

Children's Department.

CONSECRATION HYMN.

Although not strictly speaking intended for children, we desire to find space in CHURCH WORK for the following very suitable Hymn to be sung at the consecration of churches and chapels. Such Hymns are somewhat rare, and therefore we gladly give it a place in our columns :

[Tunc—Radford]

Great God the Giver of all graces,
Whom highest Heaven cannot contain,
Yet wondrous in Thy holy places---
Arise, O Lord ! and bless our fane.

Be here, O Christ of our salvation,
As once in Israel's temple fair ;
Cleanse Thou from sin our poor oblation
And make this house a house of prayer.

Bless it for nuptial benediction,
For hands upon the bended head,
For words that pardon sin's affliction,
For creed proclaimed and gospel read.

For feast divine of high communion---
The broken bread, the wine outpoured ;
The dead with living hearts in union,
The memory dear, the present Lord.

Let day by day the strain ascending
From choir and people meet Thine ear.
With swell of solemn organ blending
And ordered service all the year.

Come down and give Thy consecration,
Make bare the heart, exalt the voice ;
Clothe Lord, Thy priests with Thy salvation
And make Thy chosen saints rejoice.

VENICE, THE BEAUTIFUL.

One of the noblest, most famous and singular cities in the world, is Venice, built upon a crowded cluster of islets on the northwest of the Adriatic Sea.

The gulf or lagoon of Venice, is banked off from the Adriatic by a long, narrow sandbank, pierced at intervals by narrow sea passages, six

in number. Inside of this sandbank, and between it and the mainland, about five miles distant, is the lagoon, a vast shed of shallow water, only navigable for vessels of light draught.

It is in this marshy, sea-covered plain, that Venice stands on its seventy or eighty tiny islets, the whole of the marvellous city being built on piles. Its aspect is at all times fascinating, but in summer and autumn, the seasons of highest tides, the city is indeed marvellously beautiful.

Its streets are narrow and winding, only calculated for foot passengers, the great thoroughfares being the many canals which wind their way through the city, and which are crossed by no fewer than 306 bridges, which connect the various parts of the city together.

But narrow as the streets are, there are several open passages or squares, almost all of them adorned with a fine church or palace ; the principal of these is the Piazza di San Marco. It is surrounded by elegant buildings, including the beautiful church of St. Mark. This piazza also contains the campanile or belfry of St. Mark, a lofty, square tower, three hundred and sixteen feet in height. It is entered by a small door on the west, whence a winding foot path, instead of a staircase, leads to the summit. The view from the top is magnificent; the plan of the wonderful city is seen like a map, with all its towers and churches and distant islands, while far beyond the chain of Alps closes in the horizon with its snowy peaks.

Adjoining the church of St. Mark is the Doge's palace, built of marble, and the place where all the councils