

often meet with instances in which the reading and speaking are characterized by the absence of almost every requisite that should mark a good delivery.

These various faults in delivery too often mar the effect of our church services, the reading of the holy Scriptures, and the delivery of sermons."

Lastly, Mr. Whitcombe says that in the instances I quoted of blunders, accentuation in the creed and the absolution, I am "hypercritical and pedantic." He states that it would require "an almost unnatural effort" to read "rose again" properly. If I saw him for two minutes I would soon convince him to the contrary. The blunder as to "He," in the absolution, he says, is "very far-fetched." If it is so, I would like him to give me the "grammatical construction" of the whole passage down to "absolveth." While he is about it, perhaps he would also enlighten us as to the grammatical construction of the latter part of the collect for "grace," and also as to the most important words in the following passages, and give his reasons:—"Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us;" "open Thou our lips;" "The Lord be with you;" "That it may please Thee to bless all Thy people;" "That it may please Thee to give us a heart to love," etc.

This letter is already too long, so I must close for the present.

A. BISSET THOM.

Galt, 30th Nov., 1892.

Sunday School Lesson.

3rd Sunday in Advent.

Dec. 11th, 1892.

THE PRINCIPLES OF PUBLIC WORSHIP.

Why do we go to Church? To worship God. It is of God's worship that we are to learn to-day. Open your Prayer-Books at Morning or Evening Prayer (also called Mattins and Evensong); we may learn the "Principles of Public Worship" from the exhortation which precedes both offices. "Exhortation" means "advising," "persuading," "encouraging." Now look at the exhortation. It reminds us that Holy Scripture moves us in many places to confess our sins. (Several passages of Scripture precede the exhortation, some of which speak of confession.) We are then reminded that we ought particularly to confess our sins "when we assemble and meet together." Four reasons for our meeting together are mentioned, and these are the four "principles of public worship," the four reasons why we go to Church. Let us see what they are.

1. THANKSGIVING. "To render thanks," etc. Here is the first object for our coming together. Psalm cxvi. 12-14. [Illustr.—If you want to see some one who had done some great thing for you, the first thing you would do would be to thank him.] In Morning and Evening Prayer "The General Thanksgiving" is used. Some of the Psalms are Psalms of Thanksgiving.

2. PRAISE. "To set forth His most worthy praise." We go to church in the next place "to praise God." This we do in the Canticles and Psalms, also in the Creed, which is an act of praise, and as such, is directed to be "sung or said." We thank God for what He has done, we praise Him for what He is. God loves us to praise Him. (Ps. cxiii. 1, 2, 3; xcii. 1, 2, 3; l. 23.) See name of New Jerusalem (Isa. lx. 18). Our service of praise begins with the Versicle and response, "O Lord, open Thou our lips. And our mouth shall show forth Thy praise."

3. INSTRUCTION. "To hear His most Holy Word." We have seen that the first two objects in going to church are to give and not to get. We go to give thanks and praise. We also go to get two things, the first of these is instruction. "To hear His Holy Word." This we do in both Psalms and Lessons, and if there be a sermon, in it also. But notice we have all four principles of worship in our service, even when there is no sermon.

4. PRAYER. "To ask these things that are," etc. Our service of prayer begins with lesser Litany and Lord's Prayer after the Creed, which concludes our service of praise. The fourth thing for which we go to church is to ask things necessary for both soul and body. Thus this is the second of those things which we go to church to get.

You see we go to church to give two things and to get two things. Repeat four reasons for which we go and point these four principles of worship out in our Prayer-Book.

The Confession and Absolution stand at the beginning of Mattins and Evensong as our act of preparation for worship, i.e., preparation (1) for thanking God; (2) for praising Him; (3) for listening to His Word, and (4) for asking Him favours.

"I was deaf for a year, caused by catarrh in the head, but was perfectly cured by Hood's Sarsaparilla." H. Hicks, Rochester, N.Y.

Family Reading.

Harry and Archie; or, First and Last Communion.

Continued.

These were his self-examination questions at night:

Have I thought of my First Communion to-day?

What sins in myself have I seen which I must strive that my First Communion may put away?

Am I prepared to lead a much stricter life, and to be more watchful, after my First Communion?

When Harry got outside he crossed the stile. He was thinking deeply as he walked along of all that had passed, when Archie's voice sounded merrily behind him, "Why, Harry, where have you been? All this time with the minister?"

"Yes, Archie."

"Well, now, what did he say? that we ought to be confirmed?"

"To be sure, Archie; you know that."

"Well, as to that, I see no objection to being confirmed; but I am afraid of that Communion after it. I could not make up my mind to take that."

"Why not, Archie?" said Harry, looking still at the tall grass through which he was walking.

"Why not! why because it would be so dreadful to take it and do wrong afterwards; and how could I help doing wrong afterwards in that factory there?"

"Well but, Archie, as the minister has just been saying, if we are trying not to do wrong, that is what God expects. For no one can be sure of not doing wrong for an hour: and our blessed Lord gave the Holy Communion to St. Peter and the rest, all of whom did do wrong that night; for they all forsook Him, and St. Peter denied Him. They meant right at the time, and though He knew they would fall, He gave it them."

