

Canadian Churchman.

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LESSONS FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS.

February 4—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany.

Morning—Proverbs 1; Matthew 19, 27-20, 17.
Evening—Proverbs 3 or 8; Acts 21, 17.

February 11—Septuagesima.

Morning—Genesis 1 & 2, to 4; Rev. 21, to 9
Evening—Genesis 2, 4; or Job 38; Rev. 21, 9-22, 6.

February 18—Sexagesima.

Morning—Genesis 3; Matthew 26, 57.
Evening—Genesis 6 or 8; Romans 5, 17.

February 25—Quinquagesima.

Morning—Genesis 9, to 20; Mark 2 to 23.
Evening—Genesis 12 or 13; Romans 8, 18.

Appropriate Hymns for Fifth and Sixth Sundays after Epiphany, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., organist and director of the choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto. The numbers are taken from Hymns Ancient and Modern, many of which may be found in other hymnals.

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

Holy Communion: 310, 311, 320, 629.
Processional: 79, 224, 435, 488.
Offertory: 81, 536, 540, 631.
Children's Hymns: 76, 332, 335, 336.
General Hymns: 222, 297, 532, 546.

SEPTUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

Holy Communion: 172, 313, 528, 555.
Processional: 83, 446, 447, 489.
Offertory: 333, 566, 568, 574.
Children's Hymns: 210, 221, 222, 533.
General Hymns: 162, 168, 262, 470.

Power.

How suggestive is the word power. To the informed mind it has a meaning almost infinitely varied. It is seen in the flight of a tiny insect, and felt in the throb of a mighty earthquake. The lust of power has stained the earth with human blood, and ravaged its fairest scenes with famine, disease, and death. Satan is said to have "the power of death." But his conqueror, our Saviour, is truly named the "Power of God." And to us He has committed a weapon by the right use of which we can be his conquerors, too. "Prayer," says the good Bishop Jeremy Taylor, "can obtain everything, it can open the windows of heaven, and shut the gates of hell; it can put a constraint upon God, and detain an angel till he leave a blessing." And what an "effectual, fervent prayer," is that, in which we beseech our Lord to keep His Church and household continu-

ally in his true religion; that they who do lean only upon the hope of His heavenly grace, may evermore be defended by His mighty power. This is the power which will enable the weakest child of man who wills it, and avails himself of it, to be "more than conqueror." To "be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might."

A Liberal Triumph.

Before the event, one would hardly have thought that the electors of the British Isles would have wrought such an extraordinary political change. One of the chief causes of this extraordinary result, undoubtedly, was the Education Act, which roused the Nonconformist to a high pitch of indignation against the Government. As to the trade question, John Bull is either strongly wedded to his old-time, free-trade proclivities, or it may be that the nation was piqued at the much daring Mr. Chamberlain in trying to root out the old growth, and sow some new protection seed in the ancient soil. However, no great issue can be well settled off-hand, or in one campaign. The great majority will, perhaps, prove unwieldy. The sense of fair play, which is so predominant in the Old Land, may in time turn the sympathy of the electorate a little. And the threshing out of questions of policy, trade and government may effect other changes in the public mind. The labour vote is greatly to be reckoned with. And the question of Colonial trade and relations will not down. The next will be a most interesting session of Parliament, and will be eagerly looking forward to. It was almost worth while for Mr. Balfour to have been defeated to have called forth such a loyal, sympathetic and altogether British comment on the event as that of Mr. Chamberlain. It will not be pleasant reading for some of that great statesman's maligned. Many a good man has been unseated in the fray. We hope the best may be duly provided for.

Labourites.

The labour party have been so successful at the polls that people in the Old Country fear that an additional burden will be cast on the taxpayer in providing the unemployed with work, and pay them not a sum suited to the needs, but, at a rate to be fixed by a trades union. The "Illustrated London News" gave an interview with some so-called starving workers, who announced that the reason they were not working was because they were offered less than a union rate. It may be a consolation to these people to know that the Labourist deputation suffered a severe rebuff from John Morley. He told them that he did not believe in their so-called remedies for the unemployment trouble. Their principle that the State should recognize it to be a duty to provide subsistence and employment at a standard rate of wages to every man who claimed work, was an unsound and dangerous principle, and he would not pretend to accept it.

The Ministry.

In addition to the prayer that new candidates may be led to offer themselves for the sacred office of the ministry, it would be well if those in authority in the Church and home would make this important matter a subject of constant thought and prayer. If we wish to attain any great object, it is well known that as Christians we must not only pray, but work for it. There can be no doubt of the nobility of the office, and the great blessing conferred upon men by the faithful discharge of its duties. But direct personal influence must be brought to bear by

those in authority in order that suitable candidates may be sought out, encouraged and directed to the attainment of this great end. When there is so much direct personal influence brought to bear on young men to induce them to enter upon this or that worldly trade, calling, or profession, surely it is high time that loyal Churchmen, and women, too, should take this matter to heart, and under Divine guidance seek out suitable candidates for the ministry, and directly, and personally lend them their aid, sympathy, and encouragement.

Freedom of Worship.

On the 19th of August last a Bill was passed by the Lower House of the Bolivian Congress seeking liberty of religious worship. On the 4th day of the following September the Bill received the assent of the Bolivian Senate. In order to become law the Bill will require the further assent of the Congress of the Republic at the session which will be held on or about the 6th day of August of this year. It has been suggested that on Easter morning prayer should be generally offered that this great step in advance may be consummated. When one remembers that Bolivia is one of the last strongholds of religious intolerance in the world, it becomes all the more fitting and seemly that such a suggestion should be acted upon. The change from the persecution, imprisonment, and even death, of those who sought to worship according to the dictates of their conscience, to absolute and complete freedom of worship is indeed an occasion for praise and thanksgiving.

Church Building.

As our country increases in wealth and population, and as a necessary consequence the number of churches steadily increases, it is well to bear in mind that the church building itself has a marked influence—not only on the people who worship within its walls—but as well on the neighbourhood in which it stands, and on each observant passer-by. Therefore, those charged with the duty of building should be competent either to select a plan in keeping with the needs and traditions of our Church, or to avail themselves of the taste, judgment and experience of others who possess the requisite qualifications. It should always be remembered that a church building will for many long years preach its own quiet sermon of respect and reverence for the Divine Being whose worship it perpetuates. And the more chaste, beautiful and ecclesiastical its exterior, and interior, the greater will be its influence for good both from an artistic and religious standpoint. Careful and thorough should be the preparation for building a church, if the outcome is to be worthy of the great and solemn purpose for which it is designed.

Unnecessary Churches.

The troubles of the United Free Church in Scotland, among other unlooked for developments, are causing a most desirable one. It is now admitted that there are a great many small congregations, and that it would be better in every way to have amalgamations. Professor MacEwen, at a meeting in Edinburgh, gave a truly canny reason for doing so. "At present," he said, "it was a fair answer for rich friends, on being approached, to say that unnecessary churches were being maintained throughout the country. The multiplication of religious bodies has been necessarily followed by a number of small places of worship which were loth to give up their identity, although the need or propriety of their existence had disappeared."