

Canadian Churchman.

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SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.

Lessons for Sundays and holy Days

- December 5.—Second Sunday in Advent.
Morning—Isai. 5; 2 Pet. 2;
Evening—Isai. 11, 10 to 11; or 24; John 14.
- December 12.—3rd Sunday in Advent.
Morning—Isai. 25; 1 John 4, 7.
Evening—Isai. 26; or 28, 5 to 19; John 19, 10 to 25.
- December 19.—Fourth Sunday in Advent
Morning—Isai. 30, 10 to 27; Rev. 4.
Evening—Isai. 32; or 33, 2 to 23; Rev. 5.
- December 26th—First Sunday after Christmas.
Morning—Isai. 35 Gen. 4, 10 to 11 Acts 6
Evening—Isai. 38; or 40 2 Chron. 24, 15 to 23; Acts. 8 to 9.

Appropriate Hymns for Second and Third Sunday in Advent, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F. R. C. O., organist and director of the choir of St. James', Toronto. The numbers are taken from the new Hymn Book, many of which may be found in other hymnals.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- Holy Communion: 272, 273, 277, 587.
- Processional: 426, 482, 640, 658.
- Offertory: 78, 330, 486, 617.
- Children's Hymns: 668, 672, 675, 708.
- General: 10, 77, 412, 747.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

- Holy Communion: 280, 282, 618, 634.
- Processional: 68, 71, 74, 75.
- Offertory: 60, 607, 623, 638.
- Children's Hymns: 70, 630, 671, 682.
- General: 72, 631, 634, 636.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

With the deepening of our faith and devotion comes a keen consciousness of the horror of sin, and the dangers of temptation. Our spiritual power teaches us to wonder at the persistence of evil, the audacity and complacency of which necessitate a gospel of comfort. Now one of the greatest comforts in Christian experience is our knowledge of the certainty of our Lord's return. The Lord comes to vindicate His power, and to justify the patience and faith of the believer. This comfort is one of the most important elements in our Christian experience. Hence the yearly reminder of the Lord's return to judge the quick and the dead. On this Sunday the Church emphasizes the duty of Bible reading and

study. And the reason for this is referred to in Collect and Epistle. It is that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which God has given to us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. It therefore behoves us to say something about our relation to the Bible. The spread of Christianity always synchronizes with the extension of education. And usually, the first book given to us to read is the Holy Bible. How are we to read that Book? The popular critical attitude is that we must read it just as we would read any other book. But who ever saw or heard of the critic who did read the Bible in this way? Indeed we hear too much to-day about the critical study of the Bible. What is really needed in this age is a more devotional study of the Word of God. For the Bible is unique in this respect. It is the only book in the world that we can read upon our knees. Its whole character and aim are such that we ought not to read it in precisely the same manner that we read other books. The human element in it is so small that no one should be adjudged uncritical who says that the Bible is (not merely contains) the Word of God. To us living in a dark, sinful world, hope is the great comfort. And hope streams forth from every page of Holy Writ. Let us learn to meditate more and more upon the eternal Word. Let meditation be an important part of every act of worship, public or private. To meditate means to withdraw into one's room, to wait upon God. There should be at least this much of the mystic in us all. And the reasonableness of such meditation arises from the fact that the Bible is a living Word, possessing a definite message for all men in all ages, and under all circumstances. The practice of meditation is always the mark of the saint. A saint is one who has given himself to God. He has been taught to do so, and encouraged in the doing of it, by what he has read in the Good Book. May we learn this "Bible Sunday" to appreciate more thoroughly the devotional study of the most unique book in the world.

AN IDEAL CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

The beautiful illustrated Christmas number of the "Canadian Churchman," which will be published on the 16th of December, will be sent to any part of Canada, England or the United States for Twenty-five Cents. No better Christmas present could be sent to friends for the money. Send in your orders early.

Ourselves

We would be neglecting a pleasant duty that we owe to the multitude of friends and well wishers that the many years of labour of love in providing the Church in Canada with an honest, outspoken, and yet we trust fair, courteous, and tolerant journal were we to refrain from giving public expression to our sincere and heartfelt thanks for the constant kindness, generosity and brotherly appreciation which is ever flowing in to us. Not only do loyal Church men and women from each diocese of this broad Dominion, join in wishing us well by frequent letters, most welcome visits, and by lending a kind and helping hand in all the various ways in which the journalistic organ of the Church can be rendered most effective—but even from abroad come to us words of kindly cheer and brotherly greeting. It has been our aim to be as broad and comprehensive as the Church itself; sound in the maintenance of its principles, and firm in defence of the Truth. We have sought frankly, fairly, yet fearlessly, to be representative of the best traditions of the past, yet quick to appreciate true progress in the present, and the fruitful promise of the future. One thing we have always aimed at—to

treat our brethren, high or low, rich or poor, near or far, as we would like to be treated by them. Conscious, deeply conscious, of our own limitations and shortcomings, we have ever sought to pass lightly, aye tenderly, over any cause of offence offered to us by others. Thoroughly we believe in the old British maxim of carefully avoiding all cause of offence but if it occurs, have done with it as quickly as possible, and then shake hands with your opponent. Amongst the treasured proofs of appreciation and good will with which we are—we might almost say duly favoured, we may with modest pride refer to the following:—

From Nassau, Bahama Islands: "The Christmas number is all that can be desired, and I read it with much interest, and lent it to friends who were glad to read it."

From London, England: "I have to thank you for the Christmas number of the Canadian Churchman, a publication which we always find full of interest."

A subscriber in the United States writes: "I find the Canadian Churchman most interesting, as through it one can keep in touch with the Canadian Church while absent from Canada, as in my own case."

A clergyman in Alberta writes: "The Canadian Churchman is a great comfort to us in these remote regions. Although accustomed to English periodicals we like your paper very much for its general tone, true to the reformed Church of England and also for the true ring of sound doctrine."

A subscriber in the Diocese of Niagara writes: "I might say that I have taken the above paper for several years and am very pleased with its excellent Church news, etc., and shall be glad to advise all my friends to subscribe for it."

"Keeping Christmas"

And now big or little, old or young—everybody in fact, with a heart in the right place, is getting busy with preparations for "keeping Christmas." We are using the title of a graceful and scholarly essay by Dr. Goldwin Smith, written some 21 years ago. "Even those," says the great essayist, "who in this critical and sceptical age have ceased to be Christians in name may celebrate the festival of humanity. For they can hardly deny that it was with Christianity that the sense of a common humanity and of the brotherhood of man with all its duties and charities and with the civilization which is grounded on it, came into the world." It is fitting that as the day draws nigh on which the Church makes the round world vibrate with her anthem of universal praise and the heart of humanity beats responsive to the angels' song the tangible evidences of peace on earth, good will to men, should be foregathered. And so the streets fill up and the shops overflow. And Santa Claus is abroad early and late getting ready with right good will. Mysterious bundles are coming and going. Eager, happy faces may be seen on all hands. And doubtless myriads of hearts will be happier and homes will be brighter when another longed for Christmas Day cheers the world with its presence.

The Duty of the Clergy

An unusually able and searching sermon was recently preached by the Bishop of Liverpool in the Cathedral at Belfast, before the Synod of the Diocese. In it, His Lordship averred that the duty of the clergy "was not primarily to preach morality, or to teach morality, although that formed part of their preaching and teaching; nor were they sent primarily to teach a perfect system of dogma; first and foremost they were sent as witnesses for Christ, of His person, His character, and of His life. Before they could witness for Him they must know Him, they must testify that which they had seen and be able to speak of a Saviour with Whom they had personal

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