

ADVENT.

THE Christian Year very properly begins with the season of Advent. At this time, the Church invites us to fix our thoughts on the events which mark the beginning and end of the Christian dispensation, namely, our Lord's first coming in the stable in Bethlehem, and His second coming in the clouds of Heaven, attended by angels and archangels, and all the company of Heaven. At His first appearance, He was recognized by only a faithful few. His own brethren did not believe in Him till after His Resurrection (John vii. 5., Acts i. 14). He came to His own, and His own received Him not (John i. 11). For thirty years He dwelt at Nazareth, known only as a working man. For three years more, He moved among His fellow-countrymen, preaching and teaching as no other ever did, blessing all with whom He came in contact, only to be betrayed by His bosom friend to a shameful death. But at His second coming, He will be seen and acknowledged of all, enemies as well as friends, and no one can deny His claims. The carpenter's Son will be known as the King of kings and Lord of lords.

When is this coming to take place? We do not know. God has not revealed the time to any one, even to the holy angels. But we know for certain that the day is appointed (Acts xvii. 31), and that therefore every day brings it nearer.

Let the Church, then, make herself ready. Let her stand on the watch, with her loins girded, and her lamp trimmed and burning. Let her awake more and more to her great work, that work for which she exists, the preaching of the Gospel to all nations. Let us each and all remember that we have our share in this great work. And oh! let us beware that we be not of that company to whom the Bridegroom shall say, "I know you not."—*Parish Visitor, N. Y.*

THE ADVENT NOTE.

THE season of Advent is with us. Its note is watchfulness, preparation. "The Lord is at hand," it is saying to us in varying tones of warning, expostulation, comfort, rejoicing. Be warned, all ye that are living the life of utter selfishness and worldliness, unmindful of the coming day of reckoning—the Lord is at hand! Pause and reflect, all ye who call yourselves by His name, yet do not the things which He says—the Lord is at hand! Be comforted, all ye that are fea "with bread of affliction and with water of affliction, until He come in peace"—the Lord is at hand! Rejoice and be glad, all ye who love Him, serve Him, and long for the

day of His appearing—the Lord is at hand! He comes to break down evil and oppression, to awaken consciences that have fallen asleep, to bind up the broken-hearted, to give light to them that sit in darkness, and joy to them that weep.

It does not matter that we do not yet see His banners aflame in the wide world's sky, victorious over all His foes; the call is an individual, personal one. To you, to me, the Lord may come to-day, any day—His Advent now is in the hearts of those who are ready to welcome Him.—*Mission News.*

FOR HE COMETH.

O DAUGHTER of Zion, rejoice in great gladness,
Thy King and Commander at last draweth near!
With rapturous praises, forsaking thy sadness,
Rejoice for His kingdom and glory appear.
Thy longings are ending;
Thy Lord is descending.

Tho' riding in meekness, so humbly, so lowly,
Attended by cortege of meanest degree,
Jehovah thus sendeth the Loved One, the Holy.
Hosannah! He cometh, all gracious, to thee—
To thee, ancient nation,
He bringeth salvation.

Thy palms and thy voices employ in glad greeting,
For now is the shame of thy bondage removed.
Go forth with thy children, their praises repeating
To Him who by prophets of old is approved.
Thy gratitude voicing,
Sing, sing with rejoicing.

The Root out of Jesse, Ensign of the people,
In fulness of time by Jehovah revealed;
The ransom of bondmen, the strength of the feeble,
The secret of ages no longer concealed;
The Saviour appearing,
We welcome revering.

We bless Thee now coming, the son of the Highest.
O reign o'er our lives by Thy gracious constraint.
When, coming as Judge, every nation Thou triest,
May we by Thy mercy be spared Thy complaint;
Thy merit atoning,
God grant us His owning.

Come Quickly, Lord Jesus, with pow'r and great glory,
In clouds and with angels in splendid array;
And grant us, redeemed, in that hour to adore Thee,
To sing glad hosannas in Thy Judgment Day.
From Thee ne'er to sever.
Our King, then forever.

—*Rev. Alfred Ramsey.*

BIKWE'S "UMFUNDISI."

IN August we printed a paper by Bishop Gibson, showing that missions are *not* a failure. It must be cheering to the Bishop who is now assistant to the Archbishop of Capetown, to find such testimony as the following coming from the scene of his former labors in Kaffraria.

Years ago there settled in Pondoland a set of the Fingoe tribe. Being kindly treated by