

# The Church Guardian.

Upholds the Doctrines and Rubrics of the Prayer Book.

"Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity."—Eph. vi. 24.  
 "Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."—Jude 3.

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## ECCLESIASTICAL NOTES.

**SATISFACTORY.**—London Churchmen are unanimous in believing that the new Bishop Suffragan (Archdeacon Earle) will be a great acquisition to the metropolis. The teetotalers are especially jubilant. A correspondent of the *Yorkshire Post* give him a very good character when he says:—"He can speak fluently and without notes, and he has little difficulty in arresting the attention of his hearers. When ministering, he is exceeding reverent, and unobtrusively follows the use of the church in which he finds himself. He is such a true gentleman both in manner and feeling that Londoners are sure to appreciate him.

**A GENEROUS DONOR GONE.**—The death is announced of Miss Charrington, of Spalding, at the age of eighty-six. The deceased lady built and endowed the Church of St. Paul, Spalding, at a cost of £30,000, and aided very largely in Church and church-restoration work in other places.

**NOT A NOVELTY.**—The use of a grand piano-forte in Church instead of an organ, says the London correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*, is not a novelty. It was introduced at St. Paul's Cathedral by Dr. Stainer in the "Passion" music; but at St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, the grand piano is regularly heard at the Sunday services. On Sunday morning lately the Communion Service was magnificently rendered, the piano sustaining the boys' voices in a difficult service otherwise unaccompanied.

**A STAND FOR RIGHT AND DECENCY.**—The rector of a leading city parish at the East has just startled the community in which he lives by a practical and proper assertion of the Church's authority. On occasion of a recent marriage, this brave priest refused to permit the sacred edifice to be used unless the *decollete* toilets, which have become so common in fashionable society, were abandoned; and, not content with requiring this in advance, actually sent two of his assistants to refuse admission at the Church doors to any offenders in this respect. It is time that people should be thus reminded of the respect due to God's house. Too often our Churches are shamefully desecrated on occasions of this nature. Marriage is a sacred thing. It should be solemnized in God's house, but the act is one that calls for solemnity, and lightness of behavior or indecency in dress should be sternly rebuked and absolutely forbidden. It is to be borne in mind that the Church law will sustain the clergyman who thus manfully asserts the dignity and sacredness of the place where God's honour dwelleth.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR LENT.**—1. Be present, as far as possible, at all services in the Church.  
 2. Read every day some portion of the Holy Gospel, and add to your usual devotions some special prayers.  
 3. Let no day pass without some act of self-denial, and, if possible, let this act be to the comfort of a poor or sick person.  
 4. Let self-examination be a daily duty, before rest at night.

5. Deny yourself some luxury, often, and let the cost of it be added to your Easter offering. The cost of self-denial should be given, not saved.

6. Refrain from parties and places of amusement.

7. Let your reading be such as to aid you in keeping the holy season.

8. Give more time and care to daily private prayer.

9. Receive the Holy Communion as often as it is administered.

10. Forgive, and seek reconciliation, if any are at variance with you.—*Rev. E. W. Colloque.*

## SELECTIONS FROM LENTEN PAS-TORALS.

*From Bishop Neeley to the Cathedral Congregation, Portland, Maine.*

The Church of Christ, fulfilling the will of her dear Lord and Master and being His representative on earth, brings before her children at this holy and solemn season the teaching of her divine Founder on the subject of fasting and self-discipline. Her words come therefore with divine authority and with the power and influence of His example Who not only Himself practiced all needful acts of spiritual discipline, but Who so submitted Himself to the will of the Father as in His mighty love toward men to shed His precious life blood that they might be saved. The possibility of becoming Christlike is the grand incentive to the undertaking of every spiritual work. Lent uses the authority of the Church and the example of the blessed Lord to bring the devout soul into very close communion with its Saviour, and to make the Christian more and more conformable to the image of the beloved Son.

If the season brings with it unusual duties, if it insists on definite acts of self-denial, if it urges the necessity of more frequent prayers and more abounding charity, to be shown in acts of kindness and almsgiving, it does so because sin has so blunted the keen perception which the soul ought to have of the benefit derived from the performance of the regular duties of the spiritual life that at last it has become habituated to a state of inactivity and indifference.

The season of Lent will benefit no one who fails to realize, first, the *awfulness* of sin and the *insidiousness* of its attacks, and secondly, the *urgent need of securing the forgiveness of sins* through diligent use of those means of grace wherein the Father promises and pledges His pardon to penitent souls.

Learn first, by thorough *self-examination*, what sin in your case means. Look into your lives, and with the light of the Holy Spirit's aid search for the evil, drag it from its dark abode, scrutinize every form that lurks within the heart, and when you have discovered the reason for your spiritual apathy and the sinfulness of your life, go down on your knees and

confess your sins before God and ask for some assurance of His pardon, and be sure you will never ask in vain.

Lent will be blessed to you if you thus redeem its forty days. You will have every opportunity given you of renewing your souls, in hearing God's holy Word, in the prayers of His Church, in the frequent invitations to receive the Holy Sacrament, and such opportunities will testify for you or against you at the day of judgment, according as you have profited by them, or have wilfully or continually neglected them.

Have in your minds the thought of God, and in your hearts the sense of His Abiding Presence, and then you will allow nothing in the shape of worldly attraction to steal away the time and strength you ought to give to worship and devotion and the other duties of the spiritual life.

Do not offer *careless devotions*. Make your service *real*, as knowing that it is to honor Him who seeth in secret.

Beware lest *fashion* influence observance of the Lenten fast. If you desire to appear before men to fast, you will have your reward, but it will not be God's approval.

Be careful to put *other engagements aside till the Church's appointments have been studiously fulfilled*. The Church makes no rules for fasting, but because you have liberty to decide for yourself, do not err on the side of self-indulgence and give up for Christ's sake that which costs you no effort. "It is the very character of the gospel to change everything, to sanctify everything, to brighten everything, for the Spirit of God sheds over everything His holiness and light; the Blood of Christ purifies our dross and makes it gold, imparting to our worthlessness its own inestimable value."

### QUESTIONS FOR LENT.

God calls me—Am I listening?  
 Am I caring for my soul?  
 Am I helping or hindering others in their spiritual life?  
 What think I of Christ?  
 Do I leave God out of my life?  
 Whither does my present course of life lead?  
 Am I a backslider?

### SOME RULES FOR LENT.

Seek pardon and strength by frequent reception of the Holy Sacrament.

Attend service *twice* on Sunday, and *once* at least daily. Be regular at the Wednesday and Friday evening lectures.

Devote a certain time daily to private prayer and self-examination. Read daily a portion of the Holy Scriptures.

Try in dependence upon God to conquer your besetting sin. Learn by fasting and self-denial to abstain from self-indulgence. Submit the will more and more to the will of God.

Keep the tongue from evil, that it may avoid slander and scandal, and speak the truth in uprightness.

Give more liberally of your worldly wealth for the extension of the kingdom of Christ.

*Rev. A. W. Little to the Parishioners of St. Paul's, Portland, Maine.*

Lent, although a season of fasting and denial to the body, is a feast of good things.