TEXTS AND THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

APRIL 29.—THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

1. Ye shall not add to the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it. Deut. iv. 2.

We add to the word of God,—not when we keep the ordinances which his apostles appointed, but did not record (for he has commanded us in his word to observe such)—but when we receive for doctrine the teachings of men, founded on no warranty of his word. We diminish from it, not only when we neglect what is actually written, but when we do not seek its full meaning and application. To add to the word of God takes off the heart from his real word, and causes us to value it less. To diminish from it dishonours him, and deprives ourselves of a part of the means of salvation. Lord, enable me to receive fully thy whole word, and nothing more as thy word.

2. Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget. Deut. iv. 9.

It is not natural to man to remember the word of God, or the covenant under which God has brought him, because both are in opposition to the corrupt leaning of his heart; it therefore requires care not to forget them. The soul is both the seat of the memory and of those evil affections which oppose the word of God and drive it from the memory; therefore the soul must be kept diligently. Give me, O Lord, a spirit of godly circumspection: enable me actively to imprint thy word on my soul by carrying it out in practice.

APRIL 30.

1. Teach them to thy sons and thy sons' sons. Deut. iv. 9.

If we have the true spirit of Christ, when we have received a blessing we shall desire to communicate it, and more especially the great blessing of the word of God. More especially shall we wish to communicate this blessing to those who have sprung from us, for we naturally desire specially their welfare; and since through us they have come into this world, we shall be more anxious that they should pass safe through it to the heavenly world. Grant me, O Lord, to love with a Christian love those nearly connected with me.

2. Abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. 1 Pet. ii. 11.

The soul is the man considered as capable of loving God, honouring him, obeying him, and serving him everlastingly. The flesh is the man considered without reference to God, as seeking his own will, his own power, his own gratification, and limiting his thoughts to this world. The lusts (*i. e.*, desires) of the flesh therefore necessarily oppose the soul. O let me draw off myself from self and earthly things, that I may be able to obtain the everlasting things.

MAY 1.—ST. PHILIP AND ST. JAMES.

1. When he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life. James i. 12.

[illegible] which he himself was to receive; thus did he see clearly the way in which he was to attain it—by enduring trial and temptation, and proving himself faithful to the end. Thus may we obtain the same crown. Lord, grant me not to shrink at temptation when thou callest me to it, but courageously to meet and grapple with it. That I may be able so to do, give me a single mind.

2. Philip saith unto him, shew us the Father and it sufficeth us. John xiv. 8.

St. Philip knew not the force of his own words. He did not consider that none can see the Father fully so long as any sin cleaves to him; that when we do see the Father face to face, it will be in that fullness of heavenly joy, which will suffice completely to our eternal happiness; when our souls are pure from all earthly stain, and we are capable of seeing him as he is and finding all our souls' life in knowing him. O that I may be fitted by increasing pureness of heart thus to behold the Father.

MAY 2.

1. As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness. 1 Peter ii. 15.

We are released from the burden of minute rites and observances by which the Jews were bound, and from the burden of unforgiven sin; and we are left in the larger portion of our actions to find the line of duty by the light within us, and to do it not by compulsion, but of a ready mind. But there is a danger lest we should deceive ourselves, and flatter ourselves that we are enjoying gospel liberty, when we are only indulging in maliciousness—*i. e.*, evil motives and intentions. May my heart be kept from this self-deception. Lord, give me to see the true use of the liberty thou hast given me.

2. Love the brotherhood. 1 Peter ii. 17.

We are bound to love all men, even our enemies, but we are bound to a special love to our fellow-christians. This is due to all who are within the covenant. To them we should render special service in need; but, above all, we should study their souls' good,—endeavour to turn them from all evil and lead them into all good; and that especially when young, that they may not be entangled in sin. O that I may have more of this love, which blesses both him who has it and him to whom it is shewn.

MAY 3.

1. Ye shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy. John xvi. 20.

Many are the troubles of the righteous. They sorrow for their own sins; for the sufferings and sorrows of others, and still more for their sins; for the opposition to the will of God in their own carnal will; for the opposition of the wicked to his holy laws; for their refusal or neglect to accept his salvation. But their own heart shall be changed, and the world shall accept the rule of Christ, and they shall be placed for ever in a state where they shall behold neither suffering nor sin. Lord, hasten that glorious day: hasten thy complete reign in my heart.

