

Parish and Home.

A monthly church magazine, published for the promoters by THE J. E. BRYANT COMPANY (LIMITED), Toronto.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE:

50 Cents per Annum, in Advance.

10 copies to one address, for one year.	\$3.50
20 " " " " "	6.00
40 " " " " "	11.00
50 " " " " "	13.50
100 " " " " "	25.00

PARISH AND HOME is a church paper, consisting of short articles fitted to stimulate Christian life, and designed especially for parish circulation. It can be localized as a parish magazine with little expense and trouble. Full particulars regarding localization, etc., may be had from the publishers on application. Address all business communications to

THE J. E. BRYANT COMPANY (LIMITED),
55 Bay St., Toronto, Canada. PUBLISHERS.

WE receive many kind words regarding PARISH AND HOME, and have every assurance that this quiet little messenger has been doing a good work in many homes. The name PARISH AND HOME is intended to express its aim to be a helper both in the united work of the parish and in the individual homes. Our pages will be kept free from controversial matter, and our one aim is to stimulate the Christian faith of the members of our own dear church. We should be glad, indeed, if our influence should extend beyond her borders; but our first care is for the sheep of the Church of England. We are glad to say that our circulation continues to grow steadily, and that the prospect for the future is bright and encouraging.

THE church's new year has come again. The season of Advent, with all its inspiring hopefulness, is again with us, to lead up at last to its culmination in the joy of Christmas day. It seems not long since the last Advent and Christmas, but another year has flown, with its joys and its sorrows, its successes and its failures. The epistle for the first Sunday reminds us that "Now it is high time to awake out of sleep . . . the night is far spent, the day is at hand." We are either becoming more wide awake in the Christian life, or we are growing drowsier. We are certainly changing. Only the dead change not. We should like to think that this Advent finds a fresher, fuller Christian life in many of our readers; that they are no longer in the drowsy darkness, but in the joyous, health-giving sunlight. "The armor of light"—it is this that we ask God to put upon us in Advent. Clouds and darkness will

at times be all about us, but the armor of light will keep the chill darkness from piercing the heart with its gloom.

WE sometimes hear fears expressed that Christmas is less observed than formerly. We doubt if this is true. Christmas remains the children's festival, the date up to which events lead and from which the new beginning dates. The old toy has seen its best days, and is almost useless. "Never mind," says mother, "Santa Claus will bring another at Christmas." Months before the festival comes the little savings are being made to buy Christmas presents. Busy little hands are working upon the gifts that bring the sweetest pleasures because they are the work of love. Even the hard business world makes its respectful bow to Christmas. Many employers give presents to their servants at Christmas, and thus share their prosperity with them without having made any bargain to do so. The domestic servants in the household are not forgotten. The postman, the boy who brings our newspaper on the cold winter mornings, the butcher's boy, the baker's boy, all claim Christmas as a privileged season. These will not let Christmas die out if they can help it. It is the season of giving, and the wiser heads will value and use it as such. "Freely ye have received, freely give." Give discreetly, give systematically, give lovingly, as God gives. And let all our giving be the mark of our own deep joy of heart that peace and good will have come to us through the birth of Jesus Christ.

LET us not be afraid to say often simply that we do not understand all of God's dealings and teachings. The bumptious and conceited will accept nothing that they cannot understand. The wise have learned a better lesson. The greater their wisdom, the keener their appreciation of the littleness of human knowledge. Our best knowledge is a consciousness of our own ignorance. God's plans are very large and our ideas are very small, and the lesser cannot contain the greater. We may know enough to lead us to simple trust in His higher wisdom. Our past experience, if it has done its true work, will have taught us this. The blow that seemed so stern and hard when it came some years ago, we can now see to have been the thing that we needed most, just because we did not then know that we needed it. And to-day what we cannot

understand we shall, as we ripen, see to have been sent to us by a wisdom higher than our own; and so as our knowledge grows, our trust should grow. Tenderly, yet firmly, God is leading us. He is too loving not to be stern sometimes. Let us be still, and wait and watch. A fruit more perfect than we could plan is ripening under His tender care.

BISHOP WILBERFORCE once said to a company of young clergymen, "Your sermons will be worth just what they cost." He meant that the teaching must express the result of toil, effort, even suffering, and that our most precious lessons are to be learned in our very conflicts and difficulties. Lessing puts this in a striking way: "Not the truth of which any one is or supposes himself to be possessed, but the upright endeavor he has made to arrive at truth makes the worth of the man. For not by the possession, but by the investigation of the truth are his powers expanded, and therein alone consists his ever-growing perfection. If God held all truth shut in His right hand, and in His left hand nothing but the ever-restless instinct for truth, though with the condition of forever and ever erring, and should say to me, 'Choose,' I should humbly bow to his left hand and say, 'Father, give. Pure truth is for Thee alone.'"

CHRIST is something more than an inspiring memory. If we believe that

"Far hence he lies

In the lone Syrian town,

And on his grave, with shining eyes,

The Syrian stars look down,"

we hold that He, like other men, has lived and died, leaving only a sweet reminiscence of a holy life. But for the Christian, Jesus is the power of God for lifting up mankind. Struck with His works, the Jews said, with amazement, "This is in truth the Saviour of the world." He humbles, He rebukes, He chastens, but, above all, He saves. He brings us low to lift us up. He shows us our weakness that we may trust in His strength, and see that He is not dead, but risen. The Syrian land never held His decaying bones. For a night or two the stars looked upon His grave, and then He rose to continue His work of saving mankind. Only when we trust Him as our power over sin have we learned what He really is.

GOD is ready to show every child of His the path of duty; but God does not show the path of duty to every child of His in the same way. Sometimes it is by means of