

of the Apostles and Prophets said, "If he neglect to hear the Church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican." If then you are tempted to listen to the many voices crying Here is Christ or He is there, remember what the Bible says about the one Church, "She is the ark of safety, the one Church of Jesus Christ:" obey your Lord, "Go not after them;" and hear and obey the Church.

DUTIES AND DELIGHTS.

IN living the Christian life, in the common course of events, we find that there are some things which we are expected to do as a matter of course, some that we are to do as a matter of duty, and some as a matter of delight.

As a matter of course, we are to live in obedience to law, Divine and human. We are to commit no crime. We are to be upright in our conduct, and honourable in our dealings. We are to keep the second table of the law, and to love our neighbour as we do ourselves. We are to do unto others as we wish them to do to us. And we are to keep the Lord's day, attend on sacred ordinances, maintain daily worship in our household, and sustain meetings for prayer by the constancy and cheer of our presence.

As a matter of duty, we are to give our utmost toward the maintenance of the services of the Church, the spread of Christian truth, and the elevation of mankind. We are to take our part in the teaching of Sunday-schools, the visitation of the sick, the relief of the poor, the deliverance of the wronged, and the reformation of the depraved. These

things and such as these are classed as duties, because there may be something disagreeable in one way or another, in them; something repulsive, something trying, something that demands sacrifice and denial; in a word, something in the nature of a cross. Now, that which brings with it a cross, real or imaginary, is not done as a matter of course, nor is it marked with any special delight; and it can be done, ordinarily, only as a duty—a something we do because it is right to do it, and we must, rather than because we have any great or direct enjoyment in it.

As a matter of delight, we are to have communion with God, in prayer, in meditation, in song; in worship, by means of His works, His providences, His Word, His Spirit. We are to have delight in God's being, in God's kingdom, in God's people, in God's truth, as in nature and art, beauty and sublimity. And most of all we are to have delight in Christian attainment.

We see at once that our labour should be, on the one hand, to get rid as fast as possible, of sins, faults, follies, and infirmities; and on the other hand, to lift our matter-of-course things as fast as possible into the sacredness of duties, and our things done as duties into the blessedness of all our delights; and to persevere in this until we have carried them all into that exalted region of holy attainment where all things spring of good will, and sins have passed away.—*Church Messenger*.

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