

Parish and Home.

VOL. IV.

FEBRUARY, 1894.

No. 39.

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY.

LESSONS.

- 4—Quinquagesima. *Morning*—Gen. 9, to v. 20; Matt. 19, v. 27, to 20, v. 17. *Evening*—Gen. 12 or 13; Acts 21, to v. 17.
- 7—Ash Wednesday. *Morning*—Isa. 58, to v. 13; Mark 2, 13 to 23. *Evening*—Jonah 3; Heb. 12, v. 3 to v. 18.
- 11—1st Sunday in Lent. *Morning*—Gen. 19, v. 12 to 30; Matt. 23, v. 13. *Evening*—Gen. 22, to v. 20 or 23; Acts 26.
- 18—2nd Sunday in Lent. *Morning*—Gen. 27, to v. 41; Matt. 26, v. 37. *Evening*—Gen. 28, or 32; Rom. 2, v. 17.
- 25—3rd Sunday in Lent. *Morning*—Gen. 37; Mark 2, to v. 23. *Evening*—Gen. 39, or 40; Rom. 8, v. 18.

WHAT WILT THOU?

(Mark x. 51.)

More gifts I implore, blessed Jesus, oh, grant them,
More strength for those duties which have to be done;
More faith to rely on the help Thou hast promised,
More hope to look forward to victory won.

More love for the souls of the people around me,
More patience to bear any cold-hearted frown,
More wisdom to say the right word in its season—
More power to look upward, if made to lie down—

More peace amid the turmoil of earth's many voices,
More eager desire for Thy advent, O Lord;
More light to discover the signs of Thy coming,
More pleasure in reading the truths of Thy Word—

More smiles for the children enjoying life's sunshine.
More sympathy, too, with my friends in its shade.
More thought for them all, whether aged or youthful,
More likeness to Thee in the world Thou hast made.

—Selected.

FOR PARISH AND HOME.

JAMES FRASER: SECOND BISHOP OF MANCHESTER.

SECOND PART.

JAMES FRASER began his parochial career as Rector of Cholderton in 1847. This living was the poorest in the gift of Oriel, and was a tiny hamlet nestling in a dip of the great downs which form the northern boundary of Salisbury Plain. It was one of the most secluded little nooks in England. While here, he devoted much time to the study of educational questions, and

it was as a writer on these topics that he first became widely known.

From Cholderton he removed to the parish of Ufton Nervet, in Berkshire, and only five miles from Reading. He at once set to work to get things into ship-shape at Ufton, and spent £4,200 on the rectory, outbuildings, school, and a cottage, *suo sumptu*, without any help, save £300 from his old college. That he was now reaching the maturity of his powers is evident from the way in which he grappled with all sorts of questions, of municipal and national concern.

He opened a new church, day school, night school, and reading room, and had everything in the most splendid order, for which he had a perfect passion. Ufton soon became what Cholderton had been, a model parish in every way, and that in a district where such things were so noticeable that Mr. Emerson remarked of it that it seemed "as if it had all been brushed and combed every morning on getting up."

Such a man could not long remain unknown. He was besieged with applications for sermons, at Reading and elsewhere. Each new appearance increased his reputation, and, as a consequence, he was offered and accepted, in 1865, the post of commissioner to report on the state of education in America. He arrived on this side of the Atlantic just as the great war was ended, and learned of the assassination of Lincoln from the pilot who met the *Scotia* near New York. Notwithstanding the strained relations between England and the United States, Fraser won his way steadily, and reported that "everybody is willing to assist me, and full of information." He formed many pleasant acquaintances, notably with George Ticknor, Governor Andrew, Charles Sumner, Bishop Eastburn, and Charles Eliot Norton. He relates an amusing fact, "interesting as illustrating the range of reading of American domestics." Goldwin Smith, who, Fraser says, "left very pleasant memories behind him," had been staying with Mr. Charles Eliot Norton. One day the housemaid asked Mr. Norton "who this Mr. Smith was." When told that it was Mr. Goldwin Smith, she said, "What? he who

wrote the 'Letter to the Whig Member'? I wish I had known it when I opened the door, that I might have paid proper respect to him." It seems needless to add that Mr. Norton lived in Boston!

Fraser went about with his eyes and ears open, and in many instances his criticisms were singularly apt, and as singularly fair and genial, though he was most outspoken in his opinions. Upon the subject of congregational worship he spoke thus in a sermon in the Tremont Temple at Boston: "I have gone about, as Paul went about Athens, 'beholding your devotions,' and they have seemed to me—suffer me to speak my mind frankly—somewhat lifeless and cold. They are different from what I have been accustomed to, not only in our great cathedrals, but in our little country parishes at home. I want hearty responses, not decorous silence; I want congregational psalmody, not merely ears open to catch the cadences of a well-trained choir. 'Fine prayers addressed to the congregation,' as some one among you wittily called them, don't meet my notions of Christian worship; and quartette choirs, with fine voices indeed, but who keep the singing all to themselves, and, as I have seen in this very city, take up their parasols and leave as soon as their part of the performance is over, and the sermon about to begin, do not satisfy my idea of Christian psalmody." It is satisfactory to know, as one of the papers reported at the time, that the congregation, at the close of the service, joined in singing the hymn in a manner which showed that they had profited by the words they had heard.

Fraser visited Canada, but it was just when the vacation was beginning, and so did not see the school system in active operation. Before he set sail he wrote to a friend: "I have received an immense deal of kindness, first and last, in America. I must constitute myself, in return, a sort of general host of all Americans visiting England. I wish the two countries understood one another better, and were more inclined to be friends." His opinions on the future of education, which his visit to America matured, are no less interesting: "The result of this enquiry would make