2. I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice. John xvi. 12.

[illegible] will see us again, when we cross [illegible] the shadow of death and are [illegible] dise, where he manifests [illegible] lad will that meeting be! How still more glad when he comes in the clouds of heaven, and when both in body and in soul we are caught up to meet him in the air, and know that we shall from that day be ever with him. O Lord Jesus, visit me now in thy word, through thine ordinances, by thy Spirit, that I may be of those whose hearts shall rejoice to see thee hereafter.

MAY 4.

1. The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us. Deut. v. 2.

The Lord had made a covenant with their fathers, but it was not this covenant. He had given them the privileges of the covenant for the sake of their forefathers, but the privileges were given to themselves, and the obligations consequently lay upon them. And so each single Christian should consider that God has given to him the blessings of the new covenant in Christ, and that he is therefore bound to all its duties. Give me grace, O Lord, to see and feel the blessings of being a member of thy Son, thy child and an heir of thy kingdom; and to seek out and perform all that is due to thee in return.

2. That ye may learn them and keep them and do them. Deut. v. 1.

Every step here is essential. It is to no purpose that we receive the privileges of the covenant, and have its obligations laid upon us, unless we are so moved with the blessings that we perform the obligations. Neither can we do these unless we keep them in our hearts and consciences. Neither can we keep what we have never learned. Let me then be careful that by no neglect of mine I omit to learn my duties; that by no half-heartedness I omit to keep what I have learned; that by no temptation I am drawn aside from doing them.

MAY 5.

1. That ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess. Deut. v. 33.

This promise was of a long life in the earthly Canaan; but we have the promise of the heavenly. Yet it depends for its enjoyment, as theirs did, on our learning, keeping, and doing the law of our God; yet not the law of definite observances, but the law of free obedience, which observes the ordinances of God out of a willing mind. Without such obedience we should not be fitted for the life of that heavenly land, and therefore could neither enter it nor enjoy it if we did enter it. May I constantly look forward to the celestial country. May I constantly, by daily renewal, fit myself for it.

2. I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to shew you the word of the Lord. Deut. v. 5.

It pleases God, in making known his word to men, to use men like themselves to break the distance between the Holy One and sinners. That which Moses did for the Israelites, Jesus does for us; and more perfectly, inasmuch as the whole fulness of the Godhead dwelt in him bodily, and consequently his revelations partake [illegible] tach to them when given through a mere sinful man. Lord Jesus, may thy Spirit, the Spirit of adoption, dispose me always to receive fully thy whole word, and to govern myself obediently by it.

J. B.

N. B. These Texts and Thoughts, with others to fill up the whole course of the Church year, will be published in a cheap form suitable for every year, if a sufficient number should be bespoken of Mr. Rowsell in the course of this year, to show that the publication would be generally acceptable. The price will not be more than 2s. 6d.

Miscellaneous.

A notable character, one Bernard, who was the gravedigger employed by the Executive Government of 1763, has just died, in a village near Lyons. It was he who received from the hands of the Abbe Sylvain Renaud, first Vicar of the Church of the Madeline, for the purpose of burial, the bodies of King Louis XVI., and Marie Antoinette, which were both placed in open coffins.

HOLLAND.—A Court ball had been fixed on Saturday evening, at the Hague, and bare time was afforded between the announcement of the Czar's death and the hour named for the festivities, to countermand the arrangements. The Rotterdam correspondent of the *Daily News* says:—"The Queen Dowager had, it now appears, received every day during the week a telegraphic report from St. Petersburg, respecting the health of her brother. Immediately on receipt of the last message on Saturday evening, a message of condolance was taansmitted from the Court of Holland to the widowed Empress and the Imperial family of Russia, together with a congratulatory address to the new Emperor, Alexander II.; and a few hours after the expression of his thanks for the same was received at the Hague from St. Petersburg. And thus was condolence woven with congratulation."

