

spiritual affections into harmony with the spirit of the Church. And gradually the full meaning of the Christian Year, with a clear, permanent picture of the earthly life of Christ flashes upon the mind. And with it all, the appointed lessons and the portions of Scripture for the Epistle and Gospel for Sundays and Holy days, furnish a consecutive and systematic reading of God's Holy word; and in such a manner as to add fresh force to each precious truth as it is connected to the whole of revealed truths in God's ways to man.

And besides the different offices set forth the doctrine of the Sacraments, the forms of belief, and the right practice of the Christian life. The office for the administration of the Holy Communion explains in clear light the meaning and purpose of the Lord's Supper. The ministration of Baptism unfolds what God requires and what are the blessed results of entering into His Fold. The order for Confirmation shows clearly the duty and responsibility of a soldier of Christ. The Creed tells us what to believe; the Catechism, what to do. And in all the offices, such as those for the ordination of Priests, the consecration of Bishops, the consecration of Churches, the thoughtful reader will find in the Prayer Book all necessary, if not completely sufficient, knowledge of the teaching of the Church in matters of Government, Discipline, Doctrine and Practice. More than one, family, and more than one clergymen can trace not only their knowledge of the Church, but the instrumentality, under God, of their coming into the Church, to a stray Prayer Book, possibly found in an attic, in a region where the Church was unknown. The upshot of the whole matter is, that the beginning and foundation of our knowledge of the ways of the Church are to be found in an earnest, prayerful use and study of the Book of Common Prayer.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The name of Correspondent must in all cases be enclosed with letter, but will not be published unless desired. The Editor will not hold himself responsible, however, for any opinions expressed by Correspondents].

CHURCH ENTERTAINMENTS.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian:

SIR,—There has been considerable written of late condemning the now quite prevalent practice of holding entertainments for raising funds for church purposes. There is one way of looking at the question though, that if the conditions were complied with would seem to my mind to justify the practice.

I will illustrate my idea by taking the case of an imaginary parish. Suppose a certain parish has a debt upon its property, which has been of long standing, and to all appearances would seem to continue for many years to come were it not for the ladies of said parish, who with righteous indignation at the apparent deadness of their sterner brethren, take the matter in hand and organize themselves into a society for the purpose of liquidating the debt. Aware that their own purses are unequal for the purpose they however realize the fact that God has bestowed upon them other talents besides those of silver and gold, and it becomes their endeavour to turn their various talents into these more passable ones for the sake of helping on their Master's cause and extending his Kingdom. As one way of making the exchange they give an entertainment, consisting of music, recitations, sale of fancy articles and refreshments. Having advertised their entertainment, when the time arrives the society opens shop, as it were, and offers for sale the above mentioned goods at rock bottom prices; and as far as my opinion goes with such entertainments people do get their money's worth. It makes no difference to an honest Christian dry goods merchant who it is that purchases his goods

whether they can afford them or not, how they obtained their money, &c., those questions are not his province to enquire into; his duty is to give honest values for monies received. So with the promoters of this church entertainments, they have advertised their goods for sale as the merchant has his, and it is not for them to inquire into the motives of those who patronize them; they have only to give regulation values for the cash received. Both the merchant and the society carry on business for the same purpose, namely of exchanging their goods for cash at a profit. The difference is that whereas the merchant gives but a small share of his profits to God; this society devotes the whole of both its capital and profits to His cause.

If the promoters of church entertainments would follow the spirit of the illustration here given—that is undertake them from a sincere love to God and an earnest desire to devote their time and talents to the advancement of His cause, as well as discard from their entertainments all questionable forms of amusement, there would not be the grounds for condemning this branch of church work that now exist.

Let us not condemn this practice because in the hands of some it is abused, but rather exert our influence by example as well as precept, to cause the acts of all our brethren to proceed from pure and honest love to God, that whatever way and every way we endeavor to serve Him may be acceptable to Him, who desires that in whatever we do we may do all to the glory of God.

NEW BOOKS.

That enterprising publisher Mr. THOS. WHITTAKER, N.Y., is early in the field with Lenten reading. We find on our table an admirable series of meditations for Good Friday, by Rev. George Hodges, under the title 'BEHIND THE CROSS,' the subjects being the 'Seven Words'; cloth 92 p., 50c.

'PATHWAYS TO OUR CHURCH,' is the title of a pamphlet from the same publishers, of which the Rev. Dr. Shinn, the well known author of the Manuals of Instruction on the Collects, Prayer Book and Church History is the author. It is intended to afford to some extent an explanation of the constant accessions to the Church. The clergy will find this a valuable tract for parochial use; paper 52 p. 10c.

