

THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN LENT.

THIS is also called Palm Sunday from the palm branches borne by the people who formed the procession on the occasion of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem. It is the first day of the Holy week, which is so named from the sacred and important events commemorated. From these events we see not only the lowliness and compassion of the Saviour: we behold the splendor and the glory of the Saviour's triumphs. These triumphs were shadowed forth by His triumphant entry into Jerusalem, by the authority he assumed there, and by the grandeur of the discourses he uttered, which are recorded by St. Matthew, beginning at the 21st chapter, by St. Luke, beginning at the 19th chapter, and by St. John, beginning at the 12th chapter. He was now on His way to the most dreadful suffering that human nature could endure. But those sufferings were to exalt His human nature to the dignity of a seat on the Throne of the Universe, and to introduce Him to a multitude of Spiritual subjects, as numberless as the drops of dew. On His way to anguish and to death, the branches of palm borne by the assembled multitudes, and the Hosannahs of the populace faintly shadowed forth His future glory and His reign over His people. He was on His way to the Cross, which was the lowest step of humiliation to which He could possibly descend. He suffered there, in order that on His head He might wear many crowns. It was from this lowest depth of humiliation that he ascended up far above all principality and power, that His human nature was elevated to the right hand of God, and that there might be exhibited in His wonderful Person, the greatest possible contrast of the original dignity which He laid aside, with the scene of shame and suffering he endured, and then with the majesty and glory with which He invested the nature in which he suffered. He first descended from the Throne to the Cross, and then in order that He might take up our nature with Him and make us partakers of His glory, He carried that nature from the Cross to the Throne, ascended into Heaven, and from thence imparts the benefit of all these wondrous events by the outpouring of His Holy Spirit, and by saving innumerable multitudes of Christian people. This is in agreement with the purposes of Almighty God, Whom it became as the great Legislator of the Universe, "in bringing many sons into glory, to make the Captain of their salvation perfect through suffering."

HOW THE LAITY VALUE THE DOMINION CHURCHMAN.

WE give a few extracts from letters we have received from our Subscribers, who in forwarding their subscriptions have expressed their appreciation of the DOMINION CHURCHMAN. We give these as specimens of the opinions similarly expressed by the greater portion, we are happy to say, of our subscribers. Our object in giving these is to show how our paper is valued by its present readers, and to stimulate both clergy and laity to obtain for it the widest possible circulation in their various parishes— which would be of great benefit to both clergy and laity. As these communications are all unsolicited and private, we only give the name of the place from which they have come, and necessarily omit the name of the writer.

From Iroquois:— "Your paper, with its sound Church ring to it, is appreciated by young as well as old, and my daughter (at College) asked as a favour that it might be sent to her."

From Newark, U. S.:— "I esteem your paper most highly, and after reading it, always mail it on to friends in England, who also fully appreciate its healthy tone and sound Church doctrinal teaching."

From Marksville:— "If you saw the condition of my family you would say I should not take any paper at all; but I like the paper and do not want to be without it, for my family's use. We read it with great interest."

From Pembroke:— "I shall endeavour to do something towards increasing the number of your subscribers in this town. We need a paper like yours, catholic and outspoken."

From Owen Sound:— "I am well pleased with your paper, and will do all I can to get subscribers."

From Hillier:— "I am glad to see the page devoted to the Children so well filled up with what seems to me to be always interesting. I wish you every success."

From Walker's Point:— "I am more pleased with your paper than with any paper I have seen yet—and I have seen a great many in my time—and it could not be beaten anywhere."

From Armour:— "Many thanks for your admirable paper: though given to fault-finding, I find every thing praiseworthy and indeed most excellent. God bless you for the excellent work you are doing for Christ and His Church."

From Alexandria:— "I sincerely trust that you may prosper more and more in your endeavours to promote the interests of our dear old Church. I am isolated from my church by some twenty miles, but with my Bible, Prayer Book, and DOMINION CHURCHMAN, I can cheerfully bear my present position; and somewhat envying my fellow-Churchmen their weekly service, I hope on for a bright future with the above-mentioned helps."

From Ottawa:— "Wishing the DOMINION CHURCHMAN every success, for it is a splendid Church paper."

From Petrolia:— "I send you my subscription, just one dollar for that which gives me so much pleasure, for that sound Church paper which should be named 'Imperial' instead of 'Dominion.' Permit a fellow-Churchman to thank you for much good counsel, gleams of light, when oft one finds clouds and doubts; words of cheering hope, onward to help the weary feet of the pilgrim; wise counsel and loving advice, built on the true foundation of the true gospel. The clear ring of the clarion of Truth sounds in the Christian soldier's ear, and calls him to victory. God prosper you."