REMARKABLE INVENTION.—At a late conversazione, at Apothecaries Hall, several microscopical inventions and improvements were exhibited. Perhaps the most singular, if not the most important object of attraction, was a curious piece of mechanism recently invented and actually constructed by Mr. Peters, the banker, for making microscopic copies of writing. The pencil written with was attached at the bottom of a vertical compound lever, which could be so adjusted that the upper end moved through by the point of the pencil. The microscopic copy was scratched on glass with a diamond, and it was so minute as to require a powerful microscope to make it visible. The Lord's Prayer was by this means written on a space not larger than a pin-hole, yet the writing was very clear. Many of the visitors were allowed to write their names, and the accuracy of the instrument was thus tested by the exact copies it made of the signatures in little.

HER MAJESTY AND THE BULGARIAN INFANTS.—A ROMANCE.—At the time of Captain Hyde Parker's attack on the coast of Bulgaria, two infants were saved from a boat that put off from the shore, and taken on board the *Firebrand*. In the boat were found dresses of a very rich description, composed of crimson silk, lined, and bordered with gold. The children were respectively named John and Alexander Firebrand. The Queen, on being made acquainted with the circumstances of the case, desired that the infants should be sent home in the *Britannia*. They were accordingly put on board, and brought to England, being attended by one of the ship's boys, to whom they got attached. On the arrival of the *Britannia*, the children were sent to Osborne, with the boy who attended upon them. A cottage has been fitted for their reception, and the Queen has adopted them. Who they may turn out to be is, at the present moment, a matter of conjecture.

A tablet is about to be erected in Maidstone church to the memory of Captain Nolan, by General Sir George Berkeley, C.C.B., on whose staff he served in India; General Airey, his brother officers and friends.

DUBLIN, March 7.—The *Himalaya*, monster Government transport, arrived at Queenstown from Spithead yesterday, for the purpose of receiving on board troops for the Crimea. She conveys to the seat of war 278 horses for the Royal Artillery, with seven officers and 229 non-commissioned officers and men; the portion of that contingent which she takes on board at Queenstown being one officer, 73 non-commissioned officers and privates, and 118 horses. The Government transport *Great Britain* was expected to arrive at Cork from Liverpool in the course of yesterday or this day.

"VOX POPULI, VOX DEI."—A gentleman once used this expression in conversation with, I believe, Mr. John Wesley. He at once replied, "No, it cannot be the voice of God, for it was *vox populi* that cried out, 'Crucify him, crucify him!'"—CLERICUS (D.) in *Notes and Queries*.

A COOL PLAGIARIST.—Mr. Webster, in a speech at Trenton, related the following anecdote:—"May it please your honors, I remember having heard of an anecdote of a celebrated divine, Dr. South, a man of great learning and virtue. He relieved himself of his clerical duties one summer by travelling rather incog. He went into a country church, in the north of England, one Sabbath morning, and heard the rector read a sermon. In coming from the church the rector suspected him to be a brother in the ministry, and spoke to him. He received the rector's courtesies, and thanked him for the very edifying sermon he had preached, suggesting that it must have been the result of a good deal of labor. "Oh, no," said the rector, "we turn on those things rapidly. On Friday afternoon and Saturday morning I produced this discourse." "Is that possible, sir?" said Dr. South. "It took me three weeks to write that very sermon." "Your name is not Dr. South?" said the rector. "It is, sir," said Dr. South. "Then," said the rector, "I am not ashamed to preach Dr. South's sermons anywhere."—*American Paper*.

THE MOST UNHAPPY.—Cosroes, King of Persia, in a conversation with two philosophers and his vizier, asked—"What situation of man is most to be deplored?" One of the philosophers maintained that it was old age, accompanied with extreme poverty; the other, that it was to have the body oppressed by infirmities, the mind worn out, and the heart broken by a series of misfortunes. "I know a condition more to be pitied," said the vizer, "and it is that of him who has passed through life without doing good, and who, unexpectedly surprised by death, is sent to appear before the tribunal of the Sovereign Judge."

THE ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH IN INDIA.—The electric telegraph has been completed between the various capitals of India, which are now placed in immediate communication with each other. The European intelligence received at Bombay by the steamer is in circulation at Madras, Calcutta, Agra, and Lahore within two or three hours.

A bas-relief in white marble, representing Esculapius at the bedside of a patient, has just been brought over by the *Phlegethon* from Cyzica, in Asia Minor, for the Museum of the Louvre.

