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TEXTS TO BE LEARNED.—Zech. ii. 5; 1 Thess. v. 23.

THE COLLECT FOR THE DAY.

O Lord, we beseech thee, let thy continual pity cleanse and defend thy Church; and, because it cannot continue in safety without thy succour, preserve it evermore by thy help and goodness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I.—GOD KEEPS HIS CHURCH PURE.

For what did we ask last Sunday? For God's perpetual mercy. What is this Collect a prayer for? Continual pity. Are these two things the same? Yes, because God feels "pity" towards us, therefore He shows "mercy." What is this day's Gospel about? Of what is it therefore our example? The compassion of Jesus. What do we ask God to do for us? To cleanse and defend His Church. Why does the Church need continual cleansing? Because its members daily commit sin. From what else must it be cleansed? From all who hold false doctrine and traitors like Judas.

II.—GOD KEEPS HIS CHURCH SAFE.

What only keeps the Church safe? God's continual succour. What do you mean by succour? "Help." How does God preserve His Church? From harm without, and from harm within. What is the secret of the Church's safety? Keeping pure and holy. How does God protect it from without? From all its enemies. And from what else? From all things harmful and in temptation. How is His defence spoken of? As a wall of fire. (1st text) What will the Church be quite safe? When Christ comes again. What will then mark its purity? It will be a glorious Church, without spot or blemish. Shall we be members of *that* Church? Yes, if we continue in Christ's holy fellowship.

THE CATECHISM.

Repeat the Seventh Commandment. (Learn answer in Catechism.)

AN EXAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN INFLUENCE.

Read Acts xxvii. 1-33.

Learn Isaiah xxvi. 3.

To-day we are to follow St. Paul on a dangerous voyage.

In whose custody was he placed? Where is he going and why?

Who is with him? St. Luke

How did the Roman officer treat him?

Describe their journey to Myra?

With what was the ship they took here laden? Corn.

How did the vessel proceed? Ver. 7.

Against what had they to contend? Contrary winds.

What fast is spoken of in verse 1? The great day of atonement. Levit. xxiii. 27.

What time is it held? About the beginning of October.

What did St. Paul now advise and why? Ver. 9 and 10.

Why did the sailors push on? They wanted a better place to winter in. Ver. 12.

As they passed Crete what occurred? A north-east wind beat down upon them.

Describe what followed? Ver. 17-29.

For how long were they tossed about? Fourteen days.

Who would naturally have the most influence on board? The captain, pilot and Roman centurion.

But who evidently had the most? The prisoner, St. Paul.

What comfort did he give the passengers? Ver. 22.

What plot of the sailors did he detect? Ver. 30.

Of what did he again inform them? Ver. 31.

How did he encourage all on board? Ver. 33, 34.

What shows his reverence? Ver. 35.

Why had he so much influence? Because he was a true servant of God.

What two things does this so enforce? Yield to Christian influence; therefore heed good advice. Exercise Christian influence; therefore follow the right.