

The Church Guardian

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SPECIAL NOTICE.

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PROMPTLY.

CALENDAR FOR MARCH.

MARCH 7th—Quinquagesima.
 " 10th—Ash Wednesday.
 " 14th—1st Sunday in Lent.
 " 17th }
 " 19th } EMBER DAYS.
 " 20th }
 " 21st—2nd Sunday in Lent.
 " 25th—Annunciation of Virgin Mary.
 " 28th—3rd Sunday in Lent.

TO SUBSCRIBERS IN NEW BRUNSWICK, NOVA SCOTIA AND ONTARIO.

W. B. SHAW, Esq., is the only person, (Clergy excepted), at present authorized to solicit and receive payment of Subscriptions in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

MR. JOHN BURNHAM, of Cobourg, has been appointed General Travelling Agent for Ontario for the CHURCH GUARDIAN; and we bespeak for him the kindly assistance of Clergy and Laity in the several Parishes and Dioceses.

CHURCH LITERATURE.

We question very much whether as much diligence is used in the circulation of leaflets, tracts and other literature of a distinctively Church character as there ought to be. Christian people of the denominations are strong and active in this respect, and they account the inculcation of their peculiar doctrines as in no wise contradictory to Bible teaching. And yet how often is it intimated, when Sunday-school teachers and others are urged to be faithful in using such publications only as are true to the Church's doctrine and follow her system, that this would be to supplant the Bible,—as if the whole system of the Church, and every part of her teaching, were not, as it is, filled with the Bible and Bible truth. We would strongly urge Sunday-school teachers—and may we not say the Clergy too?—to be faithful in this respect, and notwithstanding strongly urged advantages in connection with literature said to be non-denominational, to adhere to that which is decided and outspokenly Church. And we would like to see far greater use made in parochial work of the many admirable tracts and leaflets now published in reference to the different seasons of the Christian year. We assume that these are to be found in every Diocesan Depository; [the Book and Tract Society of

the Diocese of Montreal have many such helps on hand;] but if not, our advertising columns contain lists of several leading publishers (especially T. WHITTAKER, NEW YORK, Charles & Son, Dublin, and McCalla & Stavelly, Philadelphia), from which selections can be made. Now, too, that the cost of Prayer and Hymn Books has been reduced to a mere trifle, they ought to be freely circulated. We are strongly of opinion that one of the very best means of extending the Church's influence is by the free and extensive distribution of her admirable "Form of Sound Words." As we have said, other bodies are active in the employment of these agencies; let not the Church lag behind.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

LENT, rightly used, is one of the most precious of seasons of the Christian year. What is more necessary in these days of restless and ceaseless activity in the pursuit of earthly gain than a season which withdraws the mind and heart of those who observe it from the things of time to those of eternity, and points to the necessity of penitence, self-discipline and self-chastisement, and special devotion, if the Saviour's example is to be followed and the Kingdom of Heaven to be attained?

"Take up the Cross," the Saviour said,
 "If thou would'st My disciple be,
 Deny thyself, the world forsake,
 And humbly follow after Me."

From a desire to aid some, if not all, of probably our 20,000 readers, we give in full the first part of Bishop Quintard's most excellent "Help to a Holy Lent," which we hope may be read carefully by every one receiving the GUARDIAN, only adding that in the pamphlet itself will be found a form for daily supplication, with suitable prayers, and special Collects for Good Friday, Easter, Holy Communion, &c.

A FACT worth considering—that but few of the children of the better or wealthier classes of Church people in city and country seem to be offering themselves for the Ministry. Why is it? Again, how many of the students in our Theological Colleges are drawn from city families? But few, we understand. Why? One would expect to find the larger proportion of those studying for the ministry coming from the centres of Christian life and activity. We know that the Clergy are, as a body, wretchedly paid, but this alone would not account for this state of things. Can it be that the Ministry has come to be considered less honorable than in former years? We fear that the exigency which seems to require that our Bishops shall admit to Orders in some cases men not as fully prepared as they would wish is operating to lessen the estimation in which the Office is held; and that the suggestions made in the *Standard of the Cross* in reference to the decrease of candidates for the Ministry in the Sister Church in America are not without force. It says:—"We suggest a partial remedy. First, higher requirements as to personal character in the ministry. Secondly, higher requirements as to ministerial education. The result will be, so we believe, an increase in Candidates for Orders. The advance-

ment of ministerial standing and influence, of ministerial devotion and enthusiasm will be a permanent guaranty of the increase of the ministry."

We fear that Churchmen generally are not alive to the great and crying evil that exists with regard to the way in which persons take upon themselves the position of Godfathers and Godmothers, without considering at all that they have thereby incurred any religious responsibility whatever. In some places the custom of having Sponsors at Baptism has degenerated into the merest form. This ought not so to be. The Sponsors make certain promises in the child's name, and then the clergyman points out to them that, having done so, it is their parts and duties to see that the infant be taught what a solemn vow, promise and profession he hath then made by them. How many Sponsors take any trouble in this respect? At the present day, to obtain for each child baptized three persons, other than the parents, who will look after its spiritual interests, is in many, perhaps in most cases, impossible. Many people do not appear to know that parents are now permitted to stand for their own children. Many people also do not seem to be aware that one of the Canons of the Church of England directs that Sponsors must be Communicants. The latter rule has become almost a dead letter, but we generally observe the old and less defensible rule that there must be three Sponsors, other than the parents, for each child. We hold that it is a great injury to the Church that her solemn ordinances should become no better than forms, and we would earnestly impress upon the Clergy their duty to instruct the people committed to their charge that when they undertake the office of Sponsor they incur a very solemn responsibility by so doing, and that no person is justified in undertaking this office unless he intends to do his best to see that the child is instructed in the articles of the Christian faith as set forth in the Creeds and other formularies of the Church.

AMONGST the many acceptable and gratifying testimonies borne to the good work being done by this paper, none has touched us more deeply than the following from a layman in the far west, who, renewing his subscription, writes we know from no spirit of flattery, but in sober, Christian earnestness, he himself being a faithful laborer in the Master's vineyard. Our hope and prayer is that the GUARDIAN may remain faithful and true, and that it may be by God's blessing still more helpful to many and many more Soldiers of the Cross in the battle of daily life:—"I have done all I could to prove to many the sound views scattered on the ocean of a sinful world by a Church paper of the true faith. May the clarion of truth reach far and wide, and the hosts of Satan be shaken by your voice. I find the GUARDIAN ever in the front rank, with her face to the foe. Many a cheering word, and many a helping voice to the many soldiers looking for the coming of the Master, while fighting foes within and without in His cause."

In the *Fortnightly* for February, Dr. Barry, a Roman Catholic dignitary, argues that either Roman Catholicism is Christianity or there is