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## TORONTO, THURSDAY, DEC. 27, 1894.

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Address all communications.

NOTICE.-Subscription price to subscribers in the City of Toronto, owing to the cost of delivery, is \$2.50 per year, if paid strictly in advance \$1.50. FRANK WOOTTEN,

Offices-Cor. Church and Court Streets. Entrance on Court St.

## Lessons for Sundays and HolyDays.

December 20-1 SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS. Morning - Isaiah 35. Rev. 20. Evening - Isaiah 38 or 40. Rev. 21, to v. 15.

APPROPRIATE HYMNS for the 2nd and 3rd Sunday in Advent: compiled by Mr. F. Gatward, organist and choir master of St. Luke's Cathedral, Halifax, N.S. The numbers are taken from H. A. & M., but many of which are found in other hymnals:

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

Holy Communion: 464, 316, 557, 558. Processional: 59, 60, 175. Offertory: 55, 56, 61, 288. Children's Hymns: 58, 59, 565, 571. General Hymns: 58, 62, 484, 63, 289.

## The New Year.

In the first issue of the New Year, a portrait of Mr. Frank Wootten will appear, it being the twenty-first year of the publication of the "CHURCHMAN." DANCING AS AN EXERCISE.—An item which has been put in circulation by the New York Commercial-Advertiser apparently sets at rest by facts and figures very definitely the question as to the value of "light fantastic toe" performances in the light of an exercise—which has long been asserted and denied. It is now calculated that the average dancing young lady travels over 15 miles in an evening. This being so, we shall next have to consider whether that is a proper amount of exercise for one evening. Physicians are the only persons really competent to decide this point, though we shrewdly suspect that it is rather "much of a good thing "—supposing that dancing is a "good thing " at all.

EXERCISE AND STIMULANTS.—The Toronto Empire has drawn attention to the action of certain extreme advocates of Prohibition in seeking to "cut off the feeders" of intoxication by preventing indulgence in such exercises as create thirst—which may lead to indulgence in stimulants. This is bringing things down to "a very fine point," and looks very like a "reductio ad absurdum," giving a ridiculous aspect to the whole movement. They will presently be forced—if consistent—to say, "You must cease to live at all, because life requires exercise, and exercise may lead to intoxication." Thus do advocates of extreme measures, interfering with the dictates of nature and common-sense, at last ruin their own cause.

THE ARMENIAN Fog [continues to envelop the whole question of reported outrages. Very grave doubt is thrown on the Armenian version, and the Turkish denials are positive and apparently fearless. However, we shall, ere long, have a reliable report from the British Commission. Other European powers seem quite content to leave the investigation in British hands. Woe be to the Turks and their agents if half the stories be true that have reached the ears of indignant Britain. If the Lion and the Bear together undertake to give the Turkish "Sick Man" his deserts, there will not be much of him left—unless other European powers should want to take a hand in the work before it is over.

THE POWER OF A NOBLE DEATH is well illus. trated by the press and other effusions on the death of Sir John Thompson. The most bitter and determined of his opponents appears to lay down his arms contentedly in the presence of the " Great Conqueror " who has sent them warning of the resistless power of his decision, as well as the uncertainty of his time, and his utter disrespect of place. The Queen has done herself, one may say, infinite honour by the natural kindliness of her intervention, wherever the obsequies would permit of her presence or personal interest in the proceedings. By such acts she has always endeared herself to her people. Truly such a life and death as that of our Canadian Premier "makes the whole world kin "--takes down the barriers of political and religious differences.

which has peculiar charms for the typical Briton. To "use his fists" has been the "first book" of self-defence in the training of our British youth, and a well-directed blow from a solid "bunch of fives" has settled accounts with many a sudden assailant of the wandering Englishman. Even St. Paul seems to have admired—and borrowed one of his most effective figures of speech from the "business-like way" in which the Greek athletes of his day "beat under" and "blackened the eyes" of their adversaries. It seems a pity that such a useful and honourable exercise of nature's defensive weapon should be allowed to degenerate into a brutal aud murderous amusement—quite as bad as bull-fighting.

RECIPROCITY OF KINDLINESS has been lately illustrated on a large scale—if we may trust uncontradicted newspaper reports—in a way of which Canadians may well feel a little proud and very happy. Sir John Thompson, though a Roman Catholic convert from Methodism, was gracefully tolerated by the usually ultra-Protestant Ontario Conservatives—and indeed by Canadians generally. His conspicuous *impartiality* justified the confidence reposed in him; and the next thing we hear is that a leading Roman Catholic has recommended as Sir John Thompson's successor in the Premiership, an equally prominent Orangeman. We are evidently at least disposed to trust one another in such high and influential positions.

THE BEST OF THEM COME BACK-the 'verts to Romanism from the Church of their fathers. Some sensitive temperaments are naturally subject to the desperate disease called "going over to Rome." They happen to find themselves on occasion in some predicament, out of which there seems to be no better escape than a "blind leap" into Romanism ; but-if they have sense as well as sensitiveness (not always the case !) they discover very soon that the "fire" is worse than the " frying pan." Then they come back, unless they are ashamed to advertise their foolishness any further. From the days of Wilberforce we have had this steady stream of "returns"; but they are not returned " empty." They bring back their experience ; they are "sadder and wiser " menable to be much more useful to their old Mother Church. Such was the late vicar of St. Mary's, Oxford; and such were two recent 'verts, now "reverts" well-known in Canada-Macklem and Lutz. A WONDERFUL POLYGLOT was the Rev. Solomon Cesar Malan, who recently died at Bournemouth at the age of 84. He was a Swiss; but could write treatises in over 80 languages. In preparing most of his writings, he carried on researches in twenty languages. We do not remember any case so remarkable, as an illustration of the amazing degree of extension possible in the case of this particular faculty of our species. The facts of his case go to prove, or at least hint, that human senses are capable of almost superhuman "extension," and that the argument from mere "experience " is not a very safe one-cannot close a question. "We never saw it in this manner" is no proof that others may not have better luck or opportunity. It will not do to say a statement in the Bible, for instance, is " incredible " or " ridiculous" or "indefensible" because we have not observed any "precedent" for such a thing.

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MODERN "TABLE-SERVING."-Several loud protests—sounding almost like cries of agony—have recently been made from the pulpit against that tyranny of the pews which has turned the modern "ideal parson" into a big cog-wheel among the complicated machinery of countless societies intended for church money-making, by catering to human fondness for fun or amusement of some kind. Not only is the "hired parson" expected to "fill pews" by his preaching (or what passes for it !), but also to fill the pockets of the church officials by skilful "running" of various entertainments. The vicar of an English parish lately said : "I cannot and will not be a beggar of money-the man whose visits are associated with financial appeals, dreadful to the visitor and the visited-the organizer of bazaars or sales, or teas, or wax-work exhibitions, or any other device for helping God's people to do their alms-giving under the guise of pleasure. How can the clergy keep the parish if occupied in ' raising the wind ?''' Well said !

DEATH-DEALING FISTICUFFS.—So often lately has it happened that a prize-fight has resulted in the death of one of the parties in the conflict, that it almost seems as if some secret element of "foul play" had been allowed to creep into a pastime once called "the noble art of self-defence"—