

Original Poetry.

Carmina Liturgica;

on,

HYMNS FOR THE CHURCH.

N.B.—These Hymns are fitted to the Tunes used in Churches, being of the same Metres with the received "Version of the Psalms of David."

IX.—THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

D. S. M. on S. M.

The Collector.

Reserve Loan, who last caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning; Grant that we may always hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of Thy Holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which Thou hast given in our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

L.

Great God! Thy holy Word,
For Light and Learning given,
Dost help supply, and grace affordTo guide our feet to heaven, &Mark us now, "the Promised Land"—&Sacred, so hold the "Promised" fast,That Earth and Home, most blessed Lord,May see Love's Crown at last!

II.

Within each heart, O God,Make every virtue the true master;Lord, make no wholly Thine!Do Thou—"the God of hope"—All joy and peace impart;They precious stores of mercy open,And cheer f' each waiting heart.

III.

Thy Love, O Christ, of oldSought out Thine "other sheep,"And brought them safe to Zion's Fold;The flock united keep; &May all made one in Thee, &Within the Fold abide;There thine should be;Their home—Side, i.a Collect—Epistle of the Day, Rom. xv. 4, and Psalm cxix. 105.
b 1 John ii. 24, 25, 28.
c 1 Cor. xii. 11.
d Jer. xxxv. 33; John xv. 3; and 1 John iii. 24.
e Epistle—Rom. xv. 15.
f Gospel—Luke xxii. 28.
g John viii. 12; John xv. 12.
h Gal. iii. 28; Eph. ii. 13—18, and iv. 3—5.
i Psalm xxiii. 1; 2; Ezek. xxxiv. 23, 24.

REASONS FOR GOING TO CHURCH.

