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LESSONS for SUNDAYS and HOLY-DAYS.

May 7. FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER:

Morning... Deut. 4 to v 23 St. Luke 23, v. 50, to 24, v. 13.
Evening... Deut. 4, v 23, to 41, or 5. 1 Thess. 4.

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1882.

THE Irish Church holds a capital fund of \$87,500,000.

The death of Mrs. Rowley Hill, wife of the Bishop of Sodor and Man, took place on the 6th ult.

The Archbishop of Canterbury who has been staying at Terre Blanche, Pegomas, was expected at Lambeth Palace about the 20th ult.

Haydn's Passion Music was sung in the nave of Ripon cathedral during Holy Week, and short meditations were given by Dean Fremantle upon the seven words from the Cross.

On Good Friday the Bishop of Rochester conducted the Three Hours' service at Holy Trinity, Clapham Common, the first English bishop that has thus given, in late years, his formal approval of the observance.

On the 6th ult., after four weeks illness, the death took place of the most Rev. Frederic Barker, Bishop of Sydney and Metropolitan of Australia, from heat paralysis—the first attack of which occurred more than a year ago. He was consecrated Bishop of Sidney in 1854.

On the afternoon of Easter Day a flower service was held in the parish church of Bow. The congregation were asked to bring with them flowers, which were collected at the close of the service and sent to the children's Hospital, Shadwell. The Rev. W. P. Insley, rector, preached on St. Matt. vi. 28, "Consider the lilies."

The singing of Bach's Passion Music as an act of devotion on the Tuesday in every recurring Holy Week is now a firmly established fact at St. Paul's cathedral, and churchmen appear to appreciate it more and more every year. The service is purely religious and not a mere concert room performance. On the last occasion there were about 10,000 persons present.

In Jersey, St. Clement's church is one of the oldest of the twelve parish churches, the date of its consecration being A.D. 1117. After having been closed for more than two years it was re-opened on Wednesday, March 29. The services were choral Matins at mid-day, with proper lessons and psalms, the anthem "Sing a song of Praise," from

Ecclesiasticus. The Rev. Mr. Browne, son of the Bishop of the diocese preached on 1 Cor. iii. 18. Almost all the clergy of the island were present.

A project discussed and abandoned some years ago, for the establishment of a Bishopric of Heligoland, has been revived, and hopes are entertained of its success.

On Easter Day, at Llanelly, Caermarthenshire, 580 communicated—250 at the parish church (Welsh), and 330 at All Saints' (English), being about three-fourths of the number on the roll.

The United States' admirers of the late Dean Stanley have sent to England a contribution of £1064, for one of the windows of the Chapter-House. Independently of this sum the total amount contributed amounts to about £4,000.

On Easter Day, most of the London churches were decorated with flowers and evergreens. Last year at St. John's, Kennington, there were 976 communicants, but this year there were 1,054. There were celebrations at 4-30, 5-30, 6-30, and 8 a.m., as well as at midday. At St. Paul's cathedral the recipients were 385.

At the week-day services in St. Marylebone Workhouse in Holy Week an address on the events of each day was given by the chaplain. On Good Friday there were four services, which were well attended by the inmates, in three of which addresses were given on the seven words from the Cross. On Easter Day, at the 8-30 a.m. celebration, there were seventy-eight communicants.

The devout observance of Holy Week and Easter appears to be increasing especially in the south of England. It is however remarked that while the morning papers in London had long accounts of Church services on Good Friday, and gave them precedence of the holiday reports, the journals of "the evangelical town" of Liverpool devote great space to the holiday aspect of the day, and hardly noticed it as a religious anniversary at all.

Full particulars have been published of the discoveries recently made by Captain Conder on the east of the Jordan. They are of great biblical interest. He has found (among the numerous stone circles, dolmens, and menhirs, already known to exist in Moab) four undoubted great centres, round which the monuments are disposed. These are Mushibiyeh, at El Mareighet, and at Minzeh, south of Hesoon, and in the Ghor, near Kefrein. The first Captain Conder identifies with Bamoth Baal, the second with Baal Peor, the third with "the top of Baal Peor which looketh towards Jeshimon," and the fourth with "the sanctuary of Baal Peor," in the Jordan valley where the Israelites worshipped while in Shittim. The monuments which still stand as they stood in the days of Balak, illustrate the religion of the people whom the Israelites were to overcome; and with this knowledge one may stand where Balaam stood when he saw only a part of the Israelitish encampments; upon Bamoth Baal where he also saw only a part; and upon Baal Peor where he could see them all—"Israel abiding in his tents, according to their

tribes." His discoveries furnish the most striking result of scientific research. He has also obtained a cast of the now famous Phœnician inscription supposed to belong to the age of Hezekiah.

The "Closure" resolution enabling a bare majority of the House of Commons to stop any debate there, was carried by a majority of thirty-nine for the Government, which was ten more than had been expected.

Canon Knox-Little's addresses at the midday services at St. Paul's were eminently successful. The cathedral was filled from one to two o'clock every afternoon with a crowded congregation. Not even on Sunday afternoon, when every nook and corner of the vast auditorium of the great cathedral was occupied, were there more persons present than on each of the six preceding days when "Knox-Little" occupied the pulpit of St. Paul's. The fame of his eloquence and the fervor of his preaching have shown him to be almost the only preacher who has power to make the weekday congregation equal to that of Sunday. After a brief invocation, the preacher began his address at once, and when it closed a large proportion of the audience would return to counting-house or warehouse, when the others would remain to join in the Psalms and Prayers. Canon Knox-Little brought his series of addresses to a close on the 31st, when he discoursed from 1 Cor. iv. 18, "We look not at the things which are seen, &c."

Canon Knox-Little has written to a Manchester correspondent of the *Christian World* denying the accuracy of a statement in that paper, that he had said, in one of his sermons, that "confession to God alone was dangerous." These words, the Canon declares were never uttered by him. He says they do not at all express his opinions on the matter; and those opinions he has for years honestly stated when called upon to do so. He states:—"I hold exactly the *permissive* view of the Church of England, as expressed in the Communion service, and in the service for the Visitation of the Sick. Confession direct to Almighty God I hold not merely advantageous, but indispensable; and the benefit of any further acknowledgment of sin to God, in the presence of His minister, depends, as the Church of England teaches, on the particular state of an evil. It is most helpful to some; personally, I feel it so to myself. The matter of real importance is, of course, sincere repentance, and a humble and faithful coming to our Blessed Saviour."

The state of Ireland grows worse and worse. The week ending April 6th reports two murders of atrocious wickedness. One of the victims is Mr. Arthur Herbert, of Castleisland, and in this case the outrage was of a singularly coldblooded and atrocious character. It was however comparatively innocent when compared with that which followed it. On Sunday afternoon April 2nd as Mr. and Mrs. Barlow Smythe, of Barbaville House, near Mullingar, were driving home from Collinstown church, with Mrs. Henry Smythe, of Dublin, and Lady Harriet Monck, three men with blackened faces and armed with double barreled guns, stepped out of a plantation and fired a volley into the car-