

to profit by that which it was so infinitely important he should share. When I consider, said Mr. Buddicom, the great importance of Liverpool, its public spirit, as it is abundantly demonstrated in its public institutions, I am surprised at the neglect this institution has met with. In a town whose "merchants are princes, and whose traffickers are the honorable of the earth," that an annual subscription of £170 should be the amount of its bounty to this institution, is a subject of extreme surprize and regret, and, indeed, of deep humility, and I can only account for it by the consideration that its objects are primarily religious, while those institutions whose liberal support displays the character of the inhabitants, aim to relieve wants and assuage distress more tangible and more obvious to ordinary apprehension and sympathy. I do hope, however, that we shall see a new exertion, and, (addressing the Mayor) I rejoice in this hope from seeing you, sir, in that seat, presiding over this meeting. I delight to believe I see in your presence the representation of the interest the town will display ere long in this business, and I entreat the blessing of God on your kindness in so coming forward on this occasion. This nation is placed on an eminence of power which no other nation ever yet reached; but it has not been so placed for the sake of the spectacle only of that greatness; an awful responsibility has been delegated to us along with our stupendous power: we are the instrument fashioned by the providence of God, to spread the light of the Gospel along with the lustre of our temporal achievements; and woe unto us if we neglect that solemn obligation. Seventy or eighty thousand seamen navigate the seas from this one port to the uttermost parts of the earth—wherever mercantile enterprize desires to penetrate, and nautical daring can go. They are the representatives of the character of England in distant lands—they are to bear the names of Christian and Protestant to the ears of distant people—and if in their lives and deportment they show a worse than savage character, what reproach and scandal to the Christian name ensues. Our obligation, therefore to spread the truths of Christianity, suggests to us the absolute importance of having our seamen such as will not belie that name of Christian which they bear. It has been said, it is visionary to hope to meliorate the character and habits of seamen to that standard which religion requires; but I say, the visionary is he who expects results without using means. The farmer who expects a crop, and yet does not sow, is a visionary; the merchant who expects his vessel shall be steered into harbor, with neither chart nor compass on board, is a visionary. In like manner, he would be a visionary who should expect that melioration of the character of our sailors by wishing it only; but we are not visionary who adopt the obvious means of accomplishing the end we desire. In conclusion, said Mr. Buddicom, I would refer to the motto around the blazon of our own town:

"Dues nobis hæc olia fecit."

As God has given us that prosperity in which we rejoice, and by which the name of our town is illustrious, let us not forget the obligation we are under to him, and let us pay to these His creatures by whom, under him, in a great measure our prosperity has been achieved, that debt which it is impossible we should discharge to Himself.

REV. DEOCAR SCHMID'S METHOD OF EXAMINING SCHOLARS, ON THE SERMONS HEARD BY THEM.

Mr. Schmid, in his sermons preached at the Female Orphan Asylum in Calcutta, follows an order of subjects, which he conceives, might be generally adopted with advantage. As the portions of Scripture appointed for the Sundays from Advent to Trinity lead to a consideration, in regular succession, of the Advent, Life, Sufferings, and Exaltation of Christ, he chooses such passages of scripture as the ground of his Discourses, from Trinity to Advent, as lead him, in the course of the whole year, to bring in their proper order, the entire series of the principal Truths of Scripture before the Congregation. Beginning his course about the Sixteenth Sunday after Trinity, he dwells, till Advent, on the Histories and Facts of the old Testament, as preparatory to the Advent of Christ—from Advent to Whitsunday, he follows the

order of subjects as pointed out—and from Trinity Sunday to the fifteenth Sunday after Trinity, he discourses on the History of the Christian Church, as contained in the Acts and the Epistles and on the Prophecies which respect its final establishment in the world.

On these discourses he grounds a system of Examination, from week to week, whereby the Girls of the Asylum are brought to a considerable degree of acquaintance with the Truths of Scripture. Some account of his method is here subjoined, as it may furnish useful hints to others.

I comprise the substance of each sermon in ten or more questions and answers. These questions are dictated to the girls of the first class; who after having read the Text and one or two chapters of the Bible on which my sermon was founded, write down the answers which they think the questions require. Then Mrs. Schmid reads what the girls have written, and points out to them the mistakes which they have made. Hereupon she dictates to them the answers which I have composed; from which they see in what respects their own answers have been incorrect or incomplete. These questions and answers, after having been corrected as to spelling, are fairly copied by them, and committed to memory.

As according to my plan for a new arrangement of the Ecclesiastical Year which I follow in my ministrations in the Asylum, I go every year over the whole Bible, the most important histories, doctrines, precepts and prophecies of the Holy Scriptures, are by this exercise, impressed on the understandings and memories of the Children; and we have reason to hope, that the Scriptural knowledge, which they thus acquire, will not remain without its due influence on their hearts and conduct. Nay we see already that our labor has not been in vain; the remarkably reformed conduct of some of the girls seems to prove that they have received serious impressions on their hearts.

In order to give you a better idea of the nature of this exercise, I send you herewith a copy of my questions and answers on two of my sermons; together with the answers given by the two most advanced girls in the Asylum, without any addition or correction.

[Mr. Schmid's answers are printed first: those of the two girls are numbered 1. and 2.]

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT—

TEXT, PSALM XXIII. 1-4.

Why did David choose the image of a shepherd, in order to describe the love and care which God has for his people?

Because there is no occupation in human life in which more care, vigilance and tenderness are required, than in that of a shepherd.

1. Because a shepherd has to spend all his time for the care of his sheep, and must expose himself to any danger for them.

2. David chose the image of a shepherd to describe the great love which Jesus Christ has for his people, and because shepherds run the risk of losing their life in endeavoring to save their sheep.

(To be continued.)

St. Thomas, December 21.—St. Thomas was surnamed Didymus, from a Greek word signifying a twin; which meaning is also attached to the Syriac word, *Thauma*, whence is derived his name Thomas. The province allotted to him for the exercise of his apostolic office was Parthia. He preached the Gospel to the Medes and Persians; and at last suffered martyrdom in the Indies. The most remarkable event recorded of him in Scripture, is the sudden conviction of the truth of our Lord's resurrection, after expressing the most obstinate incredulity. What Jesus said to St. Thomas on this interesting occasion—"Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed"—should enforce the reasonableness and necessity of yielding assent on sufficient testimony, without requiring the strongest possible. And the impassioned acknowledgment of the Apostle—"My Lord, and my God"—should remind us of the divine dignity of him whose advent we are about to celebrate.