

Canadian Churchman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 6, 1906.

Subscription Two Dollars per Year
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Address all communications, FRANK WOOTTEN, Box 34, TORONTO.

Phone Main 4643. Offices—Union Block, 36 Toronto Street.

Lessons for Sundays and Holy Days.

Dec. 9—Second Sunday in Advent.
Morning—Isaiah 5; 1 John 2, 15.
Evening—Isaiah 11, 11, or 24; John 17.

Dec. 16—Third Sunday in Advent.
Morning—Isaiah 25; Jude.
Evening—Isaiah 26 or 28, 5 to 19; John 21.

Dec. 23—Fourth Sunday in Advent.
Morning—Isaiah 30, 10 to 27; Rev. 11.
Evening—Isaiah 32, or 33, 2 to 23; Rev. 12.

Dec. 30—First Sunday after Christmas.
Morning—Isaiah 35; Rev. 29.
Evening—Isaiah 38 or 40; Rev. 21, 10 to 15.

Appropriate Hymns for Second and Third Sundays in Advent, 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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Holy Communion: 196, 316, 320, 553.
Processional: 45, 305, 391, 392.
Offertory: 51, 214, 216, 226.
Children's Hymns: 217, 565, 568, 569.
General Hymns: 47, 52, 54, 288.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 51, 178, 313, 318.
Processional: 47, 48, 355, 362.
Offertory: 186, 272, 293, 352.
Children's Hymns: 180, 188, 336, 566.
General Hymns: 191, 193, 353, 587.

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

The Second and Third Collects in Advent teach us how the grace, prayed for in the First Collect, is to be obtained, i.e., by the proper appreciation of the Holy Scriptures and by the acceptance of the Holy Mysteries through the ministrations of the clergy. The Holy Scriptures were caused to be written by the Blessed Lord for us. He did not write them but caused them to be written. They are Divinely Inspired. He Himself is the First Cause. Men wrote them, but He caused them to be written. Observe how the Lord uses human agents, and material things to convey spiritual blessings. Parchment and ink and muscles and fingers of man are God's agents to convey means of grace. Water in Baptism and bread and wine in the Holy Communion, through the Holy Spirit by the clergy, are God's agents to convey means of grace. The Lord

caused the Holy Scriptures to be written for us and the Church is "the Witness and Keeper of Holy Writ," as Article XX. in our Prayer Book states. There in the Church are they read and the people instructed. The Church has translated these Scriptures into our language and has printed and circulated them, and we pray this Sunday, "Grant that we may hear them." To hear them read in the services in Psalms and Lessons, in Epistle and Gospel, implies regular systematic attendance. By patience in persevering in this attendance upon the reading of Holy Scripture, we receive the comfort spoken of in the Collect. What is the object of it all, but "that we may hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life." It is the same hope referred to in our Burial Service. We hope that "when we shall depart this life, we may rest in Him."

Church Hymn Book.

This important work is growing apace. The second draft compiled by the committee evidences the thoroughness, skill and labour being spent upon it. The committee is certainly to be commended for its scrupulous care, and the means it has taken to lay the whole Church under contribution in selecting hymns and tunes most acceptable to the clergy and laity alike. If we mistake not, the work of the committee will be instrumental in arousing fresh and added interest in that attractive and instructive portion of Church worship, which they have been called upon to revise.

A Patriotic Benefaction.

Two years ago the Mayor of Huddersfield, England, offered a gift of one pound as a reward to parents of children born in a specified district during his term of office on each of their offspring attaining the age of one year. A number of benevolent ladies also lent their aid to the mothers of poor families in the way of advice and practical assistance. The result has been a remarkable vindication of the wisdom and generosity of the mayor. Of 112 children who came within the benefaction four only died. The average infantile death rate being thus reduced to less than half. As money is so often an incentive to crime and the lack of it is constantly urged as the motive of a low birth rate, why should not a series of prizes be offered and awarded at our annual exhibitions as a practical inducement to an increased and healthy birth rate. The present low birth rate is a sin and reproach to our boasted modern civilization and a severe handicap to the progress of our country. He who has the courage and enterprise to take this matter up and give effect to it will be a public benefactor in the best sense of the term.

