

Church Work.

WE SPEAK CONCERNING CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.

A MONTHLY PAMPHLET OF FACTS, NOTES, AND INSTRUCTION.

VOL. VIII.

DECEMBER, 1883.

No. 10.

"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.

ADVENT.

"When this passing world is done,
When has sunk yon glaring sun,
When we stand with Christ in glory,
Looking o'er Earth's finished story,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—
Not till then—*how much I owe.*"

"When I stand before the throne,
Dressed in beauty not my own,
When I see Thee as Thou art,
Love Thee with unsinning heart,
Then, Lord, shall I fully know—
Not till then—*how much I owe.*"

—Selected.

ADVENT.

How many of us, though we profess to love Christ, though it may be we are trying to draw near Him in our lives, really long for His appearing? When do we say to ourselves with exultant joy: "Surely our King cometh!"

Yet if our love for Him were a living reality, if He were a very present Friend and Saviour to us, how could we fail to rejoice at that great thought of His Coming?

Dearer than the dearest earthly friend, loving us with a love so far surpassing the love of earthly kindred, of wife or husband or father or mother, should not the joy of His return transcend infinitely the joy of meeting such loved ones after a weary parting!

If we could but make it REAL to ourselves, this Coming of Christ, how would our lives be transformed! How often would the burdens of care or sorrow or even of pleasure, fall from us as we were lifted up by the thought of that "glory which shall be revealed." How light our trials would seem, those which now drag us to the earth and over-shadow our lives! How should we break the bands of some besetting sin which the Devil is using to hamper us so that we may not make ourselves ready to meet our King!

Just as we may with our hand shut out the full glory of the sun, so the things of sense shut out from our mind the Glory, the Majesty, and the Joy of His Coming!

Oh let us think of it! Let us