

THE EASTER COMMUNION.

In these days almost everybody reads more or less. Does what we read do us good? I venture to ask those who read this paper to read it carefully. Try to find one thought of use to yourself, and you may pay no heed to the rest. It is perfectly incomprehensible to many of us that any one can be trying to do right and yet not be a communicant. There are probably some who are not even among those who read this paper. One of the reasons for keeping Lent is that we may be

prepared for the Easter Communion. Do any of you wonder why this rubric leaves us to fix our own time, except at Easter, when we have no choice, if we would do as we are told? May it not be that Easter is the festival of the resurrection? and Christ has said, "Whoso eateth My flesh and drinketh My blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." Surely it is not to be a question, "must I come," and obey the last command of our Lord who at this time suffered so much for our sake? Shall we not rather say, "may we come?" I think we may divide those who stop away into two classes—

a. Those who do not care, or think it of much importance. b. Those who want to please Christ and obey Him, but there are many difficulties in the way. With respect to those who want to please Christ, but who do not obey Him because of these difficulties: I know how many difficulties there are, but they will not lessen, but grow greater apart from Christ. It is His will that we should come to the Holy Communion. We must believe and obey Him, for He alone can save us. We must not think we can be as good without. If we are trying to save ourselves in our own way, we are running a great risk. Some say, "they are not good enough." Very true. Nobody is. It is the reason we should come. If we want to be better, if we intend to try to do right (however often we fail), we may come. It is the sick, and not the well, who need a physician. The longer you stop away, the longer you will go on not "feeling good enough." Do you really mean that you do not believe that Holy Communion, or, as it has been called, the "medicine of immortality," will make us better? Do you say you have "so many worries and troubles

you cannot come"? Does not Christ specially invite the weary and heavy laden to come to Him, that if the troubles be not taken away, we may have strength to bear them. Do you say many people go to Communion and are no better for it? This is very sad for them, but it has nothing to do with you, unless you disbelieve in Christ's power to help you. Those to whom it was no good probably had little faith. If you and another were offered a great gift, would you refuse yours because your friend had nothing to carry his away with,

over. Do you say, "I am too young"? No, for you are not too young to die. Was there ever a father who did not care for the love of his child of fifteen or seventeen? Do you say, "Nobody from our house goes." Have you ever taken the trouble to ask any one? Have you no friend you could ask to meet you in the Church porch, if you are shy this first time? I am sure a friend would gladly do this if you were to ask. Pray to God to help you. Tell Almighty God your faults in prayer, one by one. You may have special difficulties.

In a short paper it is impossible even to mention many. Will you not stay behind some Sunday even and tell the clergyman "you want to come to Communion at Easter, and you would like him to advise you about it or lend you a book about it?" I don't think you know how glad he would be to help you. Anyhow, ask somebody older and wiser than yourself.

"PEACE BE TO YOU."

It was the evening of the first bright Easter day. The accounts of the rising from the dead of Him whom they had hoped should redeem Israel were being discussed by the disciples, in that upper room where they had celebrated the Passover. Suddenly Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them and said to them: "Peace be to you." He who burst the bands of death, He who is the author of life, came back to earth with the same message with which He first came—the message of peace. The angels over the plains of Judea sang: "Peace to men of good will." But to-day is heard that word of peace of which theirs was but the faintest echo. When God, the mighty One, chants His psalm of triumph, well

may all created things be silent. Our blessed Lord has for us a message of peace this day. For three years He went up and down the hills and vales of his native land, and His whole pilgrimage there seemed but a warfare. Men scorned His teachings. They despised Him and His words. He died, and it seemed as if a great light had been extinguished. But when He rose triumphant over death, when by His death He overcame Him who had the power of death, then came victory, and with victory came peace.



From a drawing for stained-glass, by N. T. Lyon.

"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND KNOW MY SHEEP."

and was therefore obliged to leave it? Do you say "you have no warm feelings?" If a man is cold he will go to the fire. Come in faith, and never mind your feelings. Do you say, "you do not want to set up to be religious, and people will talk about you if you go"? We have already set up to be religious by our vows in baptism. What we want is help to keep up to what we profess. Do you say, "perhaps somebody will say something unkind"? Make up your mind to stand a little; for one that will be unkind twenty will be so glad. Don't be like a nine-pin, easily knocked