"What the Church Stands For."

Among the publications which will mark the jubilee of Huron Diocese is this little booklet by Bishop Williams, the Bishop of the diocese. The Diocese of Huron is now passing through its jubilee year, which ends in Oct., 1907, and the clergy of the diocese will, no doubt, try to put this little book and the other publications into the hands of every Church family in the diocese. The Bishop emphasizes seven outstanding marks of our Church life:—(1) The Divine origin of the Church; (2) the Apostolic origin of the threefold ministry; (3) the historic continuity of the Church; (4) the fulness of the Christian faith; (5) worship and reverence; (6) the supremacy of the Bible and intellectual liberty; (7) truth and righteousness the end of all religion. This book is neatly and tastefully bound in stiff paper covers and is written in such a way as makes it suitable for general circulation. It would do incalculable good if this book could be placed in the hands of every Church family in Canada. It is

written plainly and persuasively and states a case for the Church which is very strong indeed.

Lichfield Diocesan Conference, 1906.

At a meeting of the above Conference, held in the Town Hall, Burton-on-Trent, on Thursday, October 25th, 1906, the Lord Bishop of the diocese in the chair. It was resolved:—"That the enormous influx of immigrants into the western parts of Canada during the last few years demands the very serious attention of Churchmen; and this Conference, therefore, trusts that the special appeal issued on behalf of the work among the settlers there will receive the liberal support of Churchmen. That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Bishops of the Church in Canada, with an expression of the sincere sympathy of the members of this Conference with the members of the Church in Canada in the loss they have sustained by the death of the venerated late Primate—Archbishop Bond." Charles Bull, Farley Hall, Cheadle, Stoke-on-Trent, Hon. Lay Secretary; Thomas C. Keble, Christ Church Vicarage, Lichfield, Hon. Clerical Secretary.

The Ticket Bureau for the Blind.

A correspondent in a recent Spectator, Miss Holt, tells something of the good work done by the "Ticket Bureau for the Blind" since it was started in England a year ago. The object of the committee has been to obtain tickets for concerts, theatres, lectures and readings to distribute among those, who with their deprivation have in many cases the keenest appreciation of such pleasures, which limited means may yet often prevent their enjoying. Miss Holt says that for four years she has studied the working of the New York Ticket Bureau (there are six in America), and she is evidently impressed with the results in opening new doors of sense and feeling to the blind. She pleads for larger means to carry on the work, giving the name of the secretary to whom contributions may be sent. The following extract from one of many letters received tells its own tale:—"During the whole twelve years of my blindness, I think, I have never spent so enjoyable a time as yesterday at the Imperial Theatre. I had always felt a little shy of plays without music. It seemed to me that a man would find his pleasure spoiled by reason of the fact that his blindness would continually be in evidence. To hear, and not to see—particularly when sight appeared so essential reminds one far too often of one's infirmity. But I seemed to have left one very potent item out of my calculation. This was a revelation, to me last night. I became so engrossed in "Brigadier Gerard, that not once did I even realize that I could not see." Some of us know how surely the loss of sight presses despite all the alleviations that loving care can bring, know too what music and reading mean in such a case, but surely the above is a "revelation" of possible enjoyment more than we have realized. Could not such a bit of work find its place here, some effort be made to seek out those among us whose lives might thus be cheered and brightened?"

Doctrinal Sermons.

Considerable controversy has taken place on the subject of doctrinal sermons. The main drift of the argument has been as to whether sermons should for the most part expound and enforce doctrinal teaching or should rather be directed to what are called matters of human interest. It seems to us that such disputation is as fruitless as that which, as regards law and medicine, on the one hand, lays stress on the study of text books and attendance at lectures, and on the other maintains that the better teaching is that gained through personal contact with the every day in-

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