

# Dominion Churchman.

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### LESSONS for SUNDAYS and HOLY-DAYS.

May 22... **FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER:**  
 Morning... Deuteronomy 5. St. John 7, v. 25.  
 Evening... Deuteronomy 5, or 19. Titus 1.

23... **THE ASCENSION DAY:**  
 Morning... Daniel 7, v. 9 to 15. St. Luke 24, v. 44.  
 Proper Psalms: 7, 13, 21. Athanasian Creed.  
 Evening... 2 Kings 2, to v. 16. Hebrews 4.  
 Proper Psalms: 21, 47, 108.

24... **SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION:**  
 Morning... Deuteronomy 30. St. John 11, v. 17 to 47.  
 Evening... Deut. 34, or Joshua 1. Heb. 4, v. 14 & 5.

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1881.

**T**HE Bishop of Oxford has been too unwell to hold his Visitation in person. His health has however greatly improved.

The Rev. Pelham Dale, late of St. Vedast's, has been inducted to the living of Saunthorpe, by the Bishop of Lincoln. It is valued at £220; the population is about 150; and the Rev. C. Trollope Swan is the patron.

Bishop Wordsworth, of St. Andrew's, is to deliver two lectures on the periods "From the Reformation to the Restoration," and "From the Revolution to the Disruption," during the month of May, in St. Mary's cathedral, Edinburgh, which will afterwards be published in pamphlet form by Messrs. William Blackwood and Son.

A beneficiary of the diocese of London, named Ross, was well pleased to hear himself prate in St. Giles', High Kirk, Edinburgh. He has since been roundly abusing the Presbyterians in a Lenten Lecture in a London church. Something of this kind usually takes place when a priest of the Church attempts the "Evangelical Alliance" idea!

A memorial to the late Lord Stratford de Redcliffe has been placed in Frant church, near Tunbridge Wells. It consists of a solid brass lectern in the form of an eagle with outstretched wings, surmounting a ball, ornamented with cairngorms and bloodstones. It is handsome and massive, standing about seven feet from the ground. It was cast at Munich.

Additions have recently been made to that most interesting building, Rosslyn Chapel. A richly carved stone font has recently been placed in the baptistry. The built up openings at the west end have been cleared, and the new buildings provide a baptistry and organ chamber. In designing the new works, care has been taken not to remove any of the original building. A carved oak screen of ornate character is in course of preparation, and will shortly be fitted up at the western entrance to the choir.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has visited Genoa, taken part in the services at the English church in Milan, and is expected to return to Lambeth Palace immediately.

We regret to announce the death, suddenly of Mr. Joseph Masters, the well-known Church publisher, of New Bond street, London, which took place on the 13th April.

Canon Liddon preached on Easter day to a large congregation in St. Paul's, London. In his sermon he alluded to the late Thomas Carlyle, and to the numerous opinions which at present were entertained respecting him. He said that for Christians a lesson more painful than any of these was the bearing of this great and gifted man in the presence of death. In the Reminiscences, just published, we saw him through all its pages face to face with the terrible mysteries of human existence, and bearing the load with a long-suppressed wail of agony. One could but regret that a man so rightful and true should have thus forfeited the supreme consolation of the simple believer.

The Easter services in London and elsewhere in England, appear to have been marked with increasing solemnity. In a majority of churches more or less elaborate floral decorations were attempted. St. Paul's Cathedral had magnificent bouquets on the altar; and St. Peter's, Notting Hill, St. Mark's Hamilton terrace, St. Paul's, Wilton place, St. Peter's, Eaton square, St. Matthew's, City road, and St. Clement Danes are also favourably spoken of. In many churches there were several celebrations of the Holy Communion, and there appears to have been no falling off in the numbers who received. At St. Agnes', Kennington, and St. Mary's, Newington, the numbers were 540 and 507; at St. Clement Danes there were thrice as many as last year. At Cartmel, Lancashire, out of a population of 800, there were 148 communicants, of whom ninety-one received at the early celebration. At St. Saviour's, Eastbourne, the communicants numbered 555.

### THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER.

**T**HIS is also called Rogation Sunday, because it immediately precedes the Rogation days, or days of supplication and prayer, the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday previous to Holy Thursday, or Ascension day. The subject of prayer is therefore naturally brought before us. Probably there are not many among us who object to the practice of prayer to Almighty God from a belief in the principle that prayer is an attempt to make the Divine Being change His mind. The absurdity of such an idea arises from the fact that prayer is just what the Almighty requires from His people. Even in reference to blessings He has positively and definitely promised, His direction continually, is, "Yet for these things will I be inquired of by the house of Israel."

The connection between prayer and the success of the Gospel is one which involves many important principles. We may find it difficult to trace the connection, but the word of God distinctly

asserts it, the history of the Church proves it, the spiritual effects it produces give the inward demonstration of its reality. No one indeed ever doubts the efficacy of submissive, believing prayer till he has forgotten to pray. As soon as a man is under the influence of practical scepticism with regard to prayer, the power and spirit of prayer must lose all their influence on the mind. Prayer is the first indication of spiritual life: it shows the advancement of that life, and it determines the elevation and depression of the spiritual principle. If the spirit of supplication is experienced, it is a pledge of success; for God is the Author of that good and perfect gift. Whatever, through the circle of the vast universe, leads to God comes from Him; and whatever comes from God leads to Him. This is the invariable and eternal law of the relations subsisting between God and all creation. He has enjoined on us the duty of prayer, not because He does not know our wants, or because there is any uncertainty in His plans and purposes; but because it is as much His pleasure to connect prayer with the accomplishment of His designs, as to make use of any other kind of moral agency or instrumentality.

### ASCENSION DAY.

**T**HIS important Festival of the Church is also termed Holy Thursday. As on this day was fulfilled the prophetic words of the Psalmist: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors: and the King of glory shall come in." The question is supposed to be asked, "Who is the King of glory?" And the answer is given:—"It is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle." "The Lord of Hosts, He is the King of glory." We have seen Christ depressed and now He is advanced; once crucified, and now enthroned; and led through the vale of tears to the region of hallelujahs. "He was punished with one crown before He was rewarded with another, and disciplined by the hardships of shame and servitude to the glories of a kingdom." And He ascended up says St. Paul, "that He might fill all things." Without a doubt, He does this by the essential omnipresence of His Divine Nature. And yet this is not the "filling all things" which the Apostle Paul directly intends in this passage; for that was to be consequent on His Ascension. "He ascended that He might fill all things." It belonged to Him upon and after His Ascension, but not before; while His omnipresence being an inseparable property of His Divine nature, always connected itself with Him, and was not then at length to be conferred upon Him. Christ fills all things in regard to the universal rule and government of all things in heaven and earth, committed to Him as Mediator upon His Ascension. He is now King of kings and Lord of lords. He wields the sceptre of heaven and earth, and wears the imperial crown of the universe; heaven is His throne and the thrones of kings are His footstool. He now shines at the head of the glorious army of martyrs; and, wearing the trophies of conquered sin and death, possesses the kingdom of the world by the two unquestionable titles of conquest and inheritance. The angels, as the immediate servants of Almighty God, and the ministers of His Providence, are His atten-

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