

on, the earth beginning to shake, and only one voice heard; "Forgive them, for they know not what they do!"

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Be the images once associated with the sweet old Waits, the softened music in the night, ever unalterable! Encircled by the social thoughts of Christmas time, still let the benignant figure of my childhood stand unchanged! In every cheerful image and suggestion that the season brings, may the bright star that rested above the poor roof be the star of all the Christian world. A moment's pause, O vanishing tree, of which the lower boughs are dark to me as yet, and let me look once more! I know there are blank spaces on thy branches, where eyes that I have loved, have shone and smiled—from which they are departed. But, far above, I see the Raiser of the dead girl, and the widow's son; and God is good! If Age be hiding for me in the unseen portion of thy downward growth, O may I, with a gray head, own a child's truthfulness and confidence.

Now the tree is decorated with bright merriment, and song, and dance, and cheerfulness, And they are welcome. Innocent and welcome be they ever held beneath the branches of the Christmas Tree, which casts no gloomy shadow! But as it sinks into the ground. I hear a whisper going through the leaves. "This, in commemoration of the law of love and kindness, mercy and compassion. This, in remembrance of Me!"

"It is the life eternal to know the true God, and Jesus Christ, the Son of God and man Whom He has sent."

ACCORDING TO YOUR ABILITY.

"EVERY man according to his ability," is the Christian rule of giving and of working. It is not very faithfully obeyed. There are many persons who have great ability, yet do but little work; who have ample leisure, yet give but little time; who have large possessions, yet make small contributions. This is an evil that we have all seen under the sun. And there is another that is like unto it. There are a great many people who have some ability, but who do *nothing*; who have not much leisure, but who give *no* time to the Lord's work; who have a little money, but who put *none at all* into His treasury. Those who have a little, and give nothing, violate the Christian law just as truly as do those who have much and give a little. There are a great many persons, young and old, in all our churches, whose means and opportunities are limited; from whom not much ought to be expected; but they *are* able to do something, and they do nothing. They are transgressors of the Christian law. They ought to repent, and do works meet for repentance.—*Sunday Afternoon.*

"THE MOST COMFORTABLE SACRAMENT."

BY REV. R. W. LOWRIE.

As an Institution.—Instituted by our Lord Himself, on the Thursday evening before His Crucifixion, how solemnly this Sacred Feast appeals to our religious feelings and susceptibilities. All other