

## ST. SWITHUN'S DAY.

Those who are curious in such matters will find a note on this day on the first page. It would seem as if in this year of grace we are having the thirty-nine days of rain before instead of after St. Swithun's Day.

## THE SUMMER IS COME.

It has become the habit of our people to break up their home life and scatter abroad for two or three months during the hot weather. With this dispersion of families comes a suspension of nearly all kinds of missionary and benevolent work in many of our parishes. Those who cannot go away are left to take care of themselves as best they may. This is a great evil, and how it is to be remedied we do not know. But we think it would be well if our people considered more carefully the effects of these changes. For our active men and women to be taken away for so many weeks or months from their accustomed associations and labours, is not good for them or for the parishes to which they belong. We ask, therefore, of all who think of going away, to consider: 1. What will be the effect upon their parish—upon the benevolent work—upon the Sunday School—upon the collections—in a word, upon all its interests? 2. What will be the effect upon their families—upon the children—upon the servants? and 3. What will be the effect upon themselves individually? Will it promote or retard their spiritual growth? Will it enable them to be more, or less, useful? Will it inspire them with a warmer love for Christ or not? It will not do to shut our eyes and ears to such questions. We must remember that we are not our own, and, therefore, have no right to consult our own comfort and convenience alone. Linked as we are with our fellow men, we are bound to consider how our actions will affect them. It is too much the custom when the time comes, to drop everything, and go off on our summer excursion, without stopping to think what will become of our work and of those for whom we are working.

One thought more. Is it right for families to go to regions and places for the summer where they cannot possibly have many, if any, religious privileges? This is often done. Again, is it right for men and women to suspend the offerings at their parish church, during the period they are away? This is also often done. Once

more. In leaving their homes and parishes for weeks or months, should they not carefully provide proper persons to take their places in the Sunday-school and other benevolent work in which they are engaged when at home? If our readers will kindly consider these various points, it will probably set them to thinking, which will do no harm.—*From Parish Visitor.*

## THOUGHTS OF THE WISE.

WORLDLY PLEASURES UNSATISFYING. — Reader, let no man ever delude you into supposing that you can be happy in this world without repentance. Oh, no! You may laugh and dance, and go upon Sundays in excursion trains, and crack good jokes, and sing good songs, and say "Cheer boys, cheer!" and "There's a good time coming;" but all this is no proof that you are happy. So long as you do not quarrel with sin, you will never be a truly happy man. Thousands go on for a time in this way, and seem merry before the eyes of men, and yet in their hearts carry about a lurking sorrow.—*Bishop Ryle.*

SUNDAY OBSERVANCE, ITS REWARD.—The conscientious man, who husbands one day of existence every week; who, instead of allowing the Sabbath to be trampled and torn in the hurry and scramble of life, treasures it devoutly up—the Lord of the Sabbath keeps it for him, and, in length of days and a hale old age, gives it back with usury. The savings bank of human existence is the weekly Sabbath.—*Dr. Blaikie.*

SUNDAY. GOD'S RAINBOW.—How beautiful to Noah, when escaped from the waters of the deluge—how beautiful to his posterity—how beautiful to us—the bow of the covenant, blushing on the bosom of the impending cloud, and telling that God has not forgotten the world, and will no more overwhelm it with the waters of a flood! How beautiful—yea, how unspeakably more beautiful—is the "rainbow of the Sabbath" round about the throne of a nation, encircling its constitution, its laws, and its liberties! the sign that God hath a covenant with the people, the national sign that the people have a covenant with their God.—*Stowell.*

TEMPTATIONS TO BE SHUNNED.—He who has no mind to trade with the devil, should be so wise as to keep away from his shop.—*Dr. South.*