

Parish and Home

Vol. XI.

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No. 1

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER.

- 2—**1st Sunday in Advent.** *Morning*—Isaiah i.; 1 Peter iv., 7. *Evening*—Isaiah ii. or iv., 2; John xii., 20.
- 9—**2nd Sunday in Advent.** *Morning*—Isaiah xiv.; 1 John ii., 15. *Evening*—Isaiah xi., to 11, or xxiv.; John xvii.
- 16—**3rd Sunday in Advent.** *Morning*—Isaiah xlv.; Jude. *Evening*—Isaiah xvi. or xxxviii., 5 to 19; John xxi.
- 21—**St. Thomas, A. & T.** *Morning*—Job xlii., 1-7; Job, xx., 19 o 24. *Evening*—Isaiah xxxv.; John xiv., to 8.
- 23—**4th Sunday in Advent.** *Morning*—Isaiah l.; Luke ii., to 15. *Evening*—Isaiah xxxii. or xxxii., 2 to 23; Rev. xii.
- 25—**Christmas Day.** *Morning*—1 a'ah ix., to 8; Luke ii., to 15. *Evening*—Isaiah vii., 10 to 17; Titus iii., 4 to 9.
- 26—**St. Stephen, the First Martyr.** *Morning*—Gen. iv., to 11; Acts vi., *Evening*—2 Chron xxiv., 15 to 23; Acts viii., to 9.
- 27—**St. John, A. & E.** *Morning*—Exod. xxxiii., 9; John xiii., 23 to 36. *Evening*—Isaiah vi., Rev. 1.
- 28—**Innocents' Day.** *Morning*—1 r. xxxi., to 18; Rev. xvi. *Evening*—Baruch iv., 21 to 31; Rev. xviii.
- 30—**1st Sunday after Christmas.** *Morning*—Isaiah xxxv.; Rev. xx. *Evening*—Isaiah xxxviii. or xl.; Rev. xxi., to 15.

THE ADVENT.

Surely He cometh, and a thousand voices
Shout to the saints, and to the deaf and
dumb;

Surely He cometh, and the earth rejoices,
Glad in His coming who hath sworn, I
come.

This hath He done, and shall we not adore
Him?

This shall He do, and can we still
despair?

Come, let us quickly fling ourselves before
Him,
Cast at His feet the burden of our care.

Flash from our eyes the glow of our
thanksgiving,

Glad and regretful, confident and calm,
Then thro' all life and what is after living,
Thrill to the tireless music of a psalm.

—F. W. H. Myers.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

"BEHOLD thy King cometh, go ye out to meet him." How such an announcement would send a thrill of hope or fear, expectation or alarm, through the minds of many to-day, if it were to ring out loud and clear! Yet that is one thought brought before us this Advent season. The Lord Jesus came once, born as a babe at Bethlehem, in humility, weakness and poverty. He is coming

again, and every day brings the time nearer, and His disciples are to be about His business, preparing and making ready the way, hastening His coming, watching and waiting as those who look for His return. "Blessed is that servant whom when his Lord cometh he shall find so doing."

May our readers be watching, waiting, looking, working for and hastening the coming back, the second advent of our gracious king and Saviour.

WE wish a merry and a happy Christmastide to all our readers! Christmas is the time of receiving and giving of gifts.

How much we can do to make glad and happy the lives of the children this joyous season, not only the children of our own families, but the little neglected ones, who would otherwise receive but few gifts.

The highest happiness comes through making others happy and doing the will of Him whose great gift we commemorate at Christmas. May many of the readers of PARISH AND HOME know somewhat of the joy of the Master, through ministering to the poor and needy, the sick and lonely, the widow and orphan, and so realize the truth that even at Christmastide, "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

"STEPHEN a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost." How short and yet how brilliant was the life of Stephen as a disciple of the Lord Jesus! Chosen to be a deacon because of his character, and appointed with six others to rectify the complaints in the early church of Jerusalem, made by the Hellenistic against the Hebrew Christians.

Then we read of 'the Word of God' increasing, disciples multiplying greatly in Jerusalem, numbers of the priests becoming obedient to the faith, wonders

and miracles wrought, adversaries not able to gainsay or resist the wisdom by which he spake.

We almost wonder that God permitted him to be arrested, tried, stoned, put to death and so become the first Christian martyr, the first of the sons of men who gave up his life for the Lord Jesus Christ.

"The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the Church," and God has used Stephen's short life and heroic death to be the means of cheering, comforting, strengthening many a severely tested and sorely-tried disciple of the Lord Jesus.

We need to day in all branches of the church's work and warfare, yea for the upholding of our country, as well as for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, "Men full of faith and of the Holy Ghost." May God raise up many from among us "full of grace and power," and like Stephen, as shown by his address, mighty in the Scriptures.

WE have reached the closing month not only of another year but also of another century.

As we bid farewell to the nineteenth century and glance back at the little part that we have played in it, most of us will confess that "we have done many things that we ought not and have left undone many things that we ought to have done"—but vain regrets are of little value.

Far better by the grace of God to lay aside every weight and the sins which so easily beset us, and looking unto Jesus, run with patience the race set before us. We are invited to make the closing weeks of the century a time of earnest prayer and drawing nigh unto God. Well may we mingle thanksgiving and confession with our prayer thanksgiving for the man