

What was needful for Him, cannot be superfluous for us, that He fasted is reason enough why we should fast. For while we were yet sinners *Christ died for us*, and He who endured such contradiction of sinners for our sakes, has left us an example, that we should walk in his steps.

THE SPIRIT IN THE WHEELS.

Parish machinery abounds. Parish activity is the idol of the hour. The Parish-house, in the city, costs more than the Parish Church in the country. If there was a time of religious inactivity, we may come to know a period of *active un-religiousness*. To do rather than to be becomes the heart's desire.

The time has come for a word of warning, much needed in this practical age. The wheels of the chariot of God must indeed be round, and strong, but there must be the "spirit of the living creature," the spirit of holy life "in the wheels." Not the cup of cold water given anyhow, but—given "*in the name of a disciple*," and for the sake of the Master, has the promise of the reward. The act is precious, not in itself, but because of the motive, the inner spirit. Benevolence, which is unbaptized, separated from piety, is not an offering to the Son of God. It has no promise of His blessing. It is not a Christian virtue distinctively. It was known to the heathen, and it could win their praise. Gratified energies, in many schemes of "Church work," may delude, rather than develop souls. Fuss and bustle may blow their own little trumpets, when it were wiser and more blessed to learn the *miserere*, and in great lowliness of contrition, to seek the way of pardon and peace. The life, ennobles the work, even more than the work can glorify the life. "The spirit in the wheels" alone can make them revolve for God.

There are hopeful signs, indeed, of spiritual life, side by side with this rapid growth of work within the Church. And yet they are not many, nor are they very encouraging.

In a few parishes, there is a Daily Celebration not largely valued, and so, not earnestly maintained. The Daily offices of Morning and Evening Prayer are said in a very few of our churches throughout the year. Even the Litany days are much neglected. The study of God's word in private, or in connection with Bible Classes is, by no means, general. Definite and continuous instruction in holy things, are not welcomed. Perhaps children's souls, after all, are not especially guided, and blessed by the Sunday schools. The tone of social life, among Church-folk, is hardly more strict, or less worthy, than in days gone by. If devotional books are much more common, a very questionable literature is also in many hands. If fasting is more rigid, as one would fain believe, it is not quite so certain that private prayer, in the largeness of the holy claim, is more devoutly offered. If zeal may gather sewing circles, and Mothers' meetings, and Altar societies, is there any corresponding growth of "godly quietness," of meekness, and patience, and humility, and guarded speech, and gentle courtesy? It must be feared that the busy, buzzing wheels are not always moved by the spirit of holiness, and that they do not surely run in the way which God approves.

That phrase "*laborare est orare*," has done just mischief enough. It was possibly only a perversion of the great *ora et labora*, a plausible half-truth. The very hardest work, with the most real issues, is wrought by God, by men upon their knees. All church work is not worshipful. It is not the equivalent of the soul's loving adoration, nor its rightful substitute. The wheels of energy may be an evil spirit of self-pleasing, or of restless caprice; and the labor may not be prayerful; and the result may not be blessed.

"What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?" so asked the people of Christ.

"This is the work of God, that ye believe on Him Whom He hath sent" so the master made reply. The spirit of life, which first moved the triumph-car of Christianity was the spirit of devotion to Jesus Christ. Faith in Him, learned in stillness, and cherished in prayer, and revealed in sacrifice, and proven in perils and toils, and confessed in martyrdom,—this mighty spirit drove on the wheels, and the great work of God was wrought.

In all our parish-life, the most strenuous effort must be made, not so much to *multiply* activities, to devise each autumn, another guild, or another chapter of a guild, as to *quicken and deepen* the true spirit of *love and loyalty to Christ our Lord*. The work will be abundant, when the love has gone before. The wheels of parish-life, as of all life, will glide on in God's sure road, where He, Who is the Life, sends His Spirit into waiting and trustful souls.—*St. Barnabas Chronicle*.—DR. P. WILLIAMS.

The Rev. (or Mr.) D. S. Sutherland is Not authorized to act for this paper.

NEW BOOKS.

KING'S HANDBOOK of Notable Episcopal Churches.—By Rev. George W. Shinn, D.D. Boston, Mass.: The Moses King Corporation.

