

'Suppose you should come to me every day, and say, "Dear papa, how I love you," and then go right away and disobey me—could I believe you?'

'No papa.'

'Well dear, how can I believe that you love God, when I see you every day doing those things which he forbids?'

Maria could not reply to this, and so the conversation closed. She was obliged to confess to herself that her father had spoken the truth, but still she thought it no evidence that she did not love God. 'I never thought,' said she to herself, 'that when I am cross to George, or anything like that, I was sinning against God; at least, it never seemed as if He minded any thing about it; and I did not think about His being so good either; but now I remember it, I shall never do so again, and then pa will see that I love God.'

### Selections.

**LONDON INSTITUTION.**—The Rev. Dr. Scoresby, F.R.S., commenced the delivery of a course of four lectures on the "Whale, the Whale-fishery, and the Arctic Regions," at the London Institution, on Monday, the first lecture being devoted to the natural history of some of the most important or characteristic species of the whale tribe. After some introductory remarks, contrasting the attributes of marine life with that of these creatures, the largest beings of animated nature, Dr. Scoresby proceeded to illustrate, with the assistance of a series of excellent representations on the scale of one-twelfth of the size of nature, the forms and peculiarities of structure of the marginal, the largest of the cetacea; the mysticetus, or Greenland whale; the bachelot, or sperm whale; and several other, observing that his former experience in the conduct of the whale fishery enabled him to describe most of these animals from his own personal examination. The lecture was mainly appropriated to the history of the Greenland whale, the chief object of the northern fishery. The regions where this species formerly abounded; and those to which it appears almost confined, were stated; the latter including Baffin's Bay, and especially the sea north of Behring's Straits, where it is captured in immense numbers by the Americans. Attention was called to the distorted and in every way inaccurate figures of the Greenland whale, given in works on natural history and popular compendiums, prior to that which was originally produced by the lecturer from his own examination and measurement of several hundred individuals. An enlarged copy of Lalepède's figure being contrasted with the correct one, on the same scale, various errors regarding the magnitude, &c., of this animal were alluded to, and corrected. Dr. Scoresby stating that of those he had seen captured none exceeded sixty feet in length, though seventy feet might sometimes be attained; and that he had ascertained from the records of capture that, contrary to a notion often entertained, there had been no diminution in the size of the individuals taken within the last two centuries and a half. The weight determined by the displacement of water, amounts to seventy tons, and may exceed that. The external characters and anatomical structure of these species were described at some length, a particular account being given of the wonderful straining apparatus of whalebone within the mouth, for the collection of food from sea water illustrated by an elaborate dissected diagram on the scale of one-sixth of nature. The peculiar adaptations, formations, and economy of the animal were dwelt upon; the popular error of its spouting water refuted; the lecturer affirming from his own numerous observations, that nothing but vapour, charged with a little mucus from the respiratory organs, is discharged from the blow-holes, an observation equally applicable to the entire tribe. The food, method of feeding, habits, velocity of swimming, and occasional destructive efforts of the larger species of whale were also noticed: and a very interesting discourse, to which the consideration of the former occupations and present position of the speaker imparted a peculiar charm, was concluded by some remarks on the allusions in Holy Writ to the great animals of the deep.

*Herapath's Railway Journal* publishes a very elaborate table and statistical chart of the railway traffic returns for seven years past; from which we find the total increase amounts to nearly eight millions and a half; the receipts in 1845 being something over six millions and a half, and last year they exceeded fifteen millions; making the average increase in the annual receipts of £1,202,725 over those of 1845, at an additional cost of 160 millions. The table, however, does not include all the receipts, as many of the companies do not publish their traffic. Fifteen millions and a half was received in 1852, the aggregate length of railway being 7,337 miles and the average receipts per mile about £2,118 per annum.

