

LENT, AND HOW TO KEEP IT.

THE WORK OF REPENTANCE, &c.

THE Church teaches us much with respect to this work by setting apart the forty days of Lent, in which we may follow it up with prayer and fasting, and self-denial. She teaches us that, in *her* judgment, that "worthy lamenting of our sins" which is the means of "obtaining perfect remission and forgiveness," requires that we should withdraw from the pleasures and works, of this world, and detach ourselves from its entanglements. And in the Gospel for the day, and the portion of Scripture appointed for the Epistle, we have our Lord's approval of fasting, and the command of it by one of His inspired prophets, which both lead us to the same kind of thoughts and shew us that withdrawing from things that please the flesh is one of the needful steps in drawing near to God.

And such has been the practice of the saints, not only in praying for themselves, and those who might suffer for their own sins, like David, but also interceding for the people of God at large, like Daniel. Not as though man could make a bargain with God, and by giving up so much of what would please the flesh make

It should have been Ash-Wednesday