

she could not see to read it. *Will you take hold of my hand, and place my fingers upon these words?* I did so. *Think you; that is all.* She wished to grasp with her very hand, as it were, the exceeding great and precious promise. While her soul, strong in faith, clinging to them with characteristic energy, she wished her very hand to touch them. She put her fingers on the seal; she made that promise her own by touching it. She set to her seal that God is true. She was just passing through the waters, and those words buoyed her up—and so she died.”—*The Spirit in the Word*, by the late Dr. Champneys, Dean of Lichfield.

THE CHURCH'S CHARITY.

It is not to be expected that every member of the Church should of necessity assent to every position in the Liturgy. This would imply, in effect, that all should have their understandings equally enlightened, their consciences equally pure. From the Clergy, who are appointed to teach others, consent and subscription is required, because a competent knowledge of the Church's doctrinal system, and a firm persuasion of its truth, is manifestly essential to the due discharge of the pastoral office. Belief in the several Articles of the Apostles' Creed, and a hearty confession of the same, *make a lay member*; and if there are some things in her Liturgy to which assent is less cordially given, this is no valid reason for forsaking her Communion. The Church proceeds, in the rule laid down by St. Paul, that Christians, “whereto they have already attained, should walk by the same rule and

mind the same thing,” so that “if in anything they be otherwise minded,” God in due time may “reveal even this unto them.” Hence she is willing to accept members in various stages of spiritual progress, in the hope that they may “grow in grace.” She trusts that the weak in faith may gradually become strong, and that the ignorance of childhood may give place to the wisdom of maturity.—*Selected.*

THE DIOCESE OF LINCOLN.

DURING the last autumn the bishop made his third triennial visitation, and delivered no fewer than ten addresses containing interesting statements respecting the Church life and progress of the diocese. Within the preceding three years 18,259 persons were confirmed—7,272 being males, and 10,917 females. Number of churches in the diocese, 807; and of clergy, above 1,000. In three of these churches the Holy Communion is administered only three times in a year; in forty six churches it is ministered quarterly. Ash-Wednesday is duly observed in 700 churches; Ascension-day in 750; and Good-Friday in 800. Baptism is administered publicly during divine service in 647 churches; catechizing in presence of the congregation in 220; and in 93 churches there is daily service. Within these last three years there have been 80 deacons and 76 priests ordained in the diocese, against 57 deacons and 48 priests in the similar period last preceding.

REV. DR. BAIRD, who for so many years labored as pastor of the Carle-