

Childrens' Department.

LENT.

It is the season which the Church devotes to serious thought on the great truths of personal religion. In it she calls all her children to put to themselves the questions, "Am I a child of God? am I in reality what I am in name, an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven?" The great fact of human sinfulness is recalled to our attention, and the recognition of it in our own hearts and lives must draw from us sincere and humble confessions of our spiritual poverty and necessity. And as we confess our sins, we are led instinctively to pray for God's gracious forgiveness through Christ, and for His assistance to such a true repentance as will end in a living faith in the Lamb of God, and filial obedience to the law of love and righteousness. Such is the line along which the Church leads us in Lent. And she sends us directly to Christ the Saviour. The Crucified One is the objective point of all her admonitions and exhortations. To Him and to Him alone she sends us for the salvation which we need from the sins which we have to confess and repent. Let us remember that this solemn season will do us no good of itself. Accepting it as a Church institution, attending its frequent services diligently, keeping it with all the strictness which any one can ask, will do nothing for us unless we are looking earnestly for the living Saviour. Lent cannot save us, the Church cannot save us, the Sacraments cannot save us. It is Christ only who can save us, and all these sacred means of grace are useful only as they open away for the Saviour into heart and life. Let us keep this Lenten season then with this thought uppermost, that in it we may find Him growing nearer and more real to us. Let us confess our sins as the great enemies of Christ, let us repent of them as the great hindrance to His salvation in us. Let us believe in Him as the gracious Friend and Redeemer who can fill us with the life of God. Let us attend the Lenten services as often as we can that we may have more time to think quietly of Him and to give ourselves up to His Spirit. Let us deny ourselves the pleasure of the world a little that we may gain the greater pleasure, which comes from a sense of friendship with Christ, and obedience of His holy will.

—Here is a pretty little incident in the life of a great and good man, Rev. Charles Kingsley. He loved animals of all kinds. One Sunday morning in passing from the altar to the pulpit, he disappeared; and we discovered that he was searching for something on the ground, which, when found, was taken to the vestry. Subsequently, it came out that he was assisting a lame butterfly, which was in great danger of being trodden on. There was nothing incongruous, nothing of the nature of an effort to him, in turning from the gravest thoughts and duties to the simplest acts of kindness, and observation of everything around him.

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All things, both great and small."
—Life Charles Kingsley

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