

# Church Work.

We speak concerning Christ and the Church.

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A MONTHLY PAMPHLET OF FACTS, NOTES, AND INSTRUCTION.

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"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.*

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## EASTER THOUGHTS.

"I AM the Resurrection and the Life." Blessed words which are the key-note of our Easter songs of praise and thanksgiving, the very heart and centre of our Christian hope.

Every aspiration after holiness, every desire after that life hereafter where the imperfections of *this* life shall be done away, after the peace, and purity, and blessedness of Heaven, centre round that Form of Supreme Majesty, and yet as Man familiar to our hearts, the Risen Jesus. Jesus lives, and "Because I live ye shall live also." His Resurrection is the pledge and earnest of our own. "In Christ shall all be made alive"; alive to God and holiness; alive in Faith, Hope and Charity; and hereafter alive for ever in His Presence, where is the fullness of joy. Truly, we are not left comfortless. The greater the darkness of sorrow or suffering, the more gloriously shine forth the words of Divine Promise. Even the valley of the shadow of death is robbed of its darkness, and in His Light shall we see light even

*there.* What is the believer's ground of blessed assurance that Christ's sacrifice has purchased our redemption? It is that He is the Resurrection and the Life. Yes, the life of them that believe. Is He *our* life? Is Christ a reality to us? the GREAT REALITY? Do our hearts cling to Him as our best and dearest Friend? Do we worship and adore Him as our Redeemer and our Lord? Then is He our Life, then are we in Him and He in us; and through faith we may have glimpses here of the glory which shall be revealed, when "this corruptible shall have put on incorruption," when "this vile body shall be like unto His Glorious Body," and we shall see Him as He is, the Resurrection and the Life. But, if our faith is only a cold acquiescence in the Christian creed; if, instead of being the source of holy joy, the centre of our hope, He has no place in our hearts, how can it be said that to *us* He is the Resurrection and the Life? The sun at mid-day, shining in His strength, gives no light to the blind; and we must have seeing eyes and an understanding heart to