

## CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.

---

We have been requested by the Dean of Canterbury to publish the following Appeal.

---

### A THIRTEENTH CENTENARY.

THE year 1897 will conclude a very memorable epoch in the History of the Church of England; for June 2, 1897, will be the THIRTEEN HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY of the baptism of King Ethelbert, the first Christian English King, by St. Augustine of Canterbury.

Since that day a Christian Church has always stood on the present site of Canterbury Cathedral; and through that Cathedral and its precincts have flowed those thirteen centuries of English Christianity.

1.—In its close connection with the great secular events of our national history, Canterbury Cathedral stands almost unrivalled. It contains the royal tombs of Henry IV., and Queen Joan of Navarre; of Edward the Black Prince, and others of Royal lineage. It has been visited in State, and on great occasions, by nearly all our sovereigns.

In 1023 King Knut presented to the Cathedral his golden crown. On May 4, 1130, Henry I. came here with King David of Scotland and all the English Bishops. Here on July 12, 1174, Henry II. performed his memorable penance before the tomb of Becket. On Aug. 23, 1179, the Cathedral was visited by Louis VII. of France, the first French King who ever set foot on English shores. In Dec. 1189 Richard Cœur de Lion came here with William, King of Scotland, and again in 1194 on his return from the Crusades. Here King John and Isabella were crowned by Archbishop Hubert Walter at Easter, 1201. Henry III. was present, as a boy, with Archbishop Langton and Pandulph, the Papal Legate, on July 7, 1220, at the translation of Becket's remains; and he was here re-crowned by St. Edmund in 1236. Here on Sept. 10, 1299, Edward I. was married to Margaret of France; and he presented the golden crown of Scotland to the Cathedral in the same year. In 1357 it was visited by the Black Prince with his prisoner the King of France, after the battle of Poitiers; and in 1363 he built his Chantry after his marriage with the Fair Maid of Kent.

Henry V. visited the Cathedral on his way home after the battle of Agincourt. In 1400 it was visited by Emmanuel, Emperor of the East; and in 1417 by Sigismund, Emperor of the West. In 1465 Edward IV. and Queen Elizabeth Woodville visited it and presented the grand north window of the Martyrdom. Henry VII. came almost every year of his reign. In 1520 Henry VIII. worshipped here in great state with the Emperor Charles V.\* The late Prince Consort stopped at Canterbury, and attended the Cathedral Service, in 1840, just before his marriage with Queen Victoria. The Queen had gone over the Cathedral with the Duchess of Kent on Sept. 28, 1835, previous to Her Majesty's accession, and visited Canterbury again in 1842.

2.--The Cathedral is still more closely connected with the entire stream of events in the history of our Church. Here the great Archbishop Theodore († 690) founded the first great English School, and here he placed the first Organ that was ever heard in England. All the Old English Archbishops, with only one exception, from Cuthbert († 759) to Robert († 1052), including St. Dunstan, St. Odo, and St. Alphege, lie buried under its roof; as also do the great majority of the later Archbishops, from Lanfranc († 1089) to Cardinal Pole († 1558), including St. Anselm, St. Thomas Becket, Hubert Walter, Stephen Langton, Archbishops Peckham, Winchelsey, Bradwardine, Islip, Simon de Sudbury, Courtenay, Arundel, Chicheley, Bourchier, Morton, Warham, and other Saints and Statesmen famous in history for their high services to Church and Commonwealth.

3.--The Cathedral itself is one of the most uniquely beautiful in England. It exhibits the first traces of Early English style, and besides the ancient Roman work recognised by archaeologists in the Crypt, it contains specimens of the Pre-Norman, Norman, Transition, Early English, Decorated, Perpendicular, and Modern styles. Its Cloisters are described by Prof. Willis as "a perfect museum of Mediæval architecture."

