

# 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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## SELF-QUESTIONING.

SELF-QUESTIONING is one of the great helps towards living such a life as the profession of Christ demands from us. With many of us life passes on without our taking note of ourselves at all, in the deeper sense of taking account of how we stand with regard to our responsibilities to our fellow-men, our indebtedness to God. It seems like a contradiction, but it is true, that a man or woman may be altogether wrapped up in self, in selfish pleasures, selfish aims, selfish cares, and yet never pause to consider *themselves* at all. It is a very awful thought that all our nearest, closest interests in this life, all the things that make up life for us may be the means of hiding away from us *ourselves*, those selves which are to exist when this visible world and all things in it shall be done away. "Man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Man's *self* is something more than his earthly hopes, fears, affections, sorrows, joys. Yet our days succeed each other so rapidly, each with its own burthen or

its own joy or its own interest, that unless we *make* time for self-contemplation and introspection we may remain, ignorant as we are careless of our real selves. And thus we bring our years to an end, as it were a tale that is told!

Surely God made us for something higher than this! Reasonable, accountable beings, souls for whom Christ died, we are to *realize* what we are in the sight of our Creator; we are to remember *whose we are* and *in whom we live and move and have our being*. Day by day we should bring ourselves, as it were, to the bar of our own conscience, and inquire into our own shortcomings, our failures, our errors, our sins, our want of faith, our lack of obedience. We should not shrink from the survey, sad though it must be. 'It will teach us the great lessons of humility and self-distrust; it will make us penitents, humbly imploring help and forgiveness at the throne of grace. The outward performance of the duties of religion will not suffice without this laying bare our hearts before ourselves and before our God, for there may be self-de-