

What People Ask About.

SCRAPS OF INFORMATION CONCERNING
CHURCH SUBJECTS. CHIEFLY GLEAN-
ED FROM "ANSWERS TO CORRE-
SPONDENTS" IN CHURCH
PAPERS.

Many most interesting and useful bits of information are found in "Answers to Correspondents."

THE MIXED CHALICE.

The mixture of wine and water was a Jewish Passover custom, and must have been in use at the Institution, even as it certainly was the primitive Christian practice. The mixed cup was in fact technically known as the "Fruit of the Vine," as distinguished from the unmingled wine, which was called "The Fruit of the Tree." The former was the cup consecrated at the Institution.

THE GENERAL COUNCILS.

The four great General Councils of Nice, Constantinople, Ephesus, and Chalcedon, with the fifth Council of Second Constantinople as supplemental of that of Ephesus, and the sixth of Third Constantinople as supplemental of the fourth of Chalcedon, are the only Œcumenical Councils which have been accepted by all Christendom, East and West, as the true interpretations of the Word of God, and containing the faith of the Church. Others, partially accepted either by East or West separately, have not the same Œcumenical authority, and only "pass for General Councils." Those mentioned are accepted by Calvin and Luther, as well as by the Church of England, of whose Canonical Law they form, next to Scripture, the fundamentals. In the Act of the first year of Elizabeth they are enjoined as a test of heresy. The appeal is there made, "first, to the authority of the Canonical Scriptures; secondly, to the decisions of the first four General Councils: and, thirdly,

to the decisions of any other General Council, founded on the plain and express words of Scripture." They are acknowledged by the whole catena of Church of England divines: and, in our own times, those six Councils are quoted at the head of the Pastoral sent forth by the first Pan-Anglican Synod, as embodying the Faith once for all delivered to the Saints.

The Editor will be very glad to receive questions from the readers of the *Messenger*, and to answer them in this column.

The Power of a Picture.

In the Chapel of the Women's Prison, at Sherborn, there is a striking picture of Christ standing before the woman taken in adultery. The light beaming from His face, the pose of His figure, the outstretched hand, seem to utter a benediction of hope over the prostrate woman. Beneath it is written, "Go and sin no more." A few years ago, one evening when the women were dismissed after prayers, one remained in her seat. She was one of the worst to manage of all the prisoners. The matron, supposing some new trouble was brewing, went and asked her what was the matter. "I want to go into the solitary cell." "Why," said the matron, "what do you mean? You have just had to spend a week there." "I want," said the woman, "to go and be alone where I can think about Him that is in that picture."

She went into solitary confinement, remained a week, came out to serve the rest of her sentence with a deportment that called for no criticism, and, since leaving the prison, has lived an upright life.