us, and we would be selling ourselves. I think that is the greatest nonsense that ever came from the mouths of supposedly sane men; as a Canadian, I resent it. I would think little of my loyalty to the British crown, and the British empire, if it depended on tariff schedules. Those who think the national spirit of Canada is such a poor and uncertain thing, that her existence as a nation, would be imperilled by an increase of trade with the United States, certainly do not know her. There is no part of the British empire in which there is truer loyalty than in Canada, and she can be neither bought nor sold. It is a strange thing that both parties, from Sir John A. Macdonald down, have sought for reciprocity with the United States, and looked upon it as desirable, but the United States would not agree to it, and I am not sure they will now; however, when it is apparently within our reach, there is a cry raised against it, as though it meant the ruination of the country.

Factories are to be closed, railways are to be tied up, steamship lines are to go out of business—wonderful pictures have been painted by those who never before were known to have any artistic talents, and, by what they have said and done, are not likely to establish for themselves any great reputation in this respect. With all this prospect of ruin ahead of us, we find the C.P.R. advancing from about 200 to 242, and other stocks in proportion. It shows how business men regard it. The opposition to reciprocity is simply a political one. That there are men of both parties opposed to it, simply means that men can be caught by a cry, and can be led by sentiment. The thought of annexation makes many incapable of calmly judging the matter. Mr. Borden, the leader of the opposition, like a sensible man, has, I believe, while opposing reciprocity on economical grounds, refused to take up the annexation cry, or to use it in any way, as an argument.

Canada will suffer a real loss in the departure of Earl Grey, whose term of office will shortly expire. The services of this distinguished representative of the crown have been greatly appreciated by the people of Canada. He has endeared himself to all classes, and has taken the deepest interest in the affairs of the country. It is a great satisfaction to know that he is to be succeeded by the Duke of Connaught, the brother of the late king, one who has won the confidence and esteem of all with whom he has come into contact, in the various positions he has held. He will come to us, not as a stranger, but as one whom many Canadians have met, and with a clear knowledge of our country and her needs.

Political Conditions in England.

The political condition in England is anything but satisfactory; an effort is seemingly being made to keep up appearances until after the coronation, when probably the furies will be let loose. Everyone, of course, knows that the peace is all on the surface.

(Continued on page 7.)

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