

Church, cannot be indifferent to the call of Her Priests to engage in contemplation of what our Lord has done for us, as the usual seasons come when the inspiring events of His Most Holy Life are progressively commemorated. From His cradle at Bethlehem to His Cross on Calvary, and through the scenes of His Resurrection and Ascension, we follow Him with wondering thought and holy awe; and are led to imitation of Him by what the church in her well arranged services impresses upon us. It can hardly be that a devout Churchman will not grow in grace, and in the knowledge of God our Saviour, by due observance of the Seasons of the Christian Year. We hope that daily public prayer, and weekly celebration of the Holy Communion, will become more distinctly features of our branch of the Church in this Diocese and elsewhere, than they have been in days past. These have fallen into disuse since the Reformation; and although we have in many useful things made progress, we have not as a nation and people kept in sight, and practised all the usages, which from the dawn of Christianity, have been considered good, and are enjoined upon us in our Book of Common Prayer.

On Advent's first Sunday we are led to contemplation of our Lord in His "great humility;" on the second, are led to rejoice in the Apostolic Ministry, which our church has ever had within her, as an integral portion of her constitution; and on the fourth we take special notice not only of His coming in the flesh, but also of the most Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood, whereby we discern Him as ever among us, spiritually, for our great edification, and growth in grace. Thus are we prepared for a detail of those marvellous events, which they

only who have Faith can contemplate with profit. The church is indeed the Spouse of Christ, and our Mother; let us obediently follow her teaching, as found in our most estimable Manual of Prayer.

#### FASTS AND FESTIVALS

The eves of St. Thomas and of Christmas Day are to be observed with Fasting. Dulness of perception is an attendant on full feeding, and they who would profit spiritually by Holy Festival must keep their body in subjection to the mind and spirit. Wise they who regard devoutly the church's appointments for this disciplining of nature, in order that grace may grow and thrive in them. Gifts and graces come through fitness of the the recipients, and stern discipline is necessary for all. "Prove your own selves," was the injunction of an inspired Apostle.

*21st. St Thomas the Apostle.*—Thomas like most others of the twelve, suffered Martyrdom. He was at first a doubter, as many are now, from natural causes. He was courageous, however, and a faithful servant. His natural infirmity was overcome by the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, as ours may be if we follow Him as Thomas was prepared to do. Nature, however stubborn, will be found to yield in those who with firm resolve are prepared to say, as did Thomas, "let us go that we may die with Him."

*25th. Christmas, or the Nativity.*—"Now sire and infant both alike are glad;"—the Sun of Righteousness is seen to have arisen, and the heart rejoices for that the song of Angels is heard to echo over the whole domain of Time. Age has sweet visions cherished from infantile days, naught but good is thought of at Christmas. "Peace on earth" is hoped for—believed in as possible,—and more earnestly sought now than at any other