

Canadian Churchman.

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Lessons for Sundays and Holy Days.

December 27th.—1st SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Morning—Isaiah 35.
Evening—Isa. 38, or 40

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RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCIDENTS.—It is sad when a man accidentally shoots his friend, or a hero is killed in the attempt to rescue; but the fact that one can usually point out "too late" how each disaster might have been avoided, proves that "some one has blundered."

"HALF MAST" BISHOPS.—An English verger who had the Church flag at half mast on the occasion of a confirmation visit from the Bishop suffragan, explained the "use" by saying:—"We only flies it half way for, he—he is not the real Bishop—only the suffering Bishop!"

ASSYRIAN CHRISTIANS seem to be gravitating very steadily towards the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, as well as towards the Anglican Church in England. Quite a number of men and women from that quarter are being trained and educated in the United States for work in their native land.

TEA INTOXICATION—to judge from recent remarks of Sir Andrew Clark—is no false alarm of danger, but is a real peril. "Black China Tea" seems to be free, according to Sir Andrew, from the dangerous qualities of the new Indian teas—which produce "a form of nervous disturbance most painful to witness."

MALTHUSIAN THEORY UPSET.—The argument of Malthus for the limitation of population was that population increased in geometrical ratio, while food only increased in arithmetical ratio—ultimate result, starvation! "Further consideration" tends to put these premises in reverse order—a way goes another scientific (?) theory!

PROFESSORS DIFFER.—It so happens that both Dr. Driver and Dr. Chayne have had occasion without any collusion—to treat of the authorship of the Book of Psalms. While the latter leaps at the wildest conclusions in the most confident manner, the former states his arguments dispassionately, and formulates the possible inferences with modest hesitation.

A NUT FOR DARWINIANS.—The general idea of the Evolutionists is that all life-forms have been developed from a few original types—possibly only one. The insect fossils of Colorado argue, as it were, the other way: that (millions of?) ages ago, in the beginning, there were almost infinite varieties created, which have been ever since dying out! So Darwin gets upset!

PRESERVED (MAMMOTH) MEAT.—A hundred years ago there was discovered in Russia, the whole carcase of a tender young mammoth preserved in an ice-cliff—thousands, if not millions, of years old. The people (Tunguzes) got hard up for flesh meat presently, and cut up for use the mammoth calf found in the natural refrigerator. The "remains" are kept in St. Petersburg museum.

SACRED TABLEAUX VIVANTS, after the style of *Ben Hur* in Canada, are being devised and produced in various English towns. They are founded, chiefly, upon remarkable scenes and stories in Church History, such as the "Martyrdom of St. Agnes," to which we lately referred when speaking of the beautiful tinted engraving ("Diana or Christ") which we offer as a premium.

THANKSGIVING FOR SPURGEON'S RECOVERY is to be rendered in his parish church—St. Mary's, Newington—where prayers had been offered on his behalf. He has written a friendly letter to the Vicar (Canon Palmer) from Mentone, in which he speaks of his recovery as very slow, but absolutely sure, "for," he says, "our Lord does not half hear prayers, but He answers them wholly."

"THE WHOLE WORLD OPEN to missionaries," said a speaker at a recent C.M.S. Layworkers' Union, "for the first time. Thibet might be an exception, but there had been two Moravian missionaries there: these men were dead, but their widows remained there as witnesses for the faith." Other speakers emphasized the fact that the British Empire was in contact with every nation in the world.

THE DOUBLE BASIS of the C.E.T.S. has an earnest champion in the present Bishops of Manchester and St. Asaph. The latter says "if they cut off the moderate platform they cut off their right arm, because great movements in England were carried to success by the strong moderate men." The former says those members of the Church ought to be ashamed who do not favour the C.E.T.S.

HOW CATHEDRALS ARE BUILT.—"How does it happen," said a friend to Heine, as they stood admiring the Titanic strength and minute gracefulness of detail to be found in Amiens Cathedral—"that we do not erect such edifices in our day?" "The men of that day," Heine answered, "had convictions, while we only have opinions, and something more than opinions are required to build a cathedral."

OUR LEPROSY MARTYRS.—The death of Mr. Wilshire, of Robben Island, has brought to light many interesting details of his heroic life; nor has he been long without a successor—the Rev. W. N. Watkins—having himself succeeded there his own brother-in-law, Canon Baker. The chaplain of Lancing College writes to the *Times* to the effect that there is "room still" for others to "follow in their train."

BISHOP TEMPLE ON THE BOOTH SCHEME.—In his recent charge the Bishop of London, while approving of the general principles of "General" Booth's scheme, puts it in its proper level as an ordinary expedient. "The Army, as far as I see, lays hold of a large number of people, but does not keep them. . . . Now if they are only to rescue small numbers here and small numbers there—that we have already been doing."

A TRUE SCIENTIST ON PRAYER.—Professor Agassiz has left on record his opinion from experience, that "belief in God—a God who is behind and within the chaos of vanishing points of human knowledge, is a wonderful stimulus to the man who attempts to penetrate into the regions of the Unknown. . . . I never make the preparations for that. . . without breathing a prayer to the Being who hides His secrets."

SCOTCH CHURCHMEN GET THEIR INNINGS.—It has been a long wait—that of the Scottish Episcopal Church since the days of disestablishment and disendowment—but the clouds are at last rolling by. While the Presbyterians are rending one another either on the subject of organs or of the Westminster Confession, the old Church has been making headway, hand over hand—new churches, new mission stations, everywhere.

PASTORAL STAVES seem to have reached the same place of acceptance in the Church as that long occupied by surpliced choirs—these things are no longer a badge of party. Churchmen of all kinds use them. Bishop Temple and Bishop Ellicott have both accepted these insignia of office lately. The latter—accepting also amitre and cope—expressed his intention of using these things to enhance the dignity of the services.

"THE ITALIAN MISSION" as a phrase descriptive of the present Roman Catholic Church in the British Empire, is justified by a Roman publication, Humphrey's *Divine Teacher*, bearing Cardinal Manning's imprimatur. It says: "I do not believe it to be true that we represent the pre-Reformation Church of England in the sense of being a continuation of that body. The Church of England represents it. We are a new mission."

THE OLD CATHOLIC MOVEMENT is meeting with a check—in the way of persecution—in Bavaria, where the Ultramontanes are using their influence to prevent the priests from wearing the priestly garments. Count Henry de Campello in Italy and Pere Hyacinthe in France are active and successful in their separate spheres. The latter is to deliver a series of lectures in London next January on Theosophy and kindred subjects.

TESTAMUR TO FATHER HALL.—The letter of certain American bishops protesting to the Bishop of Oxford against this eloquent "Cowley Father" being recalled to England, is an emphatic testi-

1891

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and others.

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