"Well," said Archie, "there is something in that; I never thought of it."

"Oh, Archie! how I do wish you would be grave and thoughtful; time is so short, and our life, Archie, may soon be past. Oh, do think of it; you may never have another opportunity of receiving your First Communion."

Archie was very thoughtful. He determined he would be confirmed, and do as Harry wished him; and nothing could go on better than he did for days and days: he prayed by Harry's side, and read with him every evening. He went several times with Harry to see Mr. Morris; and would often cry at the earnest way in which he spoke to him.

"Oh, Harry," he would say, as they came home, "what should I do without you! you are my kind, dear friend; if you were to go what should I do? I know, I am quite sure, I should not be good any longer."

"Oh, Archie, you must lean on the grace of God to make you good; nothing else can, and that will never fail you."

"Ah well, Harry, I know I should fail directly, if I had not you. I have no trust in my own self."

Archie and the orphan had many walks together about the hills, and many long talks. Archie seemed fond of Harry, and had many good feelings, which, when he was talked to, came out; but he was changeable, and governed by the feeling of the moment. He loved to think of the more beautiful things in religion, and to talk of another world, and how happy it would be to be ready for death; and when he spoke of these things his eyes would fill with tears, and he would press Harry's hand in his, and determine to do what the orphan boy told him. When religion bid him subdue his quick temper, and give up pleasures which stood in the way of his duty, he did not like it; and by degrees it became more and more irksome to him.

"Indeed, indeed, Harry, I am too young for First Communion. I shall never keep to it; I wish I could; but I never shall. I must wait till I am a little older and more settled."

"I can't reason about it with you," said his companion, "for it is not my place. But I know what I've read in books, and it says, that while we neglect it we are living in wilful sin, and have no hope, and that is very dreadful."

"Well, I can't believe it was ever meant for one so young as I."

"But surely, Archie, if you are not too young to sin, you are not too young to get help against sin; and besides, I can't see why we are not bound as much to take the First Communion as we are to say our prayers and go to church, and you would not hesitate at that; and still, to do this, if you were not fit, would be very wrong."

"Well, well, Harry, you can talk me over to anything; I wish I were like you; I wish I was always with you; but when I get among those others, I am so easily led away."

Archie went on preparing for his First Communion, and Harry was happy.

Meantime Harry's troubles did not grow less. He was no favourite with the overlooker, and the neglect his uncle showed him became a cause for others to neglect him.

He still worked on in his solitary corner under the dull window pane, and often used to cry by himself when he thought how very long it was since he had seen Nannie. And then Archie continually disappointed him—Archie would go much oftener than he used with other boys and youths whom Harry knew were light and bad; but Archie's gay heart, and bright merry manner, won the liking of all who came in his way, and it became his great and sad temptation.

At length Harry noticed a marked change. His little friend grew more and more distant, and drew away from being with him. Matters of discontent had grown up among the workpeople, and many secret meetings were being held at night and after dark. Whisperings and low murmurings were continually going on in the long factory-room; and especially when the overlooker came in, many angry and discontented faces were turned towards him; signs and nods were changed from one to another; and they seemed to be hatching an outbreak. All this state of things only made the overlooker more severe and overbearing still. It was quite plain to Harry that Archie was mixed up in whatever there was which was wrong: his silent uneven manners and frequent glances at the orphan, the very way in which he seemed to avoid him, and steal away from his notice,—all convinced Harry things were not right.

Matters grew daily worse; when the overlooker came in, there was a sudden hush and faint, like a storm quickly going down, and nothing but the whirr and whizz of the engines and machines were heard, where just before the noise of low murmuring, talking, and whispering had almost drowned the other. Every eye was fixed directly at the work, as if one common feeling and impulse led them all on; and no hand moved quicker, or eye seemed more intent than Archie's. The overlooker, of course, noticed all this, and walked along the room looking vexed and irritated, which he showed by his manner, which was quick, and sharp, when there was no seeming reason; which only stirred up still more the feeling against him.

Harry saw what was coming and dreaded the consequences for Archie.

One night he lay in his little bed in the corner of his room, where he always slept. He did not sleep; his mind was uneasy; the summer moon shone into his face, and the stars of a hot night hung their coloured lamps in the sky, out of the window. Archie had not come to bed yet; and still it was late, very late; much later than it should be. Harry felt very uneasy and unhappy. He had said his prayers; he had looked out to the world where the peaceful moon was; he had prayed about his First Communion; he had prayed for Archie; he lay wakeful and uneasy: at last a footstep was heard treading softly under the window. Harry listened and counted; there were more than two. The figures seemed approaching the room where he was; he thought he knew Archie's footstep; a strong inclination led him to keep awake and pretend to sleep, to hear what might pass; perhaps he might save Archie from ruin; he had not long to hesitate, for the door gently opened, and the figures entered. Harry's eyes were closed; but his heart beat high, enough to choke him. He could perceive that more than three came in, by the very quiet whispers which he overheard.

"Is he asleep?" said a very low voice.