

Parish and Home.

VOL. VIII.

JANUARY, 1897.

No. 74.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY.

PROPER LESSONS.

- 1—**Circumcision of our Lord.** *Morning*—Gen. 17, v. 9; Rom. 2, v. 17. *Evening*—Deut. 10, v. 12; Col. 2, v. 3 to 18.
- 3—**2nd Sunday after Christmas.** *Morning*—Isa. 42; Matt. 2. *Evening*—Isa. 43, or 44; Acts 2, to v. 22.
- 6—**Epiphany of our Lord.** *Morning*—Isa. 60; Luke 3, v. 15 to 23. *Evening*—Isa. 49, v. 13 to 24; John 2, to v. 12.
- 10—**1st Sunday after Epiphany.** *Morning*—Isa. 51; Matt. 6, to v. 19. *Evening*—Isa. 52, v. 13 and 53, or 54; Acts 6.
- 17—**2nd Sunday after Epiphany.** *Morning*—Isa. 55; Matt. 10, to v. 24. *Evening*—Isa. 57, or 61; Acts 10, to v. 24.
- 24—**3rd Sunday after Epiphany.** *Morning*—Isa. 62; Matt. 13, v. 53, to 14, v. 13. *Evening*—Isa. 65, or 66; Acts 15, to v. 30.
- 25—**Conversion of St. Paul.** *Morning*—Isa. 49, to v. 13; Gal. 1, v. 11. *Evening*—Jer. 1, to v. 11; Acts 26, to v. 21.
- 31—**4th Sunday after Epiphany.** *Morning*—Job 27; Matt. 17, v. 14. *Evening*—Job 28 or 29; Acts 18, v. 24 to 19, v. 21.

THE NEW YEAR'S PANOPLY.

Eph. vi. 11-17.

Once more, with sword in rest, we stand,
Our marching orders glad to hear;
And give salute with lifted hand,
Athwart the lintel of the year.

As loyal soldiers of the King,
Grasp we the shield of faith anew;
Faith that will prompt the heart to sing
Of Jesus, all the conflict through.

Were not our Captain on the field,
To open battle for the right,
Well might we lay down sword and shield,
Disheartened in the length'ning fight.

But Jesus gives the countersign,
And we our steady march begin,
Clad from the armory divine,
Assured that in the end we win.

Glad greetings for the new-born year,
Dear Friend, with this, its first of days,
And may its closing, bright and clear,
Yield trophies to Emmanuel's praise.

—M.K.A.S., in *Episcopal Recorder*.

"A HAPPY New Year to you."
How often this greeting will be expressed during the first few days of this month, and most heartily do we join in the chorus and wish it to

all readers of PARISH AND HOME. In order to make the year happy it is wise to look back over the past and see what errors we have fallen into, and what mistakes we have made in 1896, so as to avoid them; and also to search and see what constitutes true happiness. It is well to take a review once in a while, even as a merchant examines his goods and "takes stock"—and as we look backward, faithfully and manfully examining our lives in the light of God's Word and the fuller knowledge of another year, we see many mistakes, shortcomings, and sins; still, as a fault is never remedied by brooding over it, let us, as we resolutely seek God's grace to turn away from the mistakes and sins of the past, also resolutely determine for the future, in the same power, to walk more worthy of the high vocation wherewith we are called.

* * * * * C.H.H.

HAPPINESS is a relative term. The boy at school often thinks that happiness consists in playing successful games; the young woman thinks that having a devoted lover would bring happiness, while to the hardworking, weary, and tired labourer rest is the ideal of happiness. But above and beyond all these there is a happiness more enduring and lasting, a happiness that comes from the knowledge of sins forgiven and an earnest desire to do the will of a loving Father in bringing brightness and hope into the lives of others. If we seek in 1897 thus to live and walk it will indeed be a bright and happy new year to us, and to many others with whom we come in contact.

* * * * * C.H.H.

At this season of the year, by their annual appeal, which is read in all our churches on the Sunday before Epiphany, the Bishops bring before us the claims of foreign missions, the needs of the great multitudes of Gentile and heathen people

who are still lying in darkness, and know not of Him who came, "A light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of His people Israel," and who, before His departure, commissioned and enjoined His disciples and followers to carry His Gospel to all nations and peoples. Surely with somewhat of the love and self-sacrifice of these wise men from the East we will worship our glorious King, and loyally and lovingly present our treasures of gold and sweet and fragrant offerings for the carrying of His messages of love and glad tidings to those who as yet have heard them not.

* * * * * C.H.H.

THE reason that so many Christians find their private prayers ineffective is because they do not go into detail with God. What prayer means above everything is spreading out our plans, our hopes, our fears, before God and having them all sweetened and ennobled by the sunlight of His presence. To do this we must talk with Him, submit all our aims to Him, and learn from Him the calm and holy wisdom that He alone can teach us. Of one thing we may be sure—time must be given to prayer; we must plan for engaging in it as we plan for every other necessary activity, and when we do this we learn that as we talk to God, God talks to us and we grow strong in His wisdom and vigor.

* * * * * H.R. C.H.H.

ON January 6th we are reminded of the Epiphany, or manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles; how our thoughts go back to the long journey taken by the Magi or wise men of the East, as they came from far across desert and plain, o'er hill and valley, ever following the leading of the star, until they came to Jerusalem and asked for the new-born King of the Jews. What at first must have been their disappointment when they found that neither Herod nor the