This beautiful and attractive volume of 286 pages, adorned with 100 illustrations, contains descriptions of four classes of Episcopal Churches in the United States, viz.: (1) Old Colonial Buildings erected before the American Revolution; (2) Buildings representing the period of recuperation and growth in the early part of this century; (3) Parish Churches in cities and towns, designed to meet the new conditions of American life; (4) the Cathedrals, illustrating the effect being made to adopt the "Cathedral system" of the Mother country. It forms one of the "King Handbook" series; and it marks the progress made in Church architecture, and also evidences the wonderful growth of the Historic Church. It will too be found of service to those who may wish to erect churches, supplying cuts of some of the most admirable church buildings in the United States. Dr. Shinn certainly merits warm thanks for undertaking and so successfully carrying to completion a work which will be of permanent interest and benefit, affording as it does a very full history of the several churches and parishes referred to. And the Moses King Corporation has done its part in a manner not to be excelled.

THE CHIEF THINGS IN CHURCH DOCTRINE FOR THE PEOPLE.—By Rev. A. W. Snyder; T. Whittaker, New York; cloth, 207 pp., \$1.

Mr. Snyder in the lectures contained in this volume deals in a plain and forcible manner with some of the chief matters of Christian doctrine and duty. And as to each lecture suitable texts are attached, the book will be found well suited for Lay Readers, and also "readings" by the Clergy at week day services. "No uncertain sound" is given in these lectures in regard to, amongst others, such subjects as Baptism, Confirmation, Communion, Set Form of Prayers, Sectarianism, The Apostle's Doctrine and Fellowship; and in answer to such questions as "Does God care" as to Church organization; "Is it true that Christianity has lost its hold on men," &c. This book might well accompany Little's Reasons, Spalding's Apostolical Succession, &c.; and no better work can be done for The Church than to secure for it wide circulation.

A LENT IN EARNEST.—By Lucy Ellen Guernsey; Thos. Whittaker, New York; cloth, \$1.

Opportunity for further examination of this Lenten Help has increased much our apprecia-

tion of it; and we wish that it could be in the hands of and used by thousands of our readers. They would enjoy it, as we do. It is not yet too late to send for it.

AN EXPOSITION OF THE PSALM, *Miserere Mei Deus*.—By Fra Girolamo Savonarola—translated from the Latin by Rev. F. C. Cowper, B.D.—Milwaukee, Wis., The Young Churchman Co.

These meditations on the 51st Psalm were written by Savonarola during the imprisonment which preceded his martyrdom in 1498; and well display his earnest devotion, humility and submissiveness, even under severe trials. It will be received by many as a real help towards an Holy Lent; expressing as it does the deeper yearnings of a devoutly religious soul.

MAGAZINES.

RECEIVED FOR MARCH.

The Church Eclectic.—W. T. Gibson, Utica, E. & J. B. Young, and James Pott & Co., New York; \$3 per annum.

The Treasury for Pastor and People.—E. B. Treat, 771 Broadway, N. Y.; \$2.50; clergy \$2.

The Homiletic Review.—Funk & Wagnalls, New York; \$3 per annum; clergy \$2.50.

The Century.—The Century Co., N. Y.; \$4 per annum; 35c each number.

The Atlantic Monthly.—Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston; \$4 per annum; single 35c.

The English Illustrated Magazine.—Macmillan & Co.; 112 4th Avenue, N. Y.; \$1.75 per annum.

Our Little Ones and The Nursery.—The Russell Publishing Co., 36 Bromfield st., Boston; \$1.50 per annum.

Our Little Men and Women.—D. Lothrop & Co., Boston; \$1.00 per annum.

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SERMON IN MEMORIAM.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian:

SIR,—The enclosed extract from a private letter just received from the Rev. Dr. Hill, Rector of Montpelier, Vt., which I am sure he will pardon me for printing, will give pleasure to many of your readers, and is a just tribute to men who did what they could gladly from a simple sense of duty without any thought of praise or reward. The help we have had in return from distinguished Bishops and Clergy in the American Church has, I am bound to say, much more than repaid any assistance we have been able to offer our brethren in their hours of need.

H. R.

Bishop's College, Lennoxville, March 7, 1889.

MONTPELIER, Vt., March 5th, 1889.

Dear Sir,—The sermon on Dr. Lobleby has been received. While we never came in personal contact, I was often running across his footsteps and knew his devoted and sincere spirit. I may say that Swanton, Richford, Newport and Island Pond have had such aid and cheer from the Canadian Clergy that our Diocesan Convention last year offered Dr. Adams the highest compliment ever paid by this Diocese to our brethren across the border: the Convention sermon on 20th anniversary of our Bishop's consecration. Davidson, Stevens, Foster and others have been great helpers. The Lay readers from Bishop's College have also aided largely. Your alumni and students deserve our highest regards. I know this from my official position in Vermont, I am also glad to have known that royal man, Dr. Reid, and love his memory. Altogether, the name of the Univ. of Bishop's College is one which deserves reverent and affectionate esteem from us.

Very truly yours,

HARVARD T. HILL,