

India United Church with the Anglican Church in the Madras Presidency, the unified body can scarcely fail to claim a dominant voice in the conduct of missions to the surrounding heathen. The C.M.S. has always bidden us to look forward to the time when all missionary operations and all mission property will be handed over to a duly constituted and flourishing local Church. The possibly near advent of this consummation of our evangelistic efforts supplies an additional reason against desiring to incur the expense and trouble of disturbing the existing tenure of C.E.Z. property in the mission field by transferring it from one trust body to another unless such transfer is absolutely necessary for the good of the work.

P. V. SMITH.

THE CHAPELS ROYAL OF BRITAIN.

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III. KING HENRY VII'S CHAPEL, WESTMINSTER.

THE very name of Westminster conjures up in the mind a picture of old-world dignity and grandeur and associations with the Royalty of England from time immemorial. The old Abbey, standing here still as it has done since before the Norman soldiers ever trod the shores of Great Britain, is one of the most cherished possessions of the Nation. It is a "Royal Peculiar," that is to say, it is an ecclesiastical possession of the Sovereign alone and no Archbishop or Bishop has any authority within its doors, for the Sovereign is its Ordinary. History breathes from every chapel and every part of the magnificent edifice, but if one portion more than another calls to the imagination as "a temple not made with hands" it is Henry VII's Chapel.

When those beautiful gates are opened and a glimpse of the Chapel is obtained, it seems indeed as if it were not of this world's making but had been designed and erected by the dainty hands of angels, and one feels impelled to walk softly lest by chance the sleep of the illustrious dead that lie within should be broken. Henry

had been reconstructing the chapel at St. George's, Windsor, wherein to place the body of Henry VI, but a struggle ensued between the authorities at Chertsey Abbey where he had lain, Windsor and Westminster, and the matter was referred to a council held at Greenwich, who decided that the body must be placed in the Abbey at Westminster. Accordingly, the Chapel at Windsor was abandoned and the present beautiful addition made to Westminster, Pope Julius II sanctioning the removal of the body from Chertsey Abbey, but the price he asked to canonize him in accordance with Henry's wish was so exorbitant that his body was left at Windsor, where it had been brought, and rests there to this day.

The Chapel is 104 feet 6 inches long, 69 feet 10 inches wide, and 61 feet 5 inches high. The roof is extraordinarily beautiful, composed of very light panelled pendentives and fan-tracery, with cinquefoiled arches and supports like a fretwork of countless butterfly wings. The row of clerestory windows with their exquisite stained glass cast a solemn tint throughout the building, which is surely a masterpiece of that great architect of the close of the fifteenth century, Sir Reginald Bray. The East end terminates in a fine apse, and on each side of the Chapel hang the banners of the Knights of the Bath, tattered and worn with age and drooping motionless over the monuments of the great dead below. The lofty stalls of quiet dignity are beautifully carved and their stone panelling adds to their magnificence and beauty, while the carved wooden figures of the Kings, Bishops and Saints encircling the whole Chapel under the canopies finish the picture of sacred loveliness.

Mr. F. Bond in his work estimates that the Chapel must have cost at least £250,000 altogether, the initial cost being about £140,000, while the endowment "to the land of God and the honour royal" would reach another £100,000. He points out, too, that the whole of this endowment was confiscated by Henry VIII and his successors, leaving only the Chapel to remain.

Henry VII and his Queen, Elizabeth of York, lie buried together in the bronze chantry behind the "altar," whilst standing round according to the Monarch's last will and testament are figures of the Saints Michael, John the Baptist, John the Evangelist, George, Anthony, Edward, Vincent, Anne, Mary Magdalene, and Barbara. Queen Elizabeth died in 1503 in childbirth in her twenty-seventh year, while Henry only lived six years later, dying at his Richmond

Palace in his fifty-fifth year and being brought hither to be lain by her side. The life-like effigy above the tomb was the work of the Florentine sculptor, Torrigiano, the rival of Michael Angelo, and it was completed in 1529. The bronze grille around the tomb, though much mutilated, is still the finest piece of metal work in the country. Formerly there were thirty-two statuettes of gilt bronze on the grate, but all have been stolen or destroyed except six.

The vault below and side by side with this one is that of King James I.

Only a matter of a few weeks afterwards died Margaret Beaufort, the wife of Edmund Tudor, Earl of Richmond. She was truly a most devout person and sincerely beloved for her good works. Amongst them may be mentioned her founding the St. John's and Christ's Colleges at Cambridge, and, on the advice of Bishop Fisher, establishing the first divinity professorships at both Oxford and Cambridge. Her beautiful tomb is in the South aisle near to that of her great-great-grand-daughter, Mary, Queen of Scots.

