

which is stretched out to receive the offerings of those that love Him. There, too, will be the divine Brother coming between that heavenly Father and His earthly child, the divine Redeemer presenting our silver and gold in union with that which alone can make them acceptable—His own priceless blood. Oh, what a blessed place is the sanctuary for the rendering up of our gifts! There is something there much greater than our gifts, "the altar that sanctifieth" them—something infinitely greater than the altar, the Saviour whose Sacrifice we there commemorate, and who enables us, while we offer our substance, our souls, and bodies, to partake therefrom of a spiritual gift, precious beyond all words.

What privilege (let us repeat) is this power of giving to God! What a delight to be able to use our talents and our faculties for the glory of God in His house! Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day and always? Who would not keep the best tones of her voice the most cunning work of her fingers, the purest gold of her savings, from the world, for the worship of God "in the beauty of holiness"?—May the Holy One, who deigns to dwell with us, keep such purposes as these for ever in the imagination of the thoughts of our heart, and answer us, and welcome us, according to the love which He beareth to His sons and daughters in Christ Jesus!—Sermon.

REGENERATION AND RENEWAL.

"ACCORDING to His mercy, he saved us by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."—Titus iii., 5.

Here, regeneration and renewal are distinct things. In the "washing of regeneration," we have a reference to Baptism. (Compare Acts xxii., 16.; Eph. v., 26; 1 St. Peter iii., 21.) Regeneration involves three things: 1.—The forgiveness of sins. 2.—The gift of the Holy Ghost as the seed of a new life. 3.—A covenanted title to everlasting happiness, *conditioned* upon a life of obedience. This first gift of grace to the soul, like the feeble breath of a new-born infant, may be developed and ripened into saintliness by watchfulness and prayer, and the use of the appointed means of further grace; or it may be dormant, if we neglect to stir it up, and may even altogether die out of the soul under continued habits of carelessness and sin.

"Renewal of the Holy Ghost." By this is to be understood that daily quickening of all holy desires by the Divine Spirit which every man needs. "The inner man is renewed day by day," 2 Cor iv., 16. So in the Christmas Collect, we pray that "we may be daily renewed by the Holy Ghost." And in the office of Confirmation, the Bishop supplicates for the newly Confirmed, that "God will daily increase in them His manifold gifts of grace." Regeneration is one great primary work of the Holy Ghost. Renewal is a process continually repeated. Regeneration is the imparting of the first breath of spiritual life. Renewal is the ceaseless reparation of the spiritual life, as it is wasted and weakened by contact with the world. Without this gracious renewing, our regeneration, (if we live to the age of moral responsibility,) will not profit us.—*The Bishop of Ely.*