POPULATION OF THE WORLD.—The latest, and apparently the fairest, estimate of this we have seen, makes it eleven hundred and fifty millions; viz.: Pagans, 676,000,000; Christians, 320,000,000; Mohammedans, 140,000,000, and Jews, 14,000,000. Of Christians, the Church of Rome numbers 170,000,000, the Greek and Eastern Churches, 60,000,000, and Protestants, 90,000,000.

GEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES—In the interior of Norfolk, England, is a bed of oyster shells, nine miles long, about eighteen feet thick. Other shells and bones (some of elephants, &c.) also abound, one hundred feet above the sea level. Alder and hazel bushes are found twenty feet below the surface level. Remains of extensive [illegible] with bones of elephants, oxen, and deer. The same forests are found on the opposite coast of Flanders, and it is believed that they once joined.

The total number of transports taken up by the Admiralty for the war, and numbered, is 190; of these, fifteen have been lost, leaving 185 now actively employed in the service. The *Alma*, a new screw steamer, 2,200 tons burden and 460-horse power, nearly complete, has been chartered for two years by the Government. She is to take out troops to the Crimea, and after that to run as an hospital and store ship between Balaklava and Constantinople and Scutari. The crew and officers of the *Alma* have received orders to join her at Liverpool to-day.

Society in California is in a most alarming state. During the month of January nine men were put to death by the "people;" one at Los Angelos, one at Sonora, one at Iowa-hill, one at Volcano, one at Salmon-creek; and three at the same time at Turner's-ferry, on the river San Joaquin. The case at Los Angelos was the most notable:—An American named Brown was found guilty, after a legal trial, of murder, and condemned to be hung on the same day with a Californian, also legally condemned for another murder. Brown's execution was ordered by the Supreme Court of the State to be stayed on an appeal, on the ground of a flaw in the indictment, which would probably have given him a new trial. The people, however, after the Californian was executed by the constituted authorities, broke open the prison and hanged Brown. The mayor, after he had performed his part at the legal execution of the Californian, resigned his office, to enable him "consistently to assist in his private capacity" in the lynching of Brown. At last accounts he was a candidate for his former office with every prospect of success.

The *Cologne Gazette* contains a letter from Odessa, which states that the aspect of the place was quite melancholy. All the inhabitants whose fortunes permitted them were quitting the town for the interior of the country, as a bombardment by the allied fleets was considered quite a certainty.

The sculptor Macdonald, now at Rome, was recently invited by an anonymous letter to deposit eighty scudi behind a particular statue, under penalty of having his studio burnt down. His brother repaired to the spot indicated on the following evening; but as, besides being armed with a revolver, he was accompanied by half a dozen dendarmes, the "anonymous" kept out of sight.

The last descendant of Loanardo da Vinci, the famous painter who expired in the arms of Francis I., died a few days back in the neighbourhood of Roanne (Loire). He was a travelling glazier, and died from the effects of a fall which he had had when repairing the roof a hot-house.

Several hawkers have been arrested in Paris for crying in the streets doggrel verses on the death of the Emperor Nicholas. It is said they will be prosecuted, the French Government wishing to make a demonstration of respect for the dead.

INSANITY ATTRIBUTED TO QUININE.—The *True Delta* of New Orleans remarks in the fact that although no people are usually less liable to insanity than the Irish, yet now scarcely a day passes, that some Irishman is not sent to the insane Asylum. We quote the rest. "Physicians who are opposed to quinine in yellow fever cases, give it as their opinion that this new development of a tendency to insanity is the result of a too general use of that subtile and deadly medicine. Public opinion attributes not a few of the yellow fever deaths which have of late swelled our mortuary annals to the unwise use of quinine; and if to the supposed death-dealing qualities of quinine, be added the production of deafness and blindness, and swollen limbs, and insanity! how great must be the responsibility of those who have so freely, in fifty grain doses, administered it. But the new outburst of insanity is not wholly confined to any one class of our population. Every nationality contributes its victims, upon whose brains the 'written troubles of quinine have been traced, for all those who have recently become insane have but a short time since had their names recorded in the Physician's books as among the lucky ones who were cured of yellow fever.

A CARD.

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