

The Church Guardian

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER.

- Oct. 4th—18th Sunday after Trinity.
- " 11th—19th Sunday after Trinity.
- " 18th—20th Sunday after Trinity.
- " 18th—St. Luke—Evangelist.
- " 25th—17th Sunday after Trinity.
- " 28th—St. Simon and St. Jude, (Apostles
and Martyrs.

"EPISCOPAL NOTES."

In several of our exchanges from the States we find a much closer connection existing between the Bishop of the Diocese and the Church Newspaper than is the case in Canada. There, not unfrequently, the Bishop not only directly endorses the paper, but has also his own peculiar column or columns, through which he exercises a continuous influence as chief Pastor, not alone upon the clergy, but also upon the laity of his Diocese. And we find from time to time not only wise and practical suggestions, but exceedingly plain and direct speaking. Take, for example, the following, under the above title, in our valued exchange, *The Church Guardian*, of Nebraska, and which are not without their application to the Church in Canada:—

On Support of the Clergy and Parochial Organization.

The Bishop has decided that there can be no more parochial organization in the Diocese, unless the people are willing to pay at least *three-fourths of the salary* of the clergyman. Until such time as numerical and pecuniary strength justify the change, the work will remain under the care of the Mission Committee, and will have such officers as the Canons require the Bishop to appoint for organized missions. * * * * *

The Bishop is convinced that it is unwise to perfect the parochial organization, until a station is able to pay the *entire salary* of the clergyman, and meet all its expenses. Until such time the work should be under the direction of the Bishop or Missionary Committee. * * * * *

Those parishes receiving Missionary aid should wish their Rector to take special duty in the Mission field near at hand. * *

Every Canonical collection *must* be made; but there is a special necessity that in every parish the appeal for Diocesan Missions should be a very earnest one.

Each and every communicant in the Diocese of Nebraska is required to contribute at least one dollar a year to meet the current expenses of the Diocese. This assessment is made in order to pay the salary of the Bishop, the Secretary of Convention, the Registrar of the

Diocese, the printing of the Journal, and other necessary expenses as ordered by the Diocesan Council. Communicants should regard this duty as a very sacred one, and to be systematically discharged. It requires no argument to enforce it.

On the Duty of the Clergy.

The Bishop is convinced that it would be wise if *all* the clergy who are engaged in Missionary work would take five or ten minutes at every service to explain the use of the Prayer Book, the customs of the Church, and those words or phrases with which many of those who worship with us are unfamiliar. We take too much for granted. It is precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little and there a little of Churchly instruction which makes the Church known. Simple, short explanations in a kindly spirit will speedily bring results. Let the clergy try it. Have a *plan or system*, and *persistently* carry it out in the way of "familiar talks about the Church." * * *

It is useless for the clergy to expect the people to be devoted to the Church and the extension of her hallowed influence, unless they are themselves leading devoted lives. We must be as unwearied in our blessed western cause as the business man is in the acquisition of worldly wealth. We are of very little consequence, but the Church is the body of Christ, and for Him we must be willing to sacrifice *ease, convenience, self*. If we are priests we must first sacrifice ourselves for Jesus's sake. The world judges the Church by the lives of those who are her members. Whether this is correct or not, matters little; we know the fact that this is so. The failure of a clergyman in any place to do good work, is sure to follow him. The prayerful, loving spirit will always win in the end, and the success will be crowned even in the Church militant by the benediction of the Master. "Thou hast been faithful over a few things," come up higher. In a sense more real than we suppose, the clergy are the arbiters of their own fortunes. * * *

Pastoral visits, regularly and lovingly made, and with an appreciation of ministerial responsibility, are a *necessity* in the successful work of a Mission or Parish. The calls should not be too long, or ill-timed. In every Parish or Mission, those who are sick should have the *daily* visit, even if it is only the assurance of remembrance. * * * * *

The Bishop desires every clergyman, whether Rector or Missionary, to report to him quarterly the Missionary work done by him, of whatever kind. * * * * *

It will be a wise plan for each Rector or Missionary in the Diocese to have always a class in preparation for Confirmation. A free use of tracts and reading matter is suggested. To give information regarding the Church is the great thing, and to *loan* books and tracts is an effective way to do this.

On the Too Common Fashion of Parish Seeking.

No clergyman who is willing to preach as a candidate for a vacant parish will be welcomed to the Diocese by the Bishop. The most influential parishes will not ask it; and the desirable men will not do it. There is a better way for clergymen to secure work, and a wiser method by which a Parish may secure Rectors.

On the Obligations of the Vestry.

The Vestry of every parish is *required* to maintain the Church property in good repair, and also to see that the place of worship is *neatly* kept, and is provided with such things as are necessary for an orderly service. The same responsibility rests upon the officers of a mission. In many places in the Diocese these duties are shamefully neglected. It takes but little time or money to cut the grass and remove the weeds in church grounds, or to sweep and dust and arrange with care the interior of the church. This latter duty might be *regularly* attended to by a committee appointed for that purpose by the Rector or Missionary.

A GOOD EXAMPLE.

We have at different times asked the aid of the clergy and of parochial officers towards increasing the circulation of the GUARDIAN, feeling assured that in helping us in this respect they would also be furthering their own interests and those of the Church at large. We cannot say that we have met with anything like a *general* response to these suggestions; but there have been notable exceptions. What might be done is evident from what has been accomplished by one clergyman in a small parish in Ontario. He writes: "I went out just for an hour this afternoon, and obtained a few subscriptions to the GUARDIAN. I did not meet with one refusal. I append a list of six new subscribers." We should be thankful were there many imitators of this good example. And we hope there may be, because we believe, on testimony such as the following from many quarters, that the GUARDIAN is worthy of such aid. Six new names from every clergyman in the Ecclesiastical Province would add to our list of subscribers fully 3,000 names.

A lady of title in England, who has kindly forwarded several new names, in doing so, writes "she only wishes she could get more subscribers to it (the GUARDIAN,) as she considers the paper *most valuable to the cause of the Church*."

Another lady in England writes "she thinks it such a valuable publication; she is much pleased at having it brought to her notice." Whilst a layman in this Province writes: "I am very much pleased with the GUARDIAN, and would not be without it."

We return our sincere thanks to all who have helped our work, either in this way or by forwarding subscriptions from parishioners.

CONVOCATION ON THE SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF THE MASSES.

A short time ago we drew the attention of our readers to the value and interest of the publications of the Convocation of Canterbury. We have now before us a very interesting Report, presented to and published by that body, on the "Spiritual Needs of the Masses of the People." It contains much information and many valuable suggestions, some of which may be pondered with advantage by ourselves.

The origin of this Report is to be found in a discussion that arose in the Upper House of Convocation three years ago, on the subject of the working of the Salvation Army. A Committee of the Bishops was appointed to consider the question. The more they considered it, the more they were convinced that it was part of a much larger question that could not be fairly dealt with unless account were taken of all efforts, ordinary and extraordinary, that were being used to arouse the indifferent and ignorant. The original Committee was consequently discharged, and a new and larger Committee strengthened by members of the Lower House, was appointed in its stead, "to consider if the Church ought to take any, and if so what, special action to meet the spiritual need of the great masses of the population, especially in large towns." The Committee sent queries to all the Archdeacons of the Province, seeking information through them, from the parochial clergy and others.