

but it left them where they were. So to-day those who take this view are not led on to great devotion to our Lord, and we may even ask whether such a view is tenable at all, and whether St. Augustine's terrible alternative is not true: "Nisi Deus, non bonus." Our Socialistic brethren had their prototypes in our Lord's days. The people of His own country asked, "Is not this the carpenter's Son?" The significant remarks follow: "They were offended in Him," "He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." So to-day the exploitation of our Lord's name in the interests of Socialism does not bring its advocates nearer to God. Other shades of belief about our Lord's Person are recorded in the Gospels, but only one calls for special mention here, though it is fair to say that Herod's belief that our Lord was St. John the Baptist risen from the dead caused terror to his guilty conscience. We come to the view taken by St. Peter and his fellow-disciples: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." That was the view which transformed the lives of the humble followers of the Saviour. That was the view which, when presented to the world, alone proved capable of regenerating men and of stimulating them to lives of devotion and self-denial.

Amidst the unsettlement produced by novel interpretations of theology perplexed minds may reassure themselves by a study of what transpired in our Lord's earthly lifetime. A review such as we have indicated may be sufficient to satisfy them. Tested by its fruits, the old theology is very far from breaking down. But let the votaries of it see that it is given full scope in their own lives. Its limitation by a life of carelessness or selfishness will tempt men to doubt its power. The victories of the past will not suffice. The world which is told to look to these alone will say that the system is effete and outworn. It is for us to show its living power. The mighty works which it has done elsewhere we must be able to show men in their own country and in their own time. If our view of Christ has no appreciable effect upon our own conduct we may fear lest our convictions may be more fancied than real, or lest this great subject does not occupy in our minds the position which its importance deserves. Surely our cry should be: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life."

INTERCESSIONS.

We ask our readers to pray—

1. For the bishops and clergy of the diocese that they may have an increase of spiritual power and a holy love for souls.

2. For all church workers that they may have courage to persevere and that many more workers, both men and women, may be qualified to meet the growing needs of the diocese.

3. For Divine blessing on the efforts now being made for an increase in our Bishopric Endowment Fund, that all who love Christ's name may give generously of their substance for the advancement of Thy Kingdom and Glory.

4. For success in all efforts to stay the evils of the opium trade that we may be delivered from the guilt of any part or share therein.

5. For parents and all engaged in religious teaching that they may have grace and wisdom to foster the Divine vocation among the young.

6. For the whole body of church that it may be inspired with a deeper spirit of evangelical zeal and purpose.

7. For our parishes that missionary interest may be quickened in them.

8. For blessing on our church paper that it may serve to awaken interest in all church work at home and abroad.

THE CHURCH AT HOME.

THE SIN OF SUICIDE.

The Bishop of St. Germain's, speaking recently in Cornwall, said that it was an undoubted fact that the numbers of suicides were increasing. A false charity separated self-murder from other murders, though in truth it was the most deadly of all, for it was based on the sin of despair. He was afraid that this was largely due to the verdict so often given at coroners' inquests. If that inquest was only held to find out whether the dead man died by his own act or that of another, let the jury say simply that he died by his own hand unless insanity were really proved, or if they shrank from the old verdict that the act was done by the instigation of the devil. As a matter of fact juries often gave their verdict out of a wish to spare the feelings of the dead man's family, and to conceal the shame of the act but if it spared the feelings of the few, it caused the tears of far more by placing suicide in so favorable a light that men committed it feeling sure that they would not be branded as wilful murderers. False

charity never succeeded. In the matter of burying such persons, the clergy were thus placed in a difficult position, and it was unusual for twelve men to throw upon a single man the responsibility of doing that which one in his own heart felt ought not to be done. They wanted to make it quite clear that self-murder was as truly a murder as that of another; that it was a deadly sin, a sin for which, by its very nature, repentance was impossible. But if the verdict was always to remain the same, what were they to do? If they set it aside, they must act on some definite inquiry of their own. There seemed to be no course open but to accept the coroner's verdict, but what they must aim at was having a verdict returned in full accordance with the facts of the case.

In reference to the above, statistics show that for every person who kills another there are seven who kill themselves. It is also of interest to know that suicide in the army, once so prevalent, was reduced very considerably when an order was made by which the bodies of such persons were delivered to the hospitals for anatomical demonstrations.

The Reverend W. Aylmer Stark, son of the Reverend Dr. Stark, of Bon-Accord Congregational Church, Aberdeen, has been received into the Scottish Episcopal Church, Mr Stark is an M.A. of Aberdeen University, and was trained at Mansfield College, Oxford, under Principal Fairbairn.

THE CONTRIBUTION OF CHILDREN.

One of the great porches of the new Liverpool Cathedral is to be provided by the children of the diocese, and is to be known as the "Children's Porch." The sum of £2000 is to be raised for this object, and it was reported to the Cathedral Committee that already £330 stand to the credit of this fund. Sunday, April 28, has been set apart as a special children's day, and on that occasion at all the children's services in the diocese references are to be made to the new Cathedral.

A RESCUE HOME FOR GIRLS.

Viscount Mountgarret has signified his intention of building a home on his estate at Nidd, near Harrogate, for girls rescued from Bradford, in connection with the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society. He has also vested the sum of £6400 in the Ripon Diocesan Trustees for the endowment of the home.

WANTED — For St. Luke's Oamaru, an Assistant Curate. Dry, bracing climate, good roads, pleasant work. — Apply Ven. ARCHDEACON GOULD, Oamaru.