

prayer and praise, as the object of church going, of the Eucharistic service ordained for the soul's refreshment, never seems to have crossed his mind. The preacher is the central figure, the sermon is the great object of the gathering. If that is wanting, or if it does not meet the expectation, all is lost. We thank the Church for hiding the man away behind surplice and stole and for giving us a liturgy, which may take the place of many sermons. No churchman need ever go hungry away from the church, for he always has the ministry of the Word, even if the ministry of men fail.

WHY I GO TO CHURCH ON RAINY SUNDAYS.

I ATTEND Church on rainy Sundays because :—

1. God has blessed the Lord's Day, and hallowed it, making no exception for rainy Sundays.

2. I expect *my clergyman* to be there. I should be surprised if *he* were to stay at home for the weather.

3. If his hands fail through weakness, I shall have great reason to blame myself, unless I sustain him by my prayers and by my presence.

4. By staying away I lose the prayers which bring God's blessing, and the sermon which might have done me great good.

5. My presence is more needed on days when there are few, than on those when the Church is crowded.

6. Whatever station I hold in the Church, my example must influence others ; if I stay away, why may not others ?

7. On any important business rainy weather does not keep me at

home ; and Church attendance is, in God's sight, very important.

8. Among the crowds of pleasure seekers, I see that no weather keeps delicate people from the ball, the party, or the concert.

9. Among other blessings, such weather will show me on what foundation I am building. It will prove how much I love CHRIST ; true love rarely fails to meet an appointment.

10. Those who stay away from Church because it is too warm, or too cold, or too rainy, frequently absent themselves on fair Sundays.

11. Though my excuses satisfy myself, they still must undergo God's scrutiny ; and they must be well grounded to bear *that*.

12. There is a special promise that, where "two or three" meet together in God's name, He will be in the midst of them.

13. An avoidable absence from Church is an infallible evidence of spiritual delay. Disciples first follow CHRIST at a distance, and then, like Peter, do not know Him.

14. My faith is to be known by my self-denying Christian life, and not by the rise or fall of the thermometer.

15. Such yielding to surmountable difficulties prepares for yielding to those merely imaginary ; until thousands never enter a Church, and yet think they have good reason for such neglect.

16. By a suitable arrangement on Saturday I shall be able to attend Church without exhaustion ; otherwise my late work on Saturday night must tend to unfit me for the Sunday enjoyment of Christian privileges.

17. I know not how many more Sundays God may give me ; and it would be a poor preparation for my