

NOTES FOR SUNDAY LESSONS.

By REV. D. ELSDALE, Rector of MOULSOE.

THE CHURCH CATECHISM.

ARRANGED IN INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE SUNDAYS FROM ADVENT TO TRINITY.

The Christian Covenant treated during ADVENT.

"	"	<i>Faith</i>	"	"	CHRISTMAS AND EPIPHANY.
"	"	<i>Duty</i>	"	"	LENT.
"	"	<i>Grace</i>	"	from	PALM SUNDAY to TRINITY.

NOTE.—Each Instruction will be arranged under three heads:—

- A. *Expository*—explaining the words of that part of the Catechism which is assigned to each Sunday.
- B. *Harmonistic*—showing how the Services appointed for that particular Sunday (the Collect, the Epistle, and Gospel, the Proper Psalms, the Lessons, &c.) illustrate that part of the Catechism.
- C. *Practical*—drawing, from what has been thus explained and illustrated, moral and spiritual lessons for the Christian's life.

NOTE.—We would suggest that, in delivering these Instructions, the Passage from the Old Testament should be studied *last*, since it forms an illustration, not a foundation, for the whole lesson. It will therefore follow more suitably, after the Gospel facts or doctrines have been fixed on the mind, as prophetic or typical of the truth that has been already accepted. The Text should be repeated first of all, as giving the key-note of the entire subject.

Third Sunday after Easter. (MAY 12.)

The Benefits of Sacraments.

Text—Psalm xxxvii. 3. Passage—Genesis xliii.

- A. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?
What is the inward part, or thing signified in the Lord's Supper?
What are the benefits whereof we are partakers thereby?
 - I. We must distinguish between—
 - 1st. In Baptism—(1) the outward part—i.e. Water and the Word.
(2) the inward part—the Grace of Regeneration.
 - 2nd. In the Lord's Supper—(1) the outward part—i.e. bread and wine.
(2) the inward part—i.e. the Body and Blood of CHRIST.
(3) the benefits—i.e. strengthening and refreshing of the souls of the worthy.
 - II. Distinct Benefits—
 - 1st. In Baptism—*New Life*. S. John iii. 5.
 - 2nd. In the Lord's Supper—*Renewed Life*. S. John vi. 57.
- B. 1st. *The Collect*—'admitted into the Fellowship of CHRIST's Religion' by the Sacraments.
The Epistle—blameless lives led by Christians through the Grace of the Sacraments.
The Gospel—the joy of the invisible Presence of CHRIST in His Sacraments.
 2nd. *The First Lessons*—
 - Morning—Numbers xxii. 12. The supernatural benefits that follow God's People.
 - Afternoon—Numbers xxiii. 10. Divine Gifts (as in the case of Balaam), bring no benefit to an evil man in life or death.
 - Evening—Numbers xxiv. 17. The final triumph of CHRIST, and the graces granted to His Church (verses 5, 6).
- C. Our interest in these Benefits—
 - First—Praise the Lord (Psalm ciii. 2).
 - Second—Use His Gifts (S. Matt. xxv. 29).
 - Third—Gather in, those outside (S. Matt. xxi. 10).