

Church Work.

We speak concerning Christ and the Church.

A MONTHLY PAMPHLET OF FACTS, NOTES, AND INSTRUCTION.

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"The Communion of the Church of England, as it stands distinguished from all Papal and Puritan innovations, and as it adheres to the doctrine of the cross."—*From the will of Bishop Ken, A. D. 1710.*

THE NEW BIRTH OR REGENERATION.

WHEN we speak of a *New Birth*, we infer that there has been a previous Birth. There is a natural Birth, and there is a supernatural Birth. By examining the conditions of the first, we shall be able in some degree to obtain a clear idea of the condition of the second. The word birth is used in both cases; the natural birth is a type of the spiritual, and so we can reasonably expect that "the facts of the one must give us some light to understand the facts of the other." In our limited space, we can only present to our readers the bare outline of some thoughts, leaving it to their reflection to fill out the details.

1st. As a man is born naturally into this world, so to enter the kingdom of heaven, to be a *child of God*, in addition to being a child of earthly parents, he must be *new born, re-generated*, i.e. born a *second time*. The agent in this, we must admit, can only be God, therefore the change is *super-natural*, beyond or above nature. And except Christ had been born and died, there would

have been no new birth. Our first statement, then, is that Regeneration is a supernatural gift from Jesus Christ, the *Redeemer* of the race.

2. There are three things about a new-born child patent to all observers. *a.* An organic life. *b.* An organized being in which that life exists. *c.* A sphere of existence, the world, into which that being has been introduced, and which contains everything to nourish and support that life. The *origin* of life is a mystery, the *fact* of life is plain enough. Take now the organic life. We see the body of the child; that is the framework. The beat of the heart, the breathing, the cry, the movements, show *life*. The desire for food shows that the life-principle requires nourishment. We see that in the body, the *organized being*, there is an *organic life*, a life that makes itself felt by means of the body, which in its parts is an instrument for carrying on the life. More—Birth introduces the child into a world, a sphere adapted to this life. The lungs breathe air, the hands, feet touch matter, every organ has something adapted to it. The eyes have something to see, the