

# The Western Churchman.

A Journal Devoted to the Interests of the Church of England in Manitoba and the West.

Vol. 3—No. 6.

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY, 1898.

PRICE 10c.

## Calendar.

FEBRUARY.

1. Tuesday. Vigil. Fast.
2. Wednesday.—Purification of Mary the Blessed Virgin.
3. Thursday—Blasius, an Armenian Bishop and Martyr
4. Friday—Fast.
5. Saturday—Agatha, a Sicilian Virgin and Martyr.
6. Septuagesima.—Morning, Gen. I and II, 1-4; Rev. 21: 1-9. Evening, Gen. 11: 4, or Job 38; Rev. 21: 9 to 22, 6.
7. Monday.
8. Tuesday
9. Wednesday.
10. Thursday.
11. Friday. Fast.
12. Saturday.
13. Sexagesima. Morning, Gen. 3; St. Matth. 24, 29. Evening. Gen. 6 or 8; Acts. 27, 18.
14. Monday. Valentine, Bishop and Martyr
15. Tuesday.
16. Wednesday.
17. Thursday.
18. Friday. Fast.
19. Saturday.
20. Quinquagesima. Notice of Ash Wednesday and of St. Matthias. Morning, Gen. 9: 1-20; St. Matth. 27. Evening, Gen. 12 or 13; Rom. 4.
21. Monday.
22. Tuesday.
23. Wednesday. \*Ash Wednesday. Pr. Pss. M. 6, 2, 38; E., 102, 130, 143. Comm. Service Vigil
24. Thursday. St. Matthias, Apostle and Martyr Athan. Creed.
25. Friday.
26. Saturday.
27. First Sunday in Lent. Notice of Ember Days. Morning, Gen. 19: 12-30; St. Mark 3: 13. Evening, Gen. 22: 1-20 or 23; Rom. 9: 19.
28. Monday.

[\*The Forty Days in Lent are to be Observed as Days of Fasting or Abstinence. Ash Wed. Coll. to be used daily.]

### PUBLISHERS' NOTICE.

The Western Churchman is published on the first of every month. Communications for insertion and copy for advertisements should be in the office not later than the 24th of the month.

Correspondence is invited on subjects bearing on the interests of the Church of England in Manitoba and the West Annual subscription \$1.50 (if paid in advance, \$1) Single copies 10c. each.

Matter for the Editorial Department should be addressed to Rev. R. C. Johnstone, Box 310, Winnipeg.

All business communications should be sent, and money orders, cheques, etc., made payable to Wm. Kirkland, Business Manager, Box 310, Winnipeg.



### A Neglected Christian Festival.

In the pre-Reformation Church, Seven festivals were kept in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mother of Our Lord, but, as five of these have no Scriptural authority for their observance, the reformers of the Church's services only retained the remaining two.—The Feast of the Annunciation (March 25), and The Feast of the Purification (Feb., 2). Both of these have held a definite place in the Church's year for over thirteen centuries. In our present Book of Common Prayer, there are Special Collects, Epistles, and Gospels appointed for both festivals; and yet, in spite of this, neither feast receives from either clergy or laity the attention it deserves. The Feast of the Purification stands in the Church's Calendar on Feb., 2, and so we think it well to say something about it in this issue. A consideration of the three names by which it is known will give us some knowledge of its *rationale*.

1. The Purification of the B. V. M., carries us back to the old Jewish law as given in the twelfth chapter of Leviticus. There we read that the mother of a male child was to consider herself ceremonially unclean for the space of seven days. Her child was circumcised on the eighth day. Three and thirty days thereafter, she was to offer a lamb for a burnt-offering, and a young pigeon or a turtle-dove for a sin-offering. If she was not rich enough to afford a lamb, she was to bring two young pigeons or two turtle-doves, the one for a burnt offering—the other for a sin offering. This was called her *purification*.

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