'THE CHURCH IN THY HOUSE' is a Manual of Daily Family Prayers for morning and evening, by Rev. Rufus W. Clark, Rector of St. Paul's, Detroit. It provides two Scripture readings for each day of the month, and prayers corresponding thereto. Additional Scripture readings are referred to for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th month: so that a set form for family worship, on the lines of the Church are provided for 4 months. We can unhesitatingly commend this little volume to our readers; actual use having proved not only its suitability but also the truly devotional spirit which marks it throughout. It also contains special Prayers for Pastors, Church officers, Children, Teachers, Unity: before entering Church and after the service, &c. THOS. WHITTAKER, N.Y.; cloth 120 p., 60c.

From E. & J. B. Young & Co., New York, we receive NOTES ON THE SEVEN PENITENTIAL PSALMS, selected chiefly from Patristic services, by Rev. Alfred G. Mortimer, B.D., Rector of St. Mary's, Castleton, N.Y. This is intended as a book of Penitential devotion for such as have already made some progress in the spiritual life. Here are presented some of the thoughts of the greatest and most devout minds of the Church, in fact a devotional commentary on these seven Psalm, which will be useful not only to individuals, but also to the clergy as Helps for Bible Class teaching or Lenten addresses. The Prayer Book version is followed throughout; and to each Psalm is prefixed a

short account of its probable date and authorship, its scope and occasion, and this is followed by a synopsis of the whole, together with a commentary or a short explanation of each verse. Ministrations affecting the meaning are pointed out, and comparison made with the original and versions. Cloth, red edges, 183 p. \$1.

MAGAZINES FOR FEBRUARY.

The American Church S. S. Magazine, contains Bishop Potter's sermons at the ordination of Rev. Isaac Doorman to the Priesthood on the eve of his departure as a Missionary to Persia, under the auspices of the Missions of the Archbishop of Canterbury. The general contents of this month's number are full of interest. Philadelphia \$1 per annum.

The Homiletic Review contains within its well filled pages a beautiful sermon by Rev. E. D. Tomkins, of Long Branch, on St. John xxi 3 and 4 vs, and a sketch of the Venerable Bede, by Prof. Hunt, of Princeton, both of which will be found interesting to Churchmen. This monthly presents the best thoughts of denominational leaders, and has much at all times of practical use. It has a *European Department*, and also notes from month to month the current of English thought on the topics of the day. Funk & Wagnall's, New York, \$3 per an.

The Atlantic Monthly has an article by Chas. B. Elliott on 'The Behring Sea Narrative,' in which he says that the capture of Canadian Fishing vessels at from 60 to 100 miles from the shore cannot be justified, and he supports his position by a review of the claims of the U.S. historically and legally. (Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, \$4 per an.

The Church Eclectic is as usual filled with timely articles, original and extracted from other publications. We have reproduced several of them, to which we call the attention of our readers. The magazine is an admirable one and merits, and we have no doubt receives, liberal support in the Sister Church. It is one of the most welcome visitors to our table.

The Mission Field, London, is the organ of that noble Society the S. P. G., and from month to month furnishes its readers with most interesting accounts of Missionary work in the various fields in which it sustains missionaries. The last number (January) contains a record of the past year, and reports of work in South Africa, British Borneo, India, &c., besides the speech of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Society's Seven Oak's anniversary.

RECEIVED:

The Homiletic Magazine for December and January—to hand too late for special notice; E. B. Treat, New York.

The Eucharistic Sacrifice and The Sacrifice of Masses—A sermon by Rev. A. C. Hall, explanatory of the 31st article of Religion, and of the errors against which the article is directed. Send for it and read it; paper 10c; Damrell & Upham, Boston.

Treasure Trove—A monthly for young people. Treasure Trove Co., 25 Clinton Place, New York; \$1 per an.

Our Little Ones and The Nursery—The Russell Publishing Co., Boston; \$1.50 per an.

Babyland and Our Little Men and Women—The D. Lothrop Co., Boston; the first named 50c per year, and the 2nd \$1.

The Kindergarten—Alice B. Stockham & Co., 161 Lasalle street, Chicago; \$2 per an.

The Ladies' Home Journal—Curtis Publishing Co., Philadelphia; \$1 per annum.

The great art to love your enemy consist in never losing sight of ~~MAN~~ to him.