

10. Do your best to help others by
Your Example,
Your Influence,
Your Prayers.
11. Try to do some special work for God in His Church (if you seek it, the way will be pointed out); and every day to do at least one good thing for Christ's sake.
12. Read these Rules at least once in the week; see where you fail, and ask God to help you to keep them, for Jesus Christ's sake.

Short Sermon.

BANDS OF MEN.

BY MELVILLE HORNE SCOTT, B.A., PREBENDARY OF LICHFIELD,
AND INCUMBENT OF ST. ANDREW, LITCHURCH, DERBY.

1 Sam. x. 26.—*'And there went with him a band of men, whose heart God had touched.'*



FROM this seemingly small but, to my mind, very interesting circumstance, I would derive some thoughts which may be useful at the present time. And my main task shall be to ask you to observe how, in such bands of men as are here brought before us, the Church's strength has ever lain, even in 'bands of men' whose hearts God has touched by His Spirit and saving influence.

1. Observe that band of men who gathered round John the Baptist, and the little knot of those who were one in heart with them, whether influenced by the ministry of John the Baptist or not. The Simeons, I mean, and the Annas, the Philips, the Andrews, the Nathanaels, who were looking for redemption in Jerusalem, and who gathered round Christ's standard the moment He appeared, forming that little portion of well-prepared soil in which the plant of Christ's kingdom at once took deep and lasting root. Oh, what does not Christ's Church owe to that little band!

2. Observe that band of men, selected for the most part from those just spoken of, whom the Saviour Jesus gathered round Himself as His twelve disciples. What an instance have we here of the value of such bands of men as we are speaking of! When Christ would found His earthly kingdom He founded it on the basis of twelve plain, simple, but sincere men. These were the twelve foundation-stones of the kingdom of Christ, and the founders of His Church.

'He sweetly lived; yet sweetness did not save
His life from foes;
But after death out of His grave
There sprang twelve stalks of wheat.'

And from this band of twelve the whole Church of Christ, we may say, proceeded.

3. Observe another band of heart-touched men and women, from which it may also be truly said that the Church of Christ proceeded; the blessed band, I mean, who assembled together in the ever-memor-