Edward VI died on July 6, 1553, and his successor, Mary, was the cause of his funeral being postponed, desiring it to be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the Roman Catholic Church. A compromise was, however, effected whereby a Requiem Mass was held at the Tower, after which the coffin was brought to Westminster and the service conducted from the English Book of Common Prayer. The plate on the coffin described the King as "On earth under Christ, of the Church of England and Ireland the supreme head."

On December 13, 1558, died Mary I, the daughter of Henry VIII, and Katherine of Aragon—a tyrannical bigot, unscrupulous and despotic, and in her death mourned by none. Indeed, the chroniclers have it that well-nigh before the service was over people were pulling down the black drappings of the Abbey. At the funeral Bishop White is said to have used for his text the words: "A living dog is better than a dead lion!"

Then came Queen Elizabeth, who passed away at the Palace at Richmond on March 24, 1603, and was brought down the river to Whitehall, and thence to the Abbey. The people flocked from all parts to witness her burial, and their enthusiasm so stirred King James I that he erected the exquisite memorial to be seen to her. The front is not so fine as that erected afterwards to Mary, Queen of Scots, but is nevertheless a most handsome memorial

to the Virgin Queen. The recumbent effigy is of white marble, and portrays the features full of strength and dignity, while she is represented clothed in royal robes and carrying the orb and sceptre in her hand. These, however, are now broken and her crown is gone. Her stately coffin rests on the top of that of her sister Mary, and it is situated in the North aisle.

Later, in 1612, the remains of Mary, Queen of Scots, were by the King's command brought from Peterborough, where she had been buried, and lain in this Chapel, and James erected yet another tomb of most exquisite beauty to the memory of his mother. This memorial is situated in the South aisle, occupying a position similar to that in memory of Queen Elizabeth. The effigy is also executed in white marble, and depicts the features as small but exceptionally sweet and beautiful. At her feet lies a Scottish lion with a crown of Sovereignty. Formerly, devout Scots used to make pilgrimages to her tomb, and it is chronicled that miracles were performed there and sufferers were healed of their ailments.

In the same year his eldest son Henry, the Prince of Wales, died, and it is said that over two thousand attended his funeral, so extremely popular was he for his accomplishments and his lovable nature, but for some reason or another no monument was put up in his honour.

At the East end are the two pathetic tombs of the two little daughters of King James I, Princess Sophia dying three days after birth, having a tomb of alabaster in the form of a cradle, while an effigy of her little sister, the Princess Maria, lies on a marble table-tomb resting upon her left arm.

James I was buried on March 27, 1625, and after this the next interment took place during the time of the Commonwealth, the Lord Protector, Oliver Cromwell, having his mother buried there in 1654, and his sister, Jane Cromwell, in 1656.

Oliver Cromwell himself was buried in 1658, the funeral costing the nation £60,000, but at the Restoration on January 30, 1661, the Royalists, by the consent of Charles II, had the body dragged from its resting-place and drawn on a hurdle to Tyburn Hill, where it was hanged upon the gallows until sunset, thereafter taking it down and beheading it, throwing the body into a pit at the foot of the hill and putting up his head along with those of Ireton and Bradshaw on the top of Westminster Hall.

Parliament voted the sum of £70,000 for the removal of the body of King Charles I to this Chapel, but the money was appropriated by Charles II, and the body lies still at St. George's, Windsor.

Charles II was buried "very quietly at night and without any manner of pomp," and here too lie the bodies of William III and Mary II, the good Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark, at the East end of the South aisle.

Queen Caroline, the consort of George II, was buried in 1738, and twenty-two years later her husband lain by her side. He had directed that "his ashes should be mingled with those of his wife," and so the two coffins were placed together in one large sarcophagus and one side of each removed.

William, Duke of Cumberland, the victor of Fontenoy and Culloden and the founder of the Ascot Race Meeting, was interred here in 1765, and here too are buried the first Duke of Buckingham, the favourite of James I and Charles I.

The great Duke of Marlborough, who was given a most magnificent public funeral, was first buried here in 1722, but removed to Blenheim by the Duchess in 1766.

And so here are congregated the mighty dead, whose deeds have thrown a grandeur and a gloom over the pages of England's history, and we pass from the scene where the very pavement seems strewn, as it were, with crowns, helmets, swords and all the bent and bruised relics of the monarchs and nobles whose history is ours, and leave them to their rest of peace, wherein some day we too shall lay us down.

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