

S. Oswald's Parish Magazine.

APRIL, 1895.

The following poem, written originally by a young lady in Germany in her own language, and translated from her manuscript by the Rector in his younger days, may interest those who are looking forward to the commemoration of our Blessed Lord's Passion and Resurrection. It is published here at length for the first time, and with the further hope that those amongst us who have a talent for expressing their ideas poetically, may hereafter follow the example, and occasionally contribute something on kindred subjects to the Magazine. We have already been kindly offered one original sonnet from a parishioner, which shall appear in due course.

HOLY WEEK.

Thou hast my welcome, "still"* and sacred Week,
Week full of sadness, yet of holy charms,
Wherein doth Love, expiring, set us free
From Death's hard yoke and all his dire alarms.
Solemn, with holy mindfulness of death,
And yet so rich in gifts—thou com'st again
Laden, though sad, with thoughts of early Spring
Invading with its freshness all the plain.

The vernal sun behind his sombre veil
Still half conceals his face from all below,
That only glances of his sultry ray,
Secret, and dim, and dull, break through the glow.
Still *he* observes these solemn, holy hours,
As once high o'er the Cross on Golgotha,
Those who stood weeping o'er the Saviour's wounds
Beheld his dark'ning face obscure the day.

Unseen in sunny nooks, with fragrance sweet
The blushing violet now perfumes the air ;
Yet still awhile it folds its tiny head
Within its tender leaves with timid care.
The hedgerows deck themselves in brightest green,
— Yet ah ! my rose bush, leafless on its bed,
Must still awhile *its* barren twigs extend,
As for a thorn-wreath for the Saviour's head !

Already here and there the little birds
In liquid notes are carolling in the grove,
And all are singing in the old sweet way
Of Spring's delights and innocent joys of love.
But suddenly each songster's voice is mute ;
The luring calls are hushed on every side :
Good Friday's bell is heard ! Its solemn tones
Seem to tell them that once *their* Maker died !

Already we discern the lengthening days ;
The golden summertime will soon be nigh ;
But day and night yet in the balance hang,
And darkness still awhile with light must vie.
Yet softly now *one* quiet eventide
With holy twilight sinks into the gloom,
Inviting souls in sorrow and in love
To kneel at Jesus' Cross and Jesus' Tomb.

And whilst far up into the azure sky
The placid moon ascending now I see,
Methinks again the wide earth all around
Is one great Garden of Gethsemane !
And as the night-wind sweeps down from the hills,
I think I hear the vesper breeze that swept,
'Mid solemn rustling of those angel wings,
Around the cave where the Redeemer slept.

And yet,—within that dark sepulchral cave
Already motions of new life appear ;
And yet,—sweet music on the breath of Heaven,
As distant sound of many harps, I hear.
There now on high to joyous Easter Hymn
The angel band their golden harps accord,
And, waving high the palms of victory,
Hasten with joy to greet the risen Lord.

And this is why the child impatient waits
The gay attire that Easter needs must bring.
And this is why the garden, wood and mead
Await to don the varied charms of Spring.
—So thou, sad soul, from sorrow and despair
Lift up thy countenance all pale and worn,
And hope that out of Friday's grief and gloom
On thee will break a glorious Easter-morn.

*In Germany, the name for Holy Week is *Stillwoche*, the quiet week.

We hope that many will give up time and thoughts of self and worldly cares, and try to be present at *some* of the many services in Holy Week. "*Is it nothing to you, all ye that pass by?*" During that week, in addition to the daily Matins and special Epistles and Gospels, there will be daily Evensong at 7-0, with a meditation on some event of the Passion. Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday (the 11th) at 8 a.m. A special quiet hour or two of meditation on our Lord's Seven Last Words on the Cross, on Good Friday, commencing at 2 p.m. The "Story of the Cross" will be sung at Evensong during Holy Week.

On Easter Day there will be two celebrations of Holy Communion, viz., at 7-45 and at 11-30.

"*And note, that every parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter to be one.*" (Rubric at end of Communion office).

An open meeting of the Church of England Temperance Society was held at the School on the 27th ult., at which Mr. Plues, the Diocesan Agent, spoke. The night was wet and dark, and the meeting was not by any means a success. There were only about 30 persons present. Before and after Mr. Plues' address, songs were kindly sung by Miss Butt and Miss Graham.

On the Sunday previous, the offertories in Church were given to the Bishop of Carlisle's "Lenten Fund," to be distributed for the benefit of the following objects, viz.:—The Diocesan Temperance Society, The Diocesan Special Clergy Staff, The Diocesan Van (for distributing useful books), The Diocesan Waifs and Strays, and The Diocesan Church Mission to the Deaf and Dumb. That Sunday was wet and stormy, but the sum of £2 6s. 10d. was given, and has been forwarded to Carlisle.

The Rectory Scheme is slowly progressing. Subscriptions to date, £403 19s. Two grants of £200 each have been obtained from Queen Anne's Bounty, and on the 1st of May another grant is expected from the Diocesan Society. But even then there is at least £300 more required, if the whole scheme is to be carried out, so as to include a parish room. It would be an immense boon to the Rector, and to the parish, if funds were forthcoming to allow all to be done at the same time.

HYMNS FOR THE MONTH.

April 7.	(Palm S.)	Morn., 99, 102, 107 ;	Even., 98, 102, 17.
..	14.	(Easter Day)	Morn., 134, 136, 131, 127 ;
			Even., 134, 133, 135, 140.
..	21.	Morn., 33, 232, 132 ;	Even., 302, 126, 499.
..	28.	Morn., 34, 292, 197 ;	Even., 306, 126, 27.

Baptisms.

- March 9. (Privately). Mary Rigg, daughter of James and Agnes Ellen Davison.
 .. 24. Mary Jane, daughter of Edward and Ann Dixon.

Burials.

- March 5. Mary Agnes Nicholson, aged 25 years.
 .. 16. Mary Rigg Davison, aged 9 weeks.

RAINFALL IN GRASMERE.

Mr. Green's figures for March are 8.3 inches.