"For what purpose did you go to Church this morning, my dear Lucy?" inquired Mrs. Lawford, after having attentively listened for some time to her children's conversation."This morning, Mamma! go to church this morning?" said Lucy, blushing very deeply, and turning quickly from the window at which she was standing."I can hardly tell—let me see—I think it was because you went and told me to come with you.""Was that your only reason for going, my dear?" asked her mother."No, mamma, I wanted to see if Miss Harvey wore her pink satin bonnet, and Mrs. Edwards a green silk dress.""And were your wishes gratified, my dear?" calmly inquired her mother, willing to hear yet further her child's ideas upon the subject."Oh yes, mamma, they were indeed; I never before saw so sweet a bonnet; and then Miss Howard had in hers the most beautiful flowers you ever saw. Never were there so many pretty dresses in our village church before.""Lucy, my dear, come to me," said her mother taking her by the hand, and parting aside her curling hair, while she imprinted on her forehead a mother's kiss."You tell me, Lucy, you went to church this morning to see Miss Harvey's bonnet and Mrs. Edward's dress. Did you well consider my question? If so can you not tell me for what you ought to have gone?"Lucy hung down her head, and bid her face on her mother's shoulder."I know what you mean, mamma," quickly exclaimed Caroline, "we should go to church to pray to God, and—""But how can you perform this duty, while noticing all around you, and thinking of the ladies' fine dresses? Can you turn your heart to God, and your thoughts to the world at the same time? For this last half hour, I have listened with painful feelings, I do assure you, to the subject of your conversation?""But, mamma," said Lucy, "we were only talking of what we had seen; many of the people we noticed were coming out of church—we could not help seeing how curiously Mr. Newman knelt down—and the odd manner in which Mrs. Mclellan entered her pew, and how Miss Lucas laughed.""Certainly not, my dear, if you were not looking at your Prayer-book.""But, mamma, it was when we first went into church.""Lucy, my dear, these excuses are useless; and thereby make it worse. Had you been attentive, and determined never to notice any thing before you: had you given your every thought to God, whom you were but worshipping with your lips, while your heart was far from him; had you been thinking of his greatness, his Almighty power, his mercy and his love, you would have held all around you quite unworthy of your regard. You tell me you noticed most of the circumstances you were relating to each other before the service commenced; that time should have been occupied in finding out the lessons, psalms and collect for the day, or in reading the Bible; if you had been so employed, your thoughts would not have been taken from the duties of prayer and praise, for which you had entered God's house, and in which not a moment should be given to earthly objects.""I never thought of this before, mamma," said Lucy, "but are there not many parts of the service in which we have nothing to read? Between the verses of the psalms, I always see other persons as well as myself look up from their books.""True, my dear, but could not the time be occupied in thinking upon the subject of the psalm, or by reading over some of the verses that are not appointed to be then sung by the congregation? I thought perhaps during all that time, there was nothing to read, and therefore there would be no inappropriateness in your taking notice of those around you,—but recollect you do not go to church, merely to say the prayers, read the Bible, and hear the sermon, and then during the time between each prayer, to give your thoughts to worldly things, as if it were only in the prayers that you should think of the Great and glorious Being you are come to worship. Between each part of the service you are still in the house of God, for the purpose of praising his holy name; then think how sinful it is to allow one thought even, of anything else to occupy your attention. Can you not one day in seven give up a few hours to the praise of him, without whose mighty protection you could not have lived one hour of those days? Ought you to meet for the purpose of praying to, and worshipping your great Creator, and at the same time give all your thoughts to your fellow creatures? Sorry I am indeed to think my children have been so very forgetful of God—and unmeaning of whose presence they are ever in. You are, I know, too sinful by nature to perform any duty perfectly, and too fond of the things of this world to make it easy to withdraw even your thoughts from them for a few minutes together; and even to serve your God—I know you will find it difficult entirely to withdraw your eyes and thoughts from the gaily dressed beings around you; but in this as well as every other christian duty, our part is to 'Watch' our own temper and behaviour, and to 'Pray' to God, to give us grace to withstand these temptations, and to worship him truly.""Indeed, mamma, I will do all I can to remember what you have told us to-day," said Lucy. "I amsure I never thought how wrong it was to look at the people in church; at school we talk all Sunday of what we have seen, don't we, Caroline?""I had hoped for otherwise, my dear children, and in placing you under the care of Miss Grahame, I believed her to be one to whom I could confidently entrust your religious as well as mental instruction: but I find I am mistaken, and shall therefore immediately remove you from under her care; as it is far more necessary for you to receive a right understanding of religion, than of any outward accomplishment."What opinion should we form of a young lady's character, if upon her return from church she should be heard to talk of nothing, from that time till the next service, but the dresses and conduct of her fellow-worshippers? For what purpose could it be imagined, she had visited the house of God, but to see, and be seen?"And now each succeeding visit found my Old Churchman more and more failing. His diseased leg gave him continual pain, and his sight became very dim, and his speech indistinct. But he would welcome his visitors, and respectfully take off his hat when he came in; and when urged to keep it on, as it was cold and chill, he would meekly say that he had never been so ill before gentilefolks. I one day thought,"Poor old man, you may probably linger on till some who are almost impatient for your departure;" but it need not—I never saw him more. The next walk that way, I glanced in passing the house, and saw all looked as usual, so I went further intending to call on my return; but the first words addressed me in the neighbouring cottage were, "So the poor old man is gone." "Whom do you mean?" I enquired. "Why poor old Thomas, he was as well as usual, and was gone in an hour." So my look at the house on returning was a different one. My old friend was gone, with whom I had taken pleasant counsel; he had laid claim to my regard, by prizing what I trust is mine as life, the blessed Church of England, he was gone to join the angels and archangels, and all the company of heaven." "The memory of the just is blessed."Lucy looked very thoughtful, and a tear stood in her light blue eye, as she said with a trembling voice. "Mamma, I fear you are very angry with us—but indeed I am very sorry to have caused you so much displeasure.""If you fear my displeasure, my dear child, how much should you dread that of your Almighty Father—He who knows every thought and action and motive of your heart?" If I am sorry to see you negligent of your duty, careless and inattentive in the service of your God, how much more blameable and wicked must your conduct have all this time appeared in His sight!"The service that God desires, is that of the heart; and any other must be contrary to his divine will and pleasure. If you loved God as you ought, you would desire in every way to serve him acceptably, and worship him because you love him, and not from the idea that it is your duty so to do. You love me and your Papa, and I believe would never willingly do anything you would displease us; but when you have done wrong are quite unhappy until you have gained our pardon, and again received into our favour."Yes, indeed, mamma—I am sure we would never do anything wilfully to incur your displeasure,—because we know how sorry you are if you see we commit any fault.""And God is grieved much more than I can be when he sees you committing sin; therefore as you are careful in endeavouring to please me, in how much greater a degree should you be watchful over your conduct as regards the worship of thy heavenly Father, and I hope in future never to hear the moments of the day set apart for prayer, and the acquirement of religious knowledge,—devoted to conversation so trifling and unprofitable as that upon the subject of your neighbour's conduct and style of dress at church.""Thomas Reade, several grand ruins have of late been discovered. He obtained permission from H.H. the Bey to excavate on the ruins of Carthage; and Mr. Homberger, a clever German architect, undertook the superintendence. The British consul-general defrayed all the expenses. The ruins of an extensive building, about which there are many conjectures, have been laid bare. Nothing can exceed the solidity with which it was built. I believe Sir Thomas endeavoured, when a few vestiges of its former splendour and magnificence of the mighty city had indeed passed away, and its very name is now unknown to the present inhabitants." The only well-preserved constructions are the cisterns situated under Burj-jedid, or new fort. They form an oblong square of 449 feet in length by 116 in breadth. There are 18 cisterns, each 93 feet long, 19 feet 8 inches wide, and to the summit of the vault 27 feet 6 inches high, but only capable of containing a depth of 17 feet water. These cisterns were supplied by rain water, which, falling on the roof, was conducted by earthen pipes (which still exist) below. At the village Moatka there are about thirteen or fourteen cisterns; much larger than those just mentioned; and though they are now converted into dwelling-places and stables, they are not in such good preservation as those at Burj-jedid. These were supplied with water from Zouwwa, a distance of fifty miles. The water was brought by an aqueduct, the ruins of which are still seen. Through the praiseworthy exertions of Sir Thomas Reade, several grand ruins have of late been discovered. He obtained permission from H.H. the Bey to excavate on the ruins of Carthage; and Mr. Homberger, a clever German architect, undertook the superintendence. The British consul-general defrayed all the expenses. The ruins of an extensive building, about which there are many conjectures, have been laid bare. Nothing can exceed the solidity with which it was built. 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