

Church Work.

We speak concerning Christ and the Church.

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"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.*

THE NEW BIRTH, OR REGENERATION.

(Concluded.)

IN our last number we showed that the natural Birth implied three things: 1. A principle of life. 2. An organization—the body in which that life acts. 3. A sphere for the life, viz.: the world, into which the new-born is introduced. If, now, there be a real *new Birth* for man, through Jesus Christ, there must be given him a new life, which he did not before possess, and there must be some sphere where may be found the nourishment required to enable the principle of life to exist. The Body—humanity originally made in the image of God—is the organization for this spiritual life, for man's old nature is not to be destroyed, but the principle of a new life is to be imparted in him; so to speak, he has a double life. A man is dead in trespasses and sins; the Holy Ghost awakens him; he repents, believes, *turns away* from sin, turns *toward* Christ. So turned (*conversus*), he is a converted man, as Saul before he was bap-

tized. He is now prepared for the new Birth; in Baptism, he receives it. What, then, is the new Birth, or Regeneration? Flowing from Christ, there is a principle of spiritual life,—the "Life of Christ." By the power of the Holy Spirit, this can be implanted in those who are prepared for it. The sphere is *God's Church on earth*. A little child is born into the world in sin; he is brought by loving parents to be introduced into the family of God, and brought in Faith. There is no bar to stop God's grace. He receives a principle of life, which acts in the human organization; he is grafted into Christ's Church, there to receive all the necessary nourishment, the varied means of grace which, rightly used, enable that life to come to maturity and ripen for heaven. If, when he grows in body, he fails to use the means, the other principle of life languishes and grows weak, perhaps finally dies, starved to death. Baptism gives us privileges and means, but *privileges alone cannot save*. So multitudes of the baptized have been new born, but have never grown spiritually to maturity.