

TEXTS AND THOUGHTS FOR EVERY DAY.

FEBRUARY 18.—QUINQUAGESIMA. SUNDAY.

1. This is the token of the covenant which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth. Gen. ix. 12.

When God renewed the earth after the flood, it pleased him to promise that he would not again destroy it by water; and he gave a pledge (the rainbow) which would frequently present itself to the eyes of the inhabitants of the earth, and give them confidence in the fulfilment of his promise.

2. In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed. Gen. xii. 3.

This was the promise made to Adam renewed to Abraham, limiting at the same time the line in which the seed of the woman should appear to the posterity of Abraham.

1. Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 1 Cor. xiii. 3.

Charity implies a desire for the good of others, both in this world and in the next, and a kindly affection towards them.

2. Charity beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. 1 Cor. xiii. 7.

There is no injury or provocation too great for it to submit to from others, so it may do them good. It willingly excuses others, attributes to them the best motives, accepts their defenses and excuses, if not manifestly inconsistent with truth.

1. Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. 1 Cor. xiii. 13.

2. That thou appear not unto men to fast, but to thy Father which seeth in secret. Matt. vi. 18.

This does not require that we should conceal our abstinence to public appointment fast, but only that we should not make a show of it.

1. Thy Father, who seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly. Matt. vi. 18.

2. Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth. Matt. vi. 19.

This does not forbid us to lay up treasures on earth for the church or for those dear to us; but only for ourselves.

1. And they prayed and said, Thou Lord, who knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen. Acts. ii. 47.

They knew that Jesus had left them with the same power of filling up the office of Judas, which he himself held; but they had not this power for themselves, but to carry out the designs of his God and theirs.

1. And Christ's ordinary way of revealing the Father is through his church, in the ministrations of his word and sacraments.

1. Turn ye even to me, saith the Lord, with all your heart, and with fasting and with weeping and with mourning. Joel ii. 12.

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