

# Church Work.

We speak concerning Christ and the Church.

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A MONTHLY PAMPHLET OF FACTS, NOTES, AND INSTRUCTION.

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"The Communion of the Church of England, as it stands distinguished from all Papal and Puritan Innovations, and as it adheres to the doctrine of the cross."—*From the will of Bishop Ken, A. D. 1710.*

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## USEFULNESS.

It is the sad exception for a person to be so alone in the world that there are none to shed a tear of natural affection over his grave. But most of us would like to know that some of our fellow-beings were the happier, the better for our lives, and that something more than mere natural affection would be awakened when we pass away. It rests with ourselves whether this is to be so or not. We may imagine that our position in life, our relation to others, is such that we can possess *no* influence; we may occupy so lowly a place in society, or such an isolated one, or the mere forms of society may have such claims upon us, that we suppose ourselves incapacitated from any work for our fellow-men; but there is really no position in life which limits a person's thoughts and feelings to himself. For, however isolated our lives, we can *pray* for others; however lowly our position we have *duties* to fulfil, and by their patient and faithful fulfilment we can assimilate ourselves to Him who was meek and lowly of heart,

and thus possess a living influence over others; and, as for the so-called "claims of society," unless we suffer ourselves to be bound hand and foot, and relinquish all thought of a *nobler* life, they certainly need occupy none to the exclusion of higher duties. A useless life is a pitiable thing. Even in the young it is a melancholy sight when pleasure is the great aim and end of life. True, youth is the season for enjoyment, and innocent enjoyment is wholesome and God-given, but a youth devoted to personal gratification, leads to a hard, cold, narrow man or womanhood. We know nothing of true life, until we learn to leave *ourselves* out of the question. to think for others, to live for others. God has given each of us a work, ready to our hands; while there are sin, sorrow, suffering, poverty, ignorance in the world, there is *work* for us all. From the cup of cold water, given in His name, to the heroic self-sacrifice which tends the wretched sufferer prostrated by some loathsome and awful disease; from teaching the little ones, such as He held in His arms, to the self-devotion of the Missionary going