

—GOD'S PROVIDENCE.

What is meant by providence? Foreseeing, providing. Why can God provide for His people? Because He only can foresee their wants. How do we speak here of God's providence? We say it is never-failing. Why is it so? Because He is All-seeing and All-powerful. Over what does God's providence extend? All things in heaven and earth.

II.—WHAT WE WANT DONE.

If God is so great how should we approach Him? With humility. For what do we pray? Do we know what is really hurtful? How does God answer our prayers? He overrules all things for our good. Give some Scriptural examples of His doing so? Joseph (Gen. xlv. 7.), Job (Job xlii. 10-12), Lazarus (S. Jno. xi. 40). In what other way are our requests met? Sometimes God denies us in love. What is our next petition? What is meant by things profitable? For our gain. Is God willing to supply them? No good thing will He withhold. Ps. lxxxiv. 11. Name some things needful for the body? Food, raiment, etc. And for the soul? Pardon, trust, "the means of grace and hope of glory." What hurtful things should we avoid? See 1 S. John ii. 16. And what else must we remember? To use rightly the good things we have. Name some of them? Private prayer and public worship.

THE CATECHISM.

Rehearse the articles of thy belief? (Learn answer in Catechism.)

A COLLECTION FOR THE POOR.

Read parts of 2 Cor. viii. and ix.

Learn 2 Cor. ix. 6, 7.

In S. Paul's second letter of what did he particularly write? Concerning a collection.

In whose behalf was it made? For the poor saints at Jerusalem. Rom. xv. 26.

What churches aided in it? Those of Macedonia and Achaia. Rom. xv. 26.

And what others? The churches of Galatia. 1 Cor. xvi. 1.

How were the people to give? Regularly.

But how often? Weekly—"the first day of the week." 1 Cor. xvi. 2.

How much did St. Paul say they should give? According to their ability—"as God hath prospered him." 1 Cor. xvi. 2.

What was the usual rate among the Jews? One-tenth at least.

Should the Gentiles give less? No, for their privileges are more.

In what manner were they to give? Willingly, or, as St. Paul says, "not grudgingly or of necessity." 2 Cor. ix. 7.

What argument did he use to induce a ready offering? They owed it as having received from the Jews spiritual gifts. Rom. xv. 27.

What other reason did he adduce? To preserve equality in the church. 2 Cor. viii. 13, 15.

But what was the highest motive? The thought of Christ's great sacrifice for us. 2 Cor. viii. 9.

Was it only to help the poor St. Paul wrote thus? No, but that the giver might also be blessed.

What had Christ said of such? It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Can you give another reason for St. Paul's efforts? He desired to unite more closely both Jews and Gentiles.

What should we remember? 1. The duty of giving back free and regularly to God a portion of what He has lent us; 2. The necessity of obedience to that command, "Love one another."

HYMN for July—A. & M., 337; Church Hymns, 578.

ACCORDING to the Statistics in the *Year Book of the Church*, the number of Confirmations held in the Diocese of England and Wales during 1881 was 1795, and the candidates confirmed numbered 70,554 males and 105,910 females, giving a total of 176,464. The proportion of females to males is in the aggregate far larger than many persons supposed was actually the case, but it varies considerably in the different dioceses.—*Literary Churchman*.