

*EASTER.*

Lent has gone, with its many opportunities and proffered helps towards the knowledge of ourselves and the deepening of the spiritual life.

When our Lord shall come at the Last Day to judge every man as his work shall be, there will be no immediate warning for special preparation. Mankind will be found exactly in their habitual condition, when our Judge shall say,—“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”

Knowing this, those who are Christ's, and therefore for the love of God, and of their own souls, and the souls of others, are careful to avail themselves, whilst they can, of all the helps which God and His Church have provided to enable them to know their own weakness and their constant need of Christ's righteousness. By them the season of Lent is dearly prized, with its rules and opportunities for retirement and self-denial. On Good Friday they mourn with Christ who died for our sins; on Easter Sunday they rejoice with Him who rose again for our justification. And thus, year after year finds them spiritually progressing, for every season in the Christian year is welcomed, and wrought into their spiritual life,—and death—when it comes—finds them ready to say “Even so, come Lord Jesus!”

The object of Lent is the subduing of selfishness. One excellent form of unselfishness is denying ourselves that we may give to him that

needeth. The poor we have always with us, and when we will we may do them good. But there is another class of poor—a very large class—who are not with but far removed from us,—some in the more distant parts of our own Dominion, and some in heathen lands far beyond. In giving of our Lenten and other savings towards extending the blessings of the gospel amongst such as these, we are casting our bread upon the waters, and shall not see it until after many days, even until the Judgment Day.

It is comparatively easy, and even self-satisfying, to give to objects close at hand, for even a selfish love of popularity may prompt such givings, more than the love of God. Or some may give with a selfish desire to rule, or force the acceptance of their own shibboleths. But gifts to far-off missions are comparatively pure from these impure notions, and are therefore acceptable in the sight of God.

We Canadian Churchmen have at length begun to appreciate and practice this kind of giving, as is shewn by the Report for last year of our Board of Domestic and Foreign Missions. It is to be hoped that some of our Lenten savings this year may have gone to the same good object, and thus swell the amount to be recorded in the Year's Report.

We want to serve God, according to our own will, not according to His. We must not choose for ourselves. We must will what God wills, and if He would have me serve Him in one thing, I must not prefer to serve Him in something else instead. What God wills is obedience.