

DIFFICULT TEXT.

6. "For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together."—St. Matt. xxiv. 28.

Several explanations have been given of this. It seems to be a proverbial expression. It describes the rapidity with which the eagles or vultures fly to a dead body.

1st. Explanation. The body is the city of Jerusalem; the eagles are the Roman armies besieging it, in allusion to the eagles on their standards. This is the view of many modern writers.

2. The early Christian writers understand the carcase to be Christ, and the eagles His saints. This is improbable.

3. The carcase is the corrupt Jewish nation; *the eagles, God's judgments.*

7. "He shall be called a Nazarene."—St. Matt. ii 23.

These words are not found in any of the prophets. Nazareth was a place despised by the Jews, and Nazarene was a term of reproach. Some think it refers to our Lord's despised condition. Nazareth, however, means "city of branches." The expression probably refers to those passages which speak of Christ as the "Branch" out of the root of Jesse. (Isaiah xi. 1.) They may have been taken from some unwritten prophecy.

8. "David left his *carriage* in the hands of the keeper of the *carriage*."—1 Sam. xii. 22.

"Took up their *carriages*, and went up to Jerusalem."—Acts xxi. 15.

"At ichmash he hath laid up his *carriages*."—Is. x. 28.

The word carriage is never used in the English Bible in our modern sense. The above are some of the texts which are probably much

misunderstood by the ordinary reader.

The word *baggage* will make them plain. The use of the word carriage for a vehicle, to carry anything, is modern. It is a corruption of the old English *carrche*, now coach.

Carriage, in the old sense of "things to be carried," is derived from the verb "to carry," as marriage from "to marry." It is like baggage, luggage, herbage, &c. In the Bible it means anything that was carried, not the conveyance itself. In Is. xlv. 1, "Your *carriages* were heavy laden, they are a burden to the weary beast," it means, "Your ponderous idols are carried as a heavy load by beasts of burden."

THE HOPE OF THE CHURCH, THE CARE FOR THE YOUNG.

Be diligent in care of the children of the Church. Address them. Simplify your language. Adorn your speech with illustrations. Go every Lord's Day into Bible Classes and gatherings of catechumens. If you are forced to feel that you have no taste for the care of little ones, repeat often the Saviour's charge, "Feed my lambs." Go to Him for grace. From His spirit obtain skill. Be not satisfied till you have heart and talent for effective catechizing. Supply the empty places of sponsors. Overflow the measures of parents. Be elder brother, cheerful companion. By witty device and patient labor occupy your sacred trust. If Church tuition could always begin at the first of mental creeping or standing; if on either side of the