4.--The stateliness and beauty of Canterbury Cathedral is a matter of more than national concern. It is yearly visited by hundreds of Americans, and, with Westminster Abbey, is one of their chief points of attraction in the old Country. They, no less than we, have a profound interest in a structure so intimately connected with the history of our Church. It is also visited by multitudes of Colonial and foreign visitors, as well as by thousands of our own countrymen, sometimes as many as a thousand in one

\* It has also been visited, among other sovereigns, by King Stephen; Philip, Earl of Flanders (1184); King Philip of Spain (1555); Queen Mary (1558); Queen Elizabeth (1573); Charles I. and Henrietta Maria, immediately after their marriage (1625); Charles II. (1660); William and Mary (1689); George I. (1720); George II. (1728); George Prince Regent (1798). Richard II. presented the Cathedral with £1000. Queen Mary gave some magnificent hangings.

day; and it cannot but involve something of a stigma on our national generosity that means should be so grievously lacking to maintain its fabric and its institutions on a level worthy of its dignity as the Premier Cathedral of England.

It is our earnest desire to render memorable this thirteenth centenary of its history, by raising such funds as will enable us to make the fabric more secure and more beautiful for many years to come.

In accordance with careful reports by the late and present architects—Mr. Christian and Sir Arthur Blomfield, A.R.A.—the most immediately necessary work is

- i. The clearance and restoration of the long-neglected CRYPT, which would then be once more available for religious services;
- ii. The repair of the CLOISTERS;
- iii. The repair, sustentation, and restoration of the CHAPTER-HOUSE;
- iv. The restoration of the ancient CHAPEL OF ST. ANDREW, which is now unsightly from neglect and disfigurement.

i.—The Crypt is the largest in England, and, with the “Lady-Chapel in the Undercroft” and the other Chapels, is not only replete with the highest historic and architectural interest, but might be fully restored to the striking impressiveness of its early condition.

ii.—The Cloisters are also a work of unusual beauty and interest. Mr. Christian’s report of 1890 says, “They are now *progressing towards destruction* by decay of the stone-work;” and Sir A. Blomfield adds that “their state is now (in 1896) considerably worse than it was in 1890.” Unless they are speedily and thoroughly taken in hand, without any attempt at doing more than “to save what still remains from the further ravages of wind and weather,” they will soon perish irreparably to the grievous loss of the nation.

iii.—The Chapter-house, once surpassingly magnificent, now (to quote the words of Sir A. Blomfield) “wears a depressing aspect of neglect and dilapidation,” and is becoming in many parts very insecure. It might be made a source of pleasure to many coming generations, if restored to anything approaching the splendour which it once derived from its sumptuous decorations; but, in any case, it would be discreditable to this generation to allow it to perish from irremediable decay.

There is much else which it would be most desirable to do if we had the funds, but these unhappily are grievously lacking. Among other works, one or more stained-glass windows, the best that this generation can produce, should certainly be erected to commemorate so remarkable a centenary; in honour of which the Cathedral will be visited by the great majority of the Archbishops, Metropolitans, and Bishops of the English, Irish, Scotch, and American Dioceses, with the Bishops of India, Canada, Africa, Australia, and our whole Colonial Empire.

The completion of these works would cost more than £20,000; and for this great undertaking the Dean and Chapter have no adequate funds. They are compelled, by lack of means, to be content with many temporary and makeshift arrangements which they deplore but are unable to remedy. A poor and thinly-populated England, before the existence of Greater Britain, built and provided for the great Cathedrals, which are the pride and ornament of our country, and which the Deans and Chapters were never more desirous than now to elevate to their highest ideal of sacred usefulness. The sum needed could be supplied without the smallest effort by the unparalleled wealth and power of the England of to-day. The memory of so long an epoch of English Christianity should evoke and stimulate a glad munificence, and thus, we, of this generation, may confer a lasting boon on the generations to come. We therefore issue this urgent appeal to the people of England, to Americans, and to the English-speaking race in general.

We earnestly trust that the response to our appeal may prove that the spirit of faith, self-sacrifice, and splendid generosity, which actuated our fathers, continues to glow no less brightly in the heart of their sons, for the glory of God and the honour of His Temple.

All Donations sent to the Dean, or to Canon Holland, the Treasurer of the Cathedral, will be gratefully acknowledged, published, and accounted for.

Subscriptions may be spread over three years; but it would save much trouble and anxiety if all donors, who can do so without inconvenience, would send their gifts at once.