

THE CHURCH AND THE CHILDREN.

One of the brightest rays of light which beams from the Cross shines on the path trodden by the feet of children.

Christianity is conspicuous for its care of the little ones; to work and plan for their welfare is its glory and joy.

It is a labour of disinterested love, for the objects of tender solicitude cannot make return for, or even fully appreciate, what they receive.

A testimony that this unselfish care wins the hearts of parents, and draws them to one Eternal Father, was given by a Japanese mother lately, whose infant daughter had, after a heathen custom, been cast out of doors by its unfeeling father.

She came to a missionary and said: 'Please do take little baby; I bring her to you because your God is the only God that teaches to be good to the little children.'

We are afraid to be fervent; our true danger is icy torpor. We sit frost-bitten and almost dead among the snows, and all the while the gracious sun is pouring down, that is able to melt the white death that is covering us, and to free us from the bonds that hold us prisoner in their benumbing clasp.

A contemporary says truly that some clergymen, in order to keep the body alive, are compelled to starve the mind. Some really have not enough money, at times, to buy postage stamps, much less to buy books. Their stipends are not only small, they are also irregularly paid.—Methodist ministers, it seems do not fare any better.

In 1611, an English gentleman travelling in Italy made this entry in his journal: I observe a custom not used in any other country. They use a little fork when they cut their meat." He purchased one and carried it to England, but when he used it he was so ridiculed by his friends that he wrote in his diary: "Master Lawrence Whittaker, my familiar friend, called me Furcifer for using a fork at feeding." That little two-tined article of table furniture brought about a fierce discussion. It was regarded as an innovation, unwarranted by the customs of society. Ministers preached against its use. One minister maintained that, as the Creator had given men thumbs and fingers, it was an insult to Almighty God to use a fork.

One argument of those who object to the eastward position at the Creed is that such is the position taken by worshippers of the sun, and that the position is therefore idolatrous, and a remnant of the old worship of Baal. If such an argument means anything we must also object to a northward position as idolatrous, because that would be a position taken by one who had made a God of the "Great Bear." Gods could doubtless be found to represent the west and south.

We all receive unfinished tasks from those who go before; we all transmit unfinished tasks to those who come after. Our vocation is to advance a little the dominion of God's truth, and to be one of the long line who pass on the torch from hand to hand.

The first geographical map of England was made in the year 1520.