

Church Work.

We speak concerning Christ and the Church.

A MONTHLY PAMPHLET OF FACTS, NOTES, AND INSTRUCTION.

Vol. IV. DECEMBER, 1879. No. 10.

JOHN D. H. BROWNE, } LOCK DRAWER 29, HALIFAX, N.S., } EDITORS.
EDWYN S. W. PENTREATH, } MONCTON, N. B. }

"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.*

CHRISTMAS.

(Written for Church Work.)

DEAR HEAVENLY CHILD! with them of old
We worship by thy manger bed;
With love and wonder we behold
Our God in mortal likeness made.

A human infant, helpless, frail,
Our human hearts upon Thee yearn!
But oh, dread thought, behind this veil,
The awful fires of Godhead burn!

Yet shall not fear our souls oppress;
Lift we these ransomed souls above!
The Godhead in this mortal dress,
What is He but Incarnate Love!

Thou very God of very God,
Yet man, of lowly woman born,
Didst bend beneath the cruel rod,
Didst meekly bear man's impious scorn.

To teach us by this Mystery
Of Holy Meekness, that Thou art
The Friend of Sinners such as we,
And in all woes dost bear a part.

O, INFANT JESUS! we may hold
Thy tender form within our breast;
Thou wilt not spurn the dross-mixed gold,
Thou, even Thou, wilt be our Guest!

Lord! make us meek and pure like Thee,
That we may worthier offerings bring,
That thus our cleansed hearts may be
A cradle for our New-born King.

PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS.

THE Season of Advent is designed to be a time of *preparation*, and really a large portion of it is usually so employed and in making ready for *Christmas* too, as is contemplated by the Church in setting apart this Season; and this not alone by Church people, nor only by devout Christians, but by those of every name and profession, by all classes and characters; scarcely any one failing to make some preparation, and often such as are very elaborate and expensive, spending much time and, perhaps, more money in their efforts to get ready for the coming Festival.

But, alas! these preparations are most usually of a merely sensual character, and having in view nothing beyond social enjoyment, and the gratification of the bodily appetites and desires of themselves, their families and friends. The *soul* is not thought of, nor is there, in many cases, any attempt to prepare the heart and mind for the proper commemoration of a Saviour's birth. Indeed, that Saviour