**THE MISSIONARY'S WIFE.**—There is something exceedingly interesting in a missionary's wife. I saw much of the missionaries abroad, and even made many warm friends among them, and I repeat it, there is something exceedingly interesting in a missionary's wife. She who has been cherished as a plant that the winds must not breathe on too rudely, recovers from the separation from her friends, and finds herself in a land of barbarians, where her loud cry of distress can never reach their ears. New ties twine round her heart, and the tender and helpless girl changes her very nature, and becomes the staff and support of the man. In his hours of despondency she raises his drooping spirits; she bathes his aching head, and smooths his pillow of sickness. I have entered her dwelling, and have been welcomed as a brother; and sometimes, when I have known any of her friends at home, I have been for a moment more than recompensed for all the toils and privations of a traveller in the East. And when I left her dwelling it was with a mind burdened with remembrances to friends whom she will perhaps never see again.—*Stephen's Incidents of Travel.*

**PREPARATORY PRAYER.**—O Holy Spirit of Grace! gives us a true sight of our miseries, and a sincere shame and sorrow, when we make confession of our sins; a feeling sense of our need of mercy, and a hope of obtaining pardon, when we beg it for Thy Son's sake. May we resign our wills to thee and thy goodness, when we pray for temporal things;—and when we pray for spiritual graces, may we hunger and thirst after righteousness. Give us real love for thy Holy Word, and grace to hear with attention. May we thankfully close with all the means of grace and salvation. When we praise thee for thy works of nature and grace, and give thee thanks for thy mercies, let us do it with high esteem and gratitude. Cause us to bear thy Holy word with faith and attention, and to profit by what we hear, that we may return from thy church with a blessing.—*Bishop Wilson.*

**CHRIST BOTH GOD AND MAN.**—When thou hearest of Christ, do not think him God only, or man only, but both together. For I know Christ was hungry, and I know that with five loaves he fed five thousand men, besides women and children. I know Christ was thirsty, and know Christ turned water into wine. I know Christ was carried in a ship, and I know Christ walked on the waters. I know Christ died, and I know Christ raised the dead. I know Christ was set before Pilate, I know Christ sits with the Father. I know Christ was worshipped by the angels, and I know Christ was stoned by the Jews. And truly some of these I ascribe to the human, others to the Divine nature; for by reason of this he is said to be both together.—*St. Chrysostom.*

**HEAVEN.**—If heaven be my home, and Christ my way, I will learn to know my way, ere I haste to travel to my home. He that runs hastily in a way he knows not, may come speedily to a home he loves not. If Christ be my way, and heaven my home, I will rather endure my painful walk than want my perfect rest. I more esteem my home than my journey; my actions shall be led by knowledge, my knowledge be followed by actions. Ignorance is a bad mother to devotion; and idleness is a bad steward to knowledge.—*Warwick's 'Spare Minutes.'*

**KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST'S LOVE.**—It is a peculiar kind of expression where the apostle prays that they might 'know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.' We may know that experimentally which we cannot know comprehensively: we may know that in its power and effects which we cannot comprehend in its nature and depths. A weary person may receive refreshment from a spring who cannot fathom the depth of the ocean from whence it proceeds.—*Dr. Owen.*

**LUTHER'S PRACTICE.**—Luther says, 'When I am assailed with heavy tribulation, I rush out among my pigs rather than remain alone by myself. The human heart is like a millstone in a mill, when you put wheat under it, it turns and grinds and bruises the wheat into flour, if you put no wheat in, it still grinds on, but then it is itself it grinds and wears away.'

**A MURDER PREVENTED.**—A pious minister travelling by coach to a neighboring village, engaged in conversation with his fellow travellers. After conversing on a number of subjects, more or less serious, the subject of revenge was introduced. Every one was anxious to give his opinion. "Not to be avenged, is cowardice," said one. "The best revenge," said another, "is to despise one's enemy, and hate him without doing him any harm." The minister in his turn, begged to be al-

