

Parish and Home.

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CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY.

PROPER LESSONS.

- 7—5th Sunday after Epiphany. *Morning*—Prov. i.; Matt. xxi. 23. *Evening*—Prov. iii. or viii.; Acts xxii. 23 to xxiii. 12.
- 14—Septuagesima Sunday. *Morning*—Gen. i. and ii. to v. 4; Rev. xxi. to v. 9. *Evening*—Gen. ii. 4; or Job xxxviii; Rev. xxi. 9 to xxii. 6.
- 21—Sexagesima Sunday. *Morning*—Gen. iii; Matt. xvii. 57. *Evening*—Gen. vi. or viii.; Rom. v.
- 24—St. Matthias' Day. *Morning*—Sam. ii. 27 to 36; Mark i. 21. *Evening*—Isai. xxii. 15; Rom. viii. to v. 13.
- 28—Quinquagesima Sunday. *Morning*—Gen. ix. to v. 20; Mark iv. to v. 35. *Evening*—Gen. xii. or xiii.; Rom. x.

DIVINE SYMPATHY.

What is thy grief to-day?

A mind mute-burdened with its heavy sorrow,

A soul too faint to see the hopeful morrow,

A life that longs death's drapery to borrow?

Take heart!

He knoweth all thy way,

And makes thy inmost grief His chosen part.

What is thy joy to-day?

A mind in wonder at its own keen knowing,

A soul wherein God-planted truth is growing,

A life with eager, happy love o'erflowing!

Rejoice!

He knoweth all thy way,

And hears with perfect love thy praising voice.

—Herbert Clarke, in *S. S. Times*.

WE wish to take our readers into our confidence and make them co-workers with us in extending the usefulness of our paper. PARISH AND HOME is now just nicely paying its way, but we wish to go on and improve the paper until it is not only the best of its kind in Canada, but one of the best in the world. To do this we need largely to increase our circulation, and, as this month and next are among the best in the year to get new subscribers, we ask the hearty co-operation of all our friends. If the reader is in

a parish where it is localized, let him show it to those who are not subscribers, and if possible get them to take it, and so strengthen the hands of your clergyman, and of the workers of your church. If it is not localized with you, try to get a few copies taken in the Sunday school—it will be a great help to the senior scholars—or get some individual subscribers and send their names to The Bryant Press, 20 Bay street, Toronto. One or two ladies can help very much in this way. If a district visitor, or one who visits a hospital or jail, or any institution where good reading is needed and appreciated, take a few copies, if needs be getting some well-to-do friend to help you pay for them, and then leave them where they will do the most good. The promoters are not pushing the work as a money-making venture, but to do all the good they can, and all their work has been done as a labor of love. They desire to scatter good, healthy, yet cheap literature among our church people, to take the place, as far as possible, of that which is trashy and evil, and they want to sow the seed of truth far and wide, and so build up a strong, robust character among our people; above all, they desire to extend the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. To this end and in this work they ask your prayerful help and co-operation, and they ask you, if possible, to give it at once.

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A VISITOR to Canada, who had spent most of his life in Russia, said that one thing that struck him as being very common among Canadian people was fault-finding—grumbling about the weather, the bad times, the low prices, and a hundred other things, and yet he said, contrasting them with the great majority of the people of Russia, he sometimes wondered what they really lacked. Canadians have food in abundance, clothing