We could fill up several numbers of our paper with letters from the Laity similar to the above; but these are sufficient to show how much our labours are appreciated in all parts of the Dominion as well as elsewhere.

GOOD FRIDAY.

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD, WHICH TAKETH AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD, AND HATH BORNE OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BODY ON THE TREE.

Are there any who make "a mock of Sin?" Are there any who speak lightly of acting contrary to God's Holy Commandments? Are there any who make excuse for unbelief, the special sin, of which it is the office of the Holy Ghost to convince the world?

Sin—do you comprehend all its bitterness, all its malignity? Have you attempted to measure the awful gulf which Sin makes between man and God?

Would you know this? Would you convince yourself of the overwhelming ruin which, but for a Divine deliverance, must fall on the sinful? Then turn aside this day, and meditate on the Death of Jesus Christ upon the Cross.

The only Sinless Being who has walked this earth, who went about doing good, healing all, declaring the glad tidings of Redemption, kindling virtuous enthusiasm in the breasts of many, rebuking hypocrisy, and raising poverty into a position of dignity; One full of tenderness, patience, long suffering, and love of God:—

Behold Him, insulted, betrayed, mocked, spitted on, surrendered by cowardice to the malice of His

enemies, parched, weary, faint, bleeding, dying, yet with His last breath bestowing tender care on His mother, and His followers, praying God the Father to forgive His tormentors and murderers.

And why was all this? Why was it necessary that the Pure, Spotless, and Holy Jesus should be thus afflicted and destroyed?

Thy sins, O Sinner, caused all this.

Every pang that He endured, every sorrow that was heaped upon His devoted heart, was inflicted by sins of men—amongst them—*thy Sins and mine.*

If, when we sinned, reared the Cross. We, when we sinned, drove the nails that tore His sacred hands and feet. The scourges which marked Him with their cruel thongs, were prepared, were wielded by us.

And far beyond all bodily sufferings, were those terrible apprehensions, that deep anguish, which the Saviour of men felt in His soul, when He experienced the agony of the withdrawal of God's favour and countenance.

These were all *for you and for me, and on account of your sins and mine*: sins at which men laugh and mock: sins, of which we speak lightly, even when we condemn them: sins which God's Word condemns, but which men excuse, and count as manly and independent exercises of their reasoning powers;—these sins of men were the cause of the bitter suffering and cruel death of Him who came down from heaven to be the Sin-bearer and to save men from the consequences of sins, and from their dominion over them.

Shall the day on which we commemorate the greatest sacrifice which the world has ever known, or can know, pass by unheeded? Or shall it be observed only with one or two hours of formal attendance at Divine Service?

The sin which separates you from the Pure and Holy One, was the cause of this mighty act of reconciliation. You have been redeemed and called by Jesus Christ. You have been delivered by Him from utter misery. He came to bring you health, pardon, life eternal. Will you not to-day listen to His entreaties, and try to learn the import, the saving efficacy of Christ's death?

Sin, if you do not find it out, and become aware of its malignity, will poison your nature, and sink you down to everlasting sorrow.

If you know this, surely you must feel love for Him who died for you, and must wish to quicken, deepen, enlarge, and intensify that love.

If you know it not, O Sinner now in the grasp of death, and walking in the easy downward path, TURN, TURN, and contemplate the last agonizing struggle of Him who came to save you—who alone has the keys of hell and of death.

The Church keeps GOOD FRIDAY in memory of the most stupendous event in the history of the world. Shall the wondrous details of that mysterious Passion and Death be rehearsed in empty Churches? Shall those—for whom HE SUFFERED—be enjoying their worldly pleasures, forgetful of His woes and self-surrender?

Does it not shock all the best feelings of our nature, to think that benefits immense and incalculable, secured for us by the sufferings of the Son of God, should fail to secure a grateful recognition from men who, without them, were in darkness and in the shadow of death?

O Saviour of the world, who by Thy Cross and Precious Blood has redeemed us, Save us, we humbly beseech Thee. Fill the hearts of all Thy children this day with love to Thee, and eager desire to mourn with Thee. As Thou art this day lifted up from the earth before our eyes, so draw all men unto Thee, according to Thine own true word.

Copies of the above reprinted in Tract form for the Church Book and Tract Society, can be obtained from the Secretary, Box 2654, Toronto P. O. Price 25 cents per hundred, post paid.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—A large quantity of correspondence has had to be held over for next issue, from want of space.