

The Canadian Churchman

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Hymns from the Book of Common Praise, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of the choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

(December 14th.)

Holy Communion: 240, 252, 254, 397.

Processional: 70, 307, 396, 550.

Offertory: 326, 327, 596, 699.

Children: 56, 685, 687, 727.

General: 396, 753, 767, 778.

The Outlook

Universal Bible Study

The Second Sunday in Advent is to be observed in various parts of the world as Bible Sunday, and it is particularly appropriate that on one and the same day the Holy Scriptures should almost universally be the subject of special consideration. Our columns recently recorded the splendid testimony given to the Bible Society by the Bishop of Fredericton, and hardly anything need be added to his forceful plea. The circulation and translation of the Bible into various languages form the work of this greatest of all Christian organizations, and it is the bounden duty of every Christian to take a part in such truly missionary work. The circulation of the Bible will soon justify itself and prove its power in human life. Not only are discoveries being made every year which throw new light on Holy Writ, but its sacred pages carry their own intellectual, moral, social, and spiritual power wherever their truth is welcomed. We hope, therefore, that special attention will be given next Sunday to the claim of the Bible on the Christian Church and the importance of its reception and circulation emphasized.

Christianizing the Eskimos

In the October number of "Harper's Magazine" an article appeared by Mr. Stefansson, the Arctic Explorer, on "Christianizing the Eskimos." It will be remembered that Mr. Stefansson, about a year ago, expressed himself as somewhat opposed to the sending of missionaries among the new tribe of "Blonde" Eskimos, and doubted whether they were in any way better by the coming of Christianity. While his present article is less direct, and has several points of interest, his general conclusion seems to be pretty much the same. His attitude seems to be that of one who rather looks down on Christianity as something that he has outgrown, but in reality what he writes is by no means lacking in prejudice. Our own honoured workers, like Bishop Stringer, Bishop Lucas, and the Rev. C. A. Whittaker have a very different story to tell, and as they speak from years of inside personal experience their testimony is much more reliable than Mr. Stefansson's can possibly be. But, inasmuch as his article is likely to reach circles where Christianity and missionary work are only too apt to be slighted and disregarded, it is worth while calling attention to the closing comments found in the current number of "The Spirit of Missions," the organ of the Protestant Episcopal Church. They speak for themselves, and are as true as they are frank:

It is a self-sufficient article, evidently written under the sting of criticism, with a view to reënforcing indirectly a position previously taken. There is in it no hint of helpfulness nor sympathy for a benighted people groping after Christ. The pity of it is that this former student of theology could live among them and care so little; that he could fail to use his great opportunity and knowledge to give them a real Christianity, and could sit back, mockingly amused at their poor efforts toward Christian living. The article leaves one with two distinct impressions: First, that the real question is not so much one of Christianizing the Eskimos as of leaving the Eskimos to Christianize themselves; and secondly, that doubtless there may be Alaskan missionaries who could find it in their hearts to write an earnest and appealing article on "Christianizing Vilhjálmur Stefansson."

A Significant Step

A week or so ago the corner-stone was laid in North Rosedale, Toronto, of a new Congregational Church, and the site was selected after consultation with the Joint Committee on Co-operation of the Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational Churches. The feeling had been expressed that while negotiations for Church Union were proceeding it would be well to do something to prevent overlapping. The result is an agreement that no new cause should be started there by the other two denominations concerned, and further, that no more Methodist, Presbyterian, or Congregational Churches are to be located in Toronto in future without the sanction of the Joint Committee on Co-operation. We cannot help expressing our satisfaction at this truly statesmanlike action. In itself it may not amount to much, but its influence will extend and grow, and we hope the day is not far distant when overlapping will be reduced to a minimum. It is unutterably sad to realize how many places there are in Canada for which no religious

privileges are provided, while at the same time there are many small places in which Christian workers of various Churches are crowding one upon another. "These things ought not so to be."

Religious Advertising

In a Baltimore paper on a recent Saturday there was a large advertisement stretching across three columns, headed, "Why am I going to Church to-morrow?" The answer was given, "Because at Church I obtain a clear vision of my shortcomings and my duties in the light of Instruction induced by hearing the Word of God." As this advertisement headed the columns announcing the various Church Services for the following day its force and appropriateness were evident, and we make the suggestion that this example might well be copied in our Canadian papers. There must be not a few Church people who would be as willing as they are able to undertake the expense of such weekly advertisements, the value of which could scarcely be over-rated. It is a fine thing to have in a secular paper so forcible a testimony to the duty and benefits of Church-going.

Political Purity

The recent episode connected with the representation of Macdonald, Man., in which corrupt practices have been admitted, and the election thereby declared void, constitute a call to all those who love the Dominion to insist upon political morality. There seems to be no doubt that the evil of corruption has its foundations in the excessive partisanship of political life, which has been materially helped by the secret financing of elections. It behoves men of both parties to insist upon absolute purity, for, as a daily paper has said, "an election is a real touchstone of political progress, a rough and ready register of patriotic advance." The whole question of contributions to party funds needs special consideration, for it is only too apt to degenerate into evil. The close association of morality and politics ought to be obvious to all those concerned, and we must never weary of insisting upon the simple truth that both in politics and in private life there is only one standard of righteousness and truth.

Western Hospitality

It is said that "Western hospitality" is a time-worn phrase, having grown up with the country, for when the land was but sparsely settled and the nearest neighbours were miles away, the arrival of visitors often meant the provision of board and bed. This friendliness has not changed with the changing years, for though isolation is not so common, yet the openheartedness of earlier circumstances remains much the same. In regard to this it is interesting to note a plan adopted in one of the Churches in Regina. This has a beautiful suite of Club rooms in the basement, which have been furnished in an attractive manner and are thrown open every evening to any who care to make use of them. Each evening a married couple of the congregation acts as host and hostess, and there are also additional volunteers for this service. Thus in very delightful surroundings people may drop in to read, play games, write letters, or sew, since all can do pretty much what they please in these attractive rooms. The Church is thus making itself a real social centre and is ex-