

WORK OF THE CHURCHMEN

Western Dioceses Said to be Showing the Progress of Anglo-Catholicism.

In the P. E. convention Tuesday a vote on the question of creating an appellate court was voted on and lost. There was a failure to concur by the two orders, the lay order not having quite a majority of dioceses in favor of the measure.

A Chicago dispatch to the New York Tribune says: On its face the vote on the change of the name of the church in the general convention last week was a remarkable one, but its full significance can only be understood by a somewhat careful analysis.

In the first place it is evident that the feeling in favor of such a change has grown with great rapidity in the last few years, and if it continues growing at its present rate its adoption in the near future is a foregone conclusion.

This is conceded by all. The wonderful growth of this sentiment is due to a great number of causes, some of them not apparent on the surface.

An inspection of the vote taken yesterday shows that as heretofore the clerical deputies are more generally in favor of a change of name than the lay deputies, but it is also shown how rapidly the feeling in favor of the change is growing among the laity.

Indeed, some of the strongest advocates of the change are to be found among the lay deputies. Of the seventeen dioceses which gave a clerical vote in favor of the change, there are only three eastern dioceses, namely, Maine, New Jersey and northern New Jersey, or Newark, as it is called.

All the others are western and southern dioceses.

Among the dioceses which cast a clerical vote against the resolution were Albany, Connecticut, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Southern Ohio, Virginia, Central New York, Delaware, Long Island, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Ohio, Pittsburgh, South Carolina, Vermont and West Virginia.

Coming now to the lay vote the three eastern dioceses, namely, Vermont, New Jersey and northern New Jersey voted in favor of the change.

The other eight dioceses are in the west and south. Among the twenty-nine dioceses which cast a lay vote against the change are to be found Central Pennsylvania, Delaware, Iowa, Long Island, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, Southern Ohio, Virginia, Western New York, Central New York, Connecticut, Maryland, Michigan, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Western Michigan.

From this it will be seen that the seventeen dioceses which cast a clerical vote for the Judd resolution and the eleven dioceses which cast a lay vote for the resolution, are, with four exceptions, weak western or southern dioceses, some of them only recently organized, and none of them representing the best thoughts of the church in the great centers of civilization.

On the other hand the twenty-two dioceses which cast a clerical vote against the resolution and the twenty-nine dioceses which cast a lay vote against it represent, with a few exceptions, the strength, the intelligence and the progressive spirit of the Episcopal church. They contribute the most to the cause of missions. They have built hospitals and asylums for the sick and afflicted, and in them largely may be found that intelligent perception of the trend of the age which has done so much for the growth of the Episcopal church.

This is a suggestive fact and one which is much commented on to-day. It is apparent that even had the vote in favor of a change been greater than it was, it could hardly have been regarded as representing the best mind of the church.

authority, such as the use of a shortened service on certain occasions. The most important recommendation of the committee is that the book of offices be at once published to be used tentatively by the church during the next three years.

This book of offices will contain several special services not found in the present book, as well as many of the other features of the proposed "Book Annexed."

If the suggestion of the committee is carried out, every congregation may use the proposed book and judge for itself as to its desirability. The only serious objection that will probably be brought against this proposition is that it is unconstitutional; but it is thought this objection will not be sustained.

A STAR OF THE STAGE. One of the best attractions yet to come this season will be that of that distinguished "Star of the Stage," Mlle RHEA, who appears here on the 24th of January next, in "The Romance of a Poor Young Man."

Mlle Rhea is the daughter of a wealthy Belgian manufacturer, and was born in Brussels in 1852. The death of her father, when she had scarcely completed her education, left her as a sister alone in the world, and she resolved to prepare herself for the stage.

The famous tragedian, Fletcher, then in the tide of his success at Paris, exerted himself in her behalf. Through his influence and that of Samson, the teacher of Rachel, she gained admission to the conservatory of Paris, under the instruction of the renowned Beauvallet. Patience, thought study, coupled with a laudable ambition to achieve fame, led to an astonishing progress.

She was urged to make her debut in Paris, but she preferred to do this in her native city. There her triumph was complete, her fame reaching even to Paris. This was in 1871 and in the French capital, she was soon the dramatic heroine of the hour.

She became the rival of Bernhardt, and in whatever roles she appeared the theater was always crowded. After a tour of France, she went to St. Petersburg, where she remained five seasons. She was highly praised by the late Czar, and in the spring of 1881, at the close of her Russian engagement, went to England.

Commencing then to take lessons in English, the remarkable fact is recorded that she actually appeared as Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing," in thirty days after beginning her studies. Her wit and beauty captivated the London public and she reigned supreme there until coming to America in the following fall.

Her first appearance was in Boston, where she once took her place as one of the most talented actresses that ever came from abroad. Nature seems to have formed Mlle Rhea in a most prodigious humor.

Miscellaneous.

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