

the day of atonement, "Where are your sins?" they would have answered, "The goat of sacrifice has died for them, and the live goat *has carried them off*; they are not here." Let us pass to the antitype, let us ask the believer, "Where are your sins?" "He that was dead," will be his answer, "shed His blood for them, and alive now, He *has carried them away*, entering with that blood into the holy place, my Mediator, High Priest, and Advocate. *They are not here, they trouble my conscience no more.*"

The greatest crime ever committed on earth was the murder of the Son of God. And yet those who on Pentecost were solemnly charged with that crime, were found immediately after, in perfect peace, eating their meat "with gladness and singleness of heart, praising God." They had received His testimony of a slain and living Saviour, and their consciences were at rest.

This peace of conscience through the sprinkling of Christ's blood is the cleansing of the leper. Leprosy, the most loathsome and defiling of bodily diseases, is the type of sin, "that abominable thing which I hate." It prevented a man from approaching God's tabernacle, it shut him out from acceptable worship. And sin on the conscience, in like manner, will not allow us to draw near to God as a Father, and is an effectual hindrance to all acceptable worship and service. But when we know that the Son of God has died for our sins, when we know also that He has carried them away with Him, and that we shall hear of them no more, the conscience is relieved of its load. We rise up into liberty, "the glorious liberty of the children of God," and call on His name as a Father with true and thankful hearts. Lord, evermore grant us such cleansing!—*By the Rev. William Tait, Rugby.*

#### UNLEAVENED BREAD.

Who wrote the Word of God? God the Holy Ghost. Who explains the Word to us? The Holy Ghost. Does the Holy Ghost actually explain it to us? Yes if we actually lean upon His testimony, if we come as empty pitchers to be filled.

How often do we come so? Alas! very, very seldom, if ever: our fashion is to come half filled with our own thought, or the thoughts of others, or with our pre-

judices and wilful ignorances, refusing to be emptied. It is impossible, therefore, we can be "filled with the Holy Ghost," our loaves are loaves of alum; no baker adulterates his bread so much as we Christians adulterate the Word, and we are so ignorant that we approve of adulteration, and so degenerate in our tastes that it tastes better than pure bread to our injured and diseased palates. Men, long accustomed to dissipation, have this infirmity.

We study the Word of God as Roman Catholic Protestants. We carefully file off the edge of the sword of the Spirit; when we feel it sharp, we explain it away until it suits us, forgetting in our ignorance that we are to be filed away to suit it. We mix plenty of our leaven with God's unleavened bread. We sit down to criticise it, instead of sitting down to eat it, and we rise up from reading it prouder than when we sat down. We cut off all the crusts, and we pick out the most tasty morsel, and wonder that we have learned so little from the Word. Alas! we have been *carefully rejecting it*.

Why should we wonder? We are so full of man's husks that we have no appetite. We have been roaming in Christian dissipation over the mountains of Vanity, and partaken so largely of man's manufacture that we have no appetite; the finest of the wheat tempts not the sick child.

Why are the Lord's people so lean! why do we look like mere spiritual shadows! why are we only the Ghosts of the apostles? because we are Roman-Catholic-Protestant-Christians. The apostles measured themselves with Christ, and they were always dissatisfied with their own "stature." They tried to grow as tall and strong as the elder Brother—this was their ambition. (Read Ephesians iv. 13, 14; 1 John ii. 6.)

The sling and the stone make Satan tremble; he trembles as he sees a ruddy-faced boy gathering a smooth stone out of the Spirit's brook. Paul, when laying siege to Corinth—wise Corinth—put off Saul's armour; (1. Cor. ii. 4. 5.) He gathered the pebbles in 1 Cor. ii. 13, and slew both lion, bear, and Philistine.

The casting down of our spirits in true humility, is but like throwing a ball on the ground, which makes it rebound the higher towards heaven.