lowed to give his opinion. 'Messieurs,' said he, 'let us consult before all the word of God; and opening his Testament read these words: 'Avenge not yourselves; if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst give him drink; be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.' Rom. xli 19, 21. From these verses he pointed out how odious and criminal a thing it was to take vengeance. Afterwards, feeling encouraged by the attention of his auditors, he showed how truly great and noble it was to forgive an enemy. He spoke also of Jesus Christ, and his compassion for sinners. His voice rose by degrees; his words found their way to the heart; his arguments were irresistible. When he finished speaking a profound silence ensued, which no one ventured to break. Suddenly a young lady, who during the whole journey had appeared to be deeply absorbed in thought rose, drew out a poniard, which was concealed under her gown, and approaching the minister, said, with much emotion, "minister, you see this blade; it was about to pierce the heart of my husband; I was going to find the faithless one; I was desirous of avenging myself; I have heard you, God be thanked! You have saved two victims; and throwing away the poniard, she added, 'There is the effect of your words.'

**A FAIR CALCULATION.**—A shrewd friend of ours, who is accustomed to look at things in a business point of view, thinks that the outcry so often made about expensive preaching, is without foundation. He argues thus—"I have," says he, "a family of six persons, who attend church. I pay \$24 a year for pew rent. I hear two sermons on the Sabbath, and one during the week—making 150 'lectures' during the year. I obtain, therefore, for myself and family, 900 lectures for \$24, or in other words, I pay about 2½ cents a lecture. People give from 25 to 50 cts. for a lecture on Astronomy, and almost every other subject you can name except the gospel; surely for a 'gospel lecture,' I ought, to be willing to give at least two cents and a half." The thought thus expressed is certainly just, and might, with great advantage, be carried out still farther.

**THE STORMY PETREL.**—A Lubec correspondent of the Boston Journal furnishes a sketch of the Stormy Petrel, as found in the Bay of Fundy. The Petrel is found in great abundance in the bay of Fundy, and in fair weather they are seldom seen in very close proximity to the land; but when the weather is thick and hazy, and also in the night, they come on shore. They dig holes in the banks, like the king-fisher and bank-swallow, where they lay their eggs and rear their young. They are never seen flying in the vicinity of their nests, like other birds; hence our correspondent comes to the conclusion that they seek their nests under the cover of night. When a mackerel fisher is engaged dressing fish, these birds will feed all night around the vessel, upon the offals thrown overboard. On one of the islands in the bay is a brook of fresh water, where the fishermen resort for a supply, and the birds are heard in great numbers in the vicinity at night. There are two varieties, which are denominated by the "down east" fishermen "Father Cary's" and "Mother Cary's Chickens."

**LORD FRANKLIN'S ESTIMATE OF THE SCRIPTURES.**—"For my own part, gentlemen, I have been ever deeply devoted to the truths of Christianity, and my firm belief in the Holy Gospel is by no means owing to the prejudices of education, (though I was religiously educated by the best of parents), but it arises from the most continued reflections of my riper years and understanding. It forms at this moment, the great consolation of a life which as a shadow, must pass away; and without it, indeed, I should consider my long course of health and prosperity, (perhaps too long and too uninterrupted to be good for any man,) only as the dust which the winds scatters, rather as a snare than as a blessing."—*Trial of Williams for publishing Paine's Age of Reason.*

### Correspondence.

#### SONGS OF THE CHURCH.

No. 26.

#### EASTER WEEK.

ACTS XVII. 31

EXALTED Lord, we wait the hour  
With mingled thoughts of love and dread,  
When Thou shalt come in pomp and pow'r  
To judge the living and the dead.

When all, to earth's remotest bounds  
The trumpet and the voice shall hear;  
And all responsive to the sound,  
Before the throne of Christ appear.

When thoughts of sin and deeds of night,  
Although from mortal eye conceal'd,  
Shall, by Omniscience brought to light,  
To men and angels be reveal'd.

Thou Lord, on that decisive day  
Shalt answer for us at thy throne;  
The burning wrath shall turn away,  
And for our guilty souls atone.

O Jesus, Lord of life and light,  
Cleanse us from sin and make us meet  
To mingle with the saints in light,  
And stand before Thy judgement seat.

W. B.