

will be made for present defects, and time given for improvement. With these few remarks, the magazine is respectfully introduced to its many yet unknown supporters, trusting that the acquaintance now begun may ripen into mutual friendship and esteem.

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION.

IT is much to be regretted that the feast of our Blessed Lord's Ascension has not been duly regarded by the members of the Church of England; and although men's minds have, of late years, been increasingly turned towards this and the other great commemorative seasons, it must be confessed that there is still great room for improvement. With a view to this, we hope from time to time to notice the Seasons of the Church, as they come round.

The Great Feast of the Ascension has always been marked in the Christian Church as one of the first importance, being the day on which the Lord Jesus Christ, after having finished the work for which He came from heaven, "ascended to His Father, for the full accomplishment of our peace." In the order of its services, our own Church not only appoints the use of a special Collect, Epistle, Gospel, and Lessons, as on Sundays, but also proper Psalms, and a Preface in the Office for the Holy Communion. This being so, it should be the endeavour of all, laity as well as clergy, to honour the day as the Church intends. Perhaps we shall the better understand this if we call to mind the blessing secured to us by what our Lord did on this day.

1. On this day He closed His mission on earth. On this day he withdrew his bodily presence from His Church, but comforted us with the words, "It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away the Comforter will not come unto you." *It was in our nature that He ascended.* This is the point on which we have to fix our thoughts. **THERE IS A MAN IN HEAVEN:** not figuratively, but really: not in the regions of departed spirits, where are Abraham, and Moses, and the Apostles, and the good of all ages and climes, but in the highest heaven, at the right hand of the Eternal Father. Thither the Saviour of men is gone, to carry on the work of His incarnation and our redemption.

As man he feels for men in all their sufferings and infirmities; having been tempted himself, He knows how to succour those who are tempted. Altho' He were not man, He could not feel as man for man, and if He had not been more than man, His Ascension would have been in vain; for who save God could have authority in heaven "to prepare a place for us?"

2. There is a Man in heaven, but we are upon earth, surrounded by enemies, visible and invisible. One purpose of our Lord's Ascension is to intercede for us before the throne of God. Whenever, after falling into sin, we turn to our Father in true heart-felt repentance, then He, our Saviour, makes intercession for us, and the Majesty of God, beholding the wounds in His hands and feet, remembers that by the might of His Cross and Passion, He obtained the salvation of the whole world, and for His sake wipes away our sins. "He ever liveth to make intercession for us."

3. Again; we have cares and sorrows,—cares of business, infirmities of the body, wounds and bitterness of soul, which we can open to no ear but One, and which none but He can relieve. But our comfort is to feel that there is One in heaven, once a Man as we are, who came down to bear our griefs, and cares, and sorrows. To Him we may go, and receive from Him aid to support us in all the troubles of this mortal life.

4. Finally, He ascended up on high to give good gifts to men. Thus He sent down the Holy Ghost to His Church, to infuse life and motion into that body which He had organized for the conversion and regeneration of mankind. He sent this Holy Spirit, whose descent we commemorate at Whitsuntide, for the perfection of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, to bring all to unity of faith to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ, that is, to bring all to the full strength of a