#### THE CRUCIFIXION.

GOOD FRIDAY .- This is the anniversary of that awful deed, "which shook the earth and veiled the sun!" And God's people to-day are gathered together, the wide world over, to watch and pray not by a death-bed indeed, but in an awful death scene—the slow, painful dring in agony of one who is ful dying in agony of one who is The Life, and "to whom death therefore, must needs have had strange awfulness;" but who was willing even to taste death, and the death of the Cross, for the sake of a sinsick, death ridden world.

Good Friday! The name reminds us that there has dawned to-day, for Christendom, a day of clouds and thick darkness. Christ's holy bride, the Church, sits weeping and widowed to-day, and her wail is like the Magdalenes' of old; "They have taken away my Lord!" No bells chime merrily in the Church-steeples; no joyous Te Deum swells and falls; no flowers deck the altar; no glad Eucharist is celebrated to day. The altar stands stripped and bare; the very fabric of our Church looks desolate; and "our heads are bowed with woe," for it is the death-day of our Lord.

Ah! if that be true; if as we recall all the terrible scenes of the crucifixion, the surging blaspheming crowds; the mangled bleeding form that hangs so patiently on Calvary; the oruel nails; the crown of thorns; and if as we think on these things, there rise up before us all our own sins by which we have "crucified the Son of God afresh;" and if remembrance of them is grevious unto us; the burden of them is intolerable:" then, ere the sun go down, we shall have felt also, by God's grace, the power of the Cross, and the meaning of those words, which confounded the Saviour's Jewish hearers— "I, if I be lifted up. will draw all men unto Me!" "They cruoified Him." And into those three words are condensed agonies which volumes would fail to exhaust, even as in those three awful hours of the crucifixion day, in which a weird unearthly gloom covered the guilty land, and in the dreadful scene the Saviour lived again, the three-and-thirty years of sorrow and suffering which had been His earthly lot. It will be well for us to spend those solemn hours, in which the silence of Jesus "cried for mercy on the souls of men," in the silence of fervent prayer and grief, and chastened thought. Good Friday is not a day for much speaking. The house of mourning is marked above all things by the silence which pervades it. Let us kneel at the loot of the Cross—let us look upon the Saviour's face; let us keep on saying, "Jesus our Lord is crucified," "Jesus our Lord is crucified."—The Literary Churchman.

Ous Loso gave thanks before he distributed the bread to the disciples (Feeding the five thousand.) This was an universal custom among the Jews, and the Lord has approved it by his example. "He who enjoys any-

thing without a blessing, robs God," says the Talmud. Yet how many Christian families are there in which grace before meat is never heard. It looks a little indeed as if family religion of any sort were to become a thing of the past. The father hastens to his business, and the children to their school, without one word of recognition for the mercies of the night; without a single petition for help and guid-ance through the day. The father ance through the day. The father is, or should be, the priest of his own household, to offer up their spiritual sacrifices; but how many never think of doing so! He should be their instructor in divine things; but how many never open the Bible to their children! boys see their father busy till the last stroke of the Church-bell, with his Sunday papers; they see the same papers or a novel taken up on his return. Is it any wonder that they come to think religion a matter of secondary importance? Is it any wonder that they think it only fit for women, since they see its outward observance left wholly to them? Oh, how many thorns are these negligent, indifferent Christians fathers and mothers cultivating for their own pillows! It is true that a boy or girl may turn out badly, however much pains has been taken with the religious training, because in this world all must make the choice between good and evil for themselves; but at least the careful, conscientious parent has not the added bitter pang of thinking, "my neglect, my selfish indulgence, has made the child what he is."

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