TEXTS AND THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

MAY 13. FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

1. Thou shalt remember all the way which the Lord thy God led thee forty years in the wilderness. Deut. xviii. 2.

The church on earth is to us what the wilderness was to the Israelites. It lies between the world, the house of bondage, and our future rest. We are introduced into it by baptism with water, and we live in it by faith. In it God leads us, to try us, and show to us all that is in our hearts, that he may do us good at the latter end. Let me not turn back again in my heart to Egypt. Let me be thankful to him who has led me all the way hitherto, and trust him to conduct me safe to my journey's end.

2. Man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word which proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord. Deut. viii. 3.

This might be our thought, if God were to deprive us of the bread that perisheth, or if we were in danger of losing it; and it might cause us to rest our souls on him implicitly, whether for life on earth, or the true life, which endures beyond the grave. It should likewise be our thought, if God should deprive us of the ordinary means of our soul's life, his word and ordinances: for he can sustain our souls without them, if it so pleases him. May I so use all the means of well being, both earthly and spiritual, as to rely only on him through whose word they are effectual.

MAY 14.

1. As a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee. Deut. viii. 5.

A father chasteneth his son because he desires to wean him from his faults, and therefore uses that kind and degree of chastisement which he judges most fitting to produce that end. And so the Lord deals with us; not for mere punishment, but for correction. But as with the human parent, so with the divine, there can be no correction of the character, unless we submit ourselves with reverence to the correction, and ourselves strive after improvement. O that I may so receive correction that it may purge me of my faults.

2. Be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. James i. 22.

It is not God that we deceive, when we hear his word and do it not, but ourselves; for we flatter ourselves that we shall receive the recompense, without performing the labour; or that we are godly because we hear the word with joy, although we allow the tempter to catch it away, before it has struck deep root. Save me, O Lord, from this self deception. And that I may escape it, give me grace evermore to look on from hearing to doing.

MAY 15.

1. Whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein. James i. 25.

The gospel law requires the whole heart, but leaves the man at liberty in regard to the manner in which the heart shall work. But we shall fail of walking by the perfect law of liberty, unless we look into it and study its true nature and working. Nor is it sufficient that we understand it, unless we continue in it. Grant me, Lord, to see more fully what thou wilt have me to do. Grant me self-denial and patience to continue in thy law.

2. If any man ...... bridleth not his tongue, that man's religion is vain. James i. 26.

For with the tongue unbridled we sin by clamour, and falsehood and evil speaking; we stir up the evil passions of others, and thus tempt them to sin; we express our own evil passions and principles, and thus strengthen sin in ourselves and give countenance to it in others; nay we actually teach and invite others to evil. Yet how many never bridle the tongue, and, because they sin not in outward act, think themselves innocent. Lord, keep me from this self-deception.

MAY 16.

1. Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. John xvi. 23.

Jesus gave this promise to his faithful apostles, knowing that their hearts could not prompt them to ask any thing, which it would be unworthy of the Father to give. If we desire to obtain this promise we must follow the single-mindedness of those to whom it was given. O Lord, I humbly thank thee for thy grace to thine own; and pray thee to make me worthy to have a share in it.

2. Do ye now believe? Behold the hour cometh ...... that ye shall be scattered every one to his own. John xvi. 24.

So weak was the faith even of those who were single-minded, and whose faith was real and earnest. Let no one then be confident, because he is conscious now of a real faith and a true love, that he will not soon become weak and selfish. Let him rather watch and pray, that he enter not into temptation. Let him cultivate communion with him whose strength is made perfect in weakness. Give me, O Lord, a true faith, and then a simple reliance on thee.

MAY 17. ASCENSION DAY.

1. If thou see me, when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee. 2 Kings ii. 10.

Thus was Elisha a type of the apostles. He received a double portion of the spirit which rested on Elijah; and the apostles, after they had seen the ascension of their Lord, were enabled to do greater things in moving the hearts of men, than he himself had accomplished in the days of his flesh. Let me then rejoice in the effects of the ascension of my Lord; for thus I, rebellious, have been reclaimed. May I set my affections on the things above, where he sitteth.

2. He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. Mark xvi. 19.

Although as the Son, he ascended up where he was before, yet as man he was received as a privilege and reward. And he sat on the right hand of the Father, that he might intercede perpetually for us, —that he might rule all things for the benefit of his people,—that he might send down gifts from his Father,—that he might subdue his enemies and perfect our salvation. O, Lord Jesus, grant me to follow thee where thou art. And that I may do so, obtain for me and impart to me whatever I need to perfect my preparation.

MAY 18.

1. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world. John xvi. 33.

The truly godly man has tribulation in the world, because its spirit is continually opposed to the spirit which God has infused into him; because it opposes his own efforts to benefit others; because it draws him back, and brings dejection and sorrow upon his soul. But we must not be cast down; for our cause shall still prevail. Jesus himself was not drawn back by the world, but resisted and overcame it. And since his Spirit is in us, we, if we hold fast by it, shall overcome likewise. O grant me to cherish more and more thy Holy Spirit, that thou mayest overcome in me.

2. Not for thy righteousness or for the uprightness of thy heart dost thou go to possess their land. Deut. ix. 5.

As the Israelites possessed the land from which the Canaanites were expelled, so Christ's true people shall enter into the heavenly country from which the evil angels were cast out. And although good works be required to qualify us for heaven, yet those who reach it will be sensible that it is not for their good works they are admitted there, but through the eternal and most gracious purpose of him who has brought them there. O Lord, let me always remember that my salvation is from first to last of thy gracious goodness.

MAY 19.

1. I did neither eat bread nor drink water, because of all your sins which ye sinned. Deut. ix. 18.

This was the word of Moses, and shewed the greatness of his zeal for the honour of God, and the greatness of his love for his brethren. And so it may be that our Lord's fast of forty days was that he might pray for those whom he came to save. Grant me, O Lord, this care for thy honour in the world, especially that I sin not myself. Grant me this love for others, that they may be saved. Grant me to deny myself for this end.

2. Yet they are thy people and thine inheritance. Deut. ix. 29.

That were the Israelites, and so Moses pleaded for them, that they might be spared. And so are we, bought with the blood of his Son, rescued from the tyranny of Satan, sealed with his Holy Spirit, members of his family, subjects of his eternal kingdom. Will he then leave us for our sins? Yea rather, the intercession of his Son shall keep our place for us, so long as we depart not utterly from him. Thanks be to thee, O Lord, for thy long suffering towards me. May thy goodness perfect my repentance.

J. B.

N. B. These Texts and Thoughts, with others to fill up the whole course of the Church year, will be published in a cheap form suitable for every year, if a sufficient number should be bespoken of Mr. Rowsell in the course of this year, to show that the publication would be generally acceptable. The price will not be more than 2s. 6d.

Miscellaneous.

STORY FOR LAZY BOYS AND GIRLS.

It was early on a fine summer's morning, that I took my way from a farm-house where I had been visiting, to the neighboring town. The lark was singing blithely, and the air was sweet. As I walked onward, my attention was drawn by a number of swallows which were sporting over a large pond.—Sometimes they descended so low as to dip into the very water, and then, again, they soared upwards, cleaving the air with rapid wing. No doubt they were occupied in procuring food, as well as enjoying themselves, and that many a luckless gnat and fly were caught by them in their swift career.

I stood gazing with admiration at the speed of their flight, and at the ease with which they directed their course, and could not help imagining how delightful the faculty must be of flying abroad, high and low far and near, without difficulty and without danger. With what varied powers of enjoyment has the Almighty Maker of all things endowed his creatures! The expression is as true as it is beautiful, "His tender mercies are over all his works."

As I entered the suburbs of the town, I saw a man busily employed in making nails. The smithy was lit up with the glaring flames, as a lad blew the bellows, and the sparkles flow in all directions as the man struck the heated iron with his hammer.—The nailer seemed to work with all his might, and to allow himself no respite, but no doubt he found this to be necessary. I asked him the amount of his earnings, and the number of hours he worked in a day.

"I am hard at it by five," he said, "and keep it up mostly till eight or nine, and now and then later."

"Surely," thought I, "making nails must be the hardest work in the world."

Soon after leaving the nailers' I fell in with a porter, as he came up from one of the wharves at the waterside heavily laden.—The parcel that he carried seemed to be rather a load for a horse than for a man, for the porter fairly staggered under the load as he put forth all his strength.

"Oh," said I, "this is worse than nailing, and the occupation of a porter must be the hardest work in the world."

As I continued my walk, I came to a broad street where a party of paviours were at work, their arms bare up to their very shoulders. Some were wheeling barrows of sand, some lifting large square stones from the heap, and carrying them to where they were required; some were placing them in their proper situations, and some were knocking them into the ground with their iron-shod rammers, shaking the very houses around, and making at every stroke a short kind of grunt, as though uttering quickly the word "Eyh."

Out of curiosity I asked one of the laborers, who wore a red cap, to let me feel the weight of his hammer, but hardly could I lift it up from the pavement; to work with it was quite out of the question. The exertions made by the men to drive the stones into the ground appeared to me to be dreadful.

"Oh!" thought I, "the work of a nailer and a porter is light to this; the employment of a paviour must be the hardest work in the world."

On crossing the bridge over the brook, by the weighing machine, a man stood with his back to the wall, and his hands in his pockets, the very picture of idleness. He was at one moment kicking a hole in the ground with his heel, at another looking about as if in quest of something to amuse himself with, and after that graping as though he knew not what to do with himself; hardly ever did I see a more forlorn looking object.—There he stood in his ragged coat, and there he seemed likely to stand, for he had all the appearance of a lounging, idle fellow. It was in the afternoon of the same day that I returned by the same road, and saw in the broad street, just after I had crossed the bridge, a crowd of people. It seemed that a man with a cart was selling onions unusually cheap, and working men and poor people were drawn to the place to make their little purchase. Among the crowd I saw the porter, who was laughing aloud as he bore away the onions he had bought. At a distance from the crowd sat the pavior in the red cap, laughing too, with his companions, as he sat on a wheelbarrow eating a large onion with his bread and cheese, while not a dozen yards before ran the poor nailer, laughing also, as he hastened back to his labor, shaking a bunch of onions at a man as he passed him, who was standing with his hands in his pockets, leaning against the water trough in front of a public house!

And who was the man leaning against the trough? Why, the same ragged, idle, lounging fellow, whom I had seen in the morning kicking a hole it the ground with his heel, and yawning as if he knew not what to do with himself. He had neither made nails, carried burdens, nor driven a single stone in the ground, yet he was more weary than those who had worked hard at these employments. He had neither spirit in his eye, quickness in his foot, nor merriment in his heart, and I feel very sure that he had not a penny in his pockets to lay out in onions, or anything else.

How impressive are the words of the wise man: "By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of hands the house droppeth through!"—Eccles x. 18

Making nails is hard work, the employment of a porter may be harder and the occupation of a paviour the hardest of them all; but neither nailing, burden-carrying, nor paving, is so hard as idleness. Surely, idleness is the hardest work in the world!—*Gospel Messenger.*

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Toronto, 3rd January, 1855. 3-tf

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February 16th, 1854. 29

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Toronto, March 28th, 1854 6-tf

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Toronto, C. W., Feb 3rd, 1854. 28-tf

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Copy of a Letter from Geo. Sinclair, Esq., of Paris, Canada, dated the 15th of July, 1854.

To Professor Holloway,

Sir:—I feel a pleasure and a pride in bearing witness to the wonderful benefit I have derived by the use of your inestimable OINTMENT and PILLS. For eight years I suffered unceasingly from attacks of Erysipelas; large purple blotches came all over my body; in addition to the unpleasant feeling of itching and burning, which affected me both night and day, rendering life a misery to me, as well as to all around,—so severe was the attack. I used several reputed remedies without deriving the least cessation to my misery. At last, I determined to try your OINTMENT and PILLS; after taking them for a few weeks, a visible improvement took place; and I felt considerably better in three months, by continuing with your medicines, I was completely cured, and now enjoy the best of health. The truth of this statement is well known here, hence there is no necessity for me to request secrecy.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully.
(Signed) GEO. SINCLAIR.

ULCERS IN THE LEG,—REMARKABLE CURE.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Edward Tomkinson, of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, dated the 4th May, 1854.

To Professor Holloway:

Sir,—My sister, Miss Jane Tomkinson, suffered for a great number of years from a bad leg; in which there were several deeply seated and old wounds, defying the skill of some of the most eminent of the medical faculty, a variety of remedies were also used unsuccessfully; and it seemed to me that there was not anything capable of mitigating the agonies she endured. At length, she had recourse to your Ointment and Pills, and after using them for about 5 weeks, she was completely cured, after all other means had failed to afford her the slightest relief. I have no objection to these facts being published, if you feel disposed to make them known.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
(Signed) EDWARD TOMKINSON.

A BAD BREAST CURED WHEN AT DEATH'S DOOR.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Henry Malden, of Three Rivers, Canada East, dated July 9th, 1854.

To Professor Holloway,

Sir,—My wife suffered most severely after the birth of our last child with a bad breast. There were several holes in it, one as large as a hand; all the devices and stratagems I tried would not heal them, but assumed an aspect more frightful than before, and horrible to behold. As a last resource I tried your Ointment and Pills, which she persevered with for seven weeks, at the expiration of that time her breast was almost well; by continuing with your remedies for two more weeks, she was entirely cured, and we offer you our united thanks for the cure effected.

I am, Sir, yours truly.
(Signed) HENRY MALDEN.

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