

Canadian Churchman.

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FRANK WOOTTEN,

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Lessons for Sundays and Holy Days

February 21.—Quinquagesima.

Morning—Gen. 9, to 20; Mat. 27, 57.

Evening—Gen. 12, or 13; Rom. 5.

February 28.—First Sunday in Lent

Morning—Gen. 10, 12 to 30; Mark 4, to 35.

Evening—Gen. 22, to 20, or 23; Rom. 10.

March 7.—Second Sunday in Lent

Morning—Gen. 27, to 41; Mark 7, 24—8, 10.

Evening—Gen. 28 or 32; Rom. 10.

Appropriate Hymns for Sexagesima and Quinquagesima Sundays, 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.

SEXAGESIMA SUNDAY.

Holy Communion: 310, 315, 528, 557.

Processional: 3, 33, 36, 391.

Offertory: 37, 520, 531, 550.

Children's Hymns: 337, 341, 569, 574.

General: 2, 18, 162, 548.

QUINQUAGESIMA SUNDAY.

Holy Communion: 312, 317, 319, 558.

Processionals: 305, 390, 393, 532.

Offertory: 222, 367, 523, 541.

Children's Hymns: 336, 339, 567, 570.

General: 240, 477, 512, 543.

QUINQUAGESIMA—THE NEXT SUNDAY BEFORE LENT.

In our meditation last week we dealt with some of the phenomena of temptation and sin. In part we learned that the temptation often put before man is that sin will make him wise. "Ye shall be as God" saith the Devil. As that temptation comes to us to-day let us think of the eternal eloquence of the Cross: Jesus said "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Listen to the petition ascending from the lips of our great High Priest. Of the disciple who betrayed Him, the Sanhedrin that falsely accused Him, the Romans who scourged and nailed Him to the tree, of the Jews who reviled Him, He says "they know not what they do!" How sin blinds us to light and truth! The Lord Jesus Christ being omniscient is mindful of all the thoughtlessness and mistaken zeal characteristic of these His enemies. And on the Cross He fulfils part of His teaching: "I say unto you, love your enemies,

and pray for them that persecute you." Note His love. He came to save the souls of men, therefore He loves them to the end. He prayed for their forgiveness. That is to say He prayed for their enlightenment, that in sorrow and repentance they might be restored to sweet communion with God. Again to put our thought into other words Jesus prayed for the conversion of His enemies, of all sinners. And this prayer of the dying Lord entailed a legacy of work upon the Apostles and disciples who were to preach the Gospel of Reconciliation. Herein we have a motive for missionary endeavour, an inspiration to noble deeds in the service of the Lord. And both spring from the love of our dear Lord for all men. To-day the hearts and minds of our children are being drawn to the missionary work of the Church in connection with the Lenten offering. There is a natural desire on the part of our Missionary Society to make this offering successful in every way. And particularly in supplying means for the carrying on of the necessary work. Such success depends largely upon the motive instilled into the minds of the children. And the offering will fail if it does inspire some of our children to think of the possibility of offering themselves by and by for the work of Holy Church. In bygone ages men were inspired to missionary zeal by the belief that the souls of the heathen were perishing day by day. The students of comparative religion would remove that belief, calling it an unworthy one. Yet have we not a sufficient motive in Jesus' cry from the Cross—the cry of love, and forgiveness, the pleading for conversion: "Father forgive them; for they know not what they do?" Who will deny the ignorance, the thoughtlessness, the mistaken zeal of the heathen world? Truly can we predicate of them: "They know not what they do." Shall not we, following the Lord of Life and Love, teach them the Way, the Truth and the Life? Hear St. Peter: "And now, brethren, I wot that in ignorance ye did it" (Acts 3:17). Then remember the zeal of St. Paul for the conversion of his Roman guards. He pities their ignorance. So our missionaries to-day go to the fever-laden swamps of Africa, or to the frozen fields of Alaska, inspired by the prayer of Jesus, to labour for the conversion of the sinner. Here is the motive to implant in the hearts of our children to-day. Sin brings men into darkness and ignorance and keeps them there. But Jesus would have every man come to the light of forgiveness, love and communion with God. Therefore, "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

Good Advice.

Dr. Sheard, Toronto's city doctor, has been giving some outspoken and timely advice in an address before an association of women. The doctor has the courage of his convictions. The simple life has in him an earnest advocate. Social extravagance, fashionable folly and immoral habits were roundly denounced. As were life in flats—so destructive of true domesticity; playing bridge at all hours to the neglect of duty and consequent waste of time, and the destructive and abominable habit of race suicide. Would that we had more doctors who practice and preach what the world would be the better for heeding and observing!

Needed Restriction.

For a moment we remind our readers, who represent a not inconsiderable part of the thought of Canada, to realize how we are fast drifting into a dangerous laxity of expenditure. For years we have been so prosperous, there has been so much money to handle, that we have acquired corporate habits of spending without realizing

that there is a bottom to the pocket. We undertook the building of the Grand Trunk Pacific, dazzled by the success of the Canadian Pacific Railway, without adequately considering the different conditions. There is no new great area of settlement east of Winnipeg to attract settlers, the climate is rigorous, the soil is sterile, moreover the road is being built by the Government. Experience has shown how such roads cost two or three times too much and the quality of what is given in return is not as a rule satisfactory. So that instead of this vast expenditure being remunerative, like the C.P.R., our readers should prepare to find it a debt constantly clinging round their shoulders like the Intercolonial, or money thrown away as the Quebec Bridge has already proved. It would be much pleasanter to prophesy smooth things, but we must face facts and draw deductions from experience. At home too we do not get much encouragement. It used to be to France, now it is to Germany, that England looks for wisdom. Mr. Haldane thinks of their army as one way by which to alleviate unemployment and the Trade Councils have sent delegates over to find out how it is insured against. Nothing, however, is suggested except to avoid extravagance or waste and practise rigid economy until in the Providence of God, trade and business revives and on a lowered expenditure and increased income are re-adjusted, and if possible, lowered taxation, prosperity smiles.

Old Country Weather.

The disaster to the Republic is likely to prove of value to the meteorological office in England. Considering the data at its disposal the probabilities are wonderfully good, the failures are, of course, remembered, and the proportion, a large one, of successes is taken for granted and overlooked. Most of the disturbances come from the West, but instead of crossing a continent, with telegrams from everywhere, the British Isles are bounded by a waste of seas, with the result that winds and rain predicted from the West often arrive as soon as the prediction. It is proposed to have a regular supply of wireless messages from the great Atlantic liners, especially from those in the north, whence most of the weather comes. This will do much, but most of these ships sail along two lines of latitude and there are necessarily some hundreds of miles between them.

Confirmation of Bishops.

Many readers may not be aware of the proceedings taken in England to confirm a Bishop or their reason. In earlier times a Bishop designated having the conge d'elire while on the way to London was waylaid and his baggage carried off by robbers. One of them personated the Bishop and almost escaped detection. To avoid such incidents the confirmation proceedings were adopted and a public notice given in order that if any person could object either against the party elected, or the legality of the election, they were to do so, but not on questions of doctrine. The most recent and decisive case was that of the present Bishop of Birmingham in January, 1902. The Archbishop of Canterbury in his judgment mentioned above quoted a portion of the judgment of the Chief Justice in the proceedings taken by the objectors in which he said: "It is not, in my opinion, necessary to decide that in no case can any objection be raised at the stage of confirmation which might have to be investigated by the Vicar-General or the Archbishop, as, for example, an objection to the validity of election, or the genuineness of the documents produced, or the identity of the person elected with the person named in the letters missive, or possibly some action or conduct of the Bishop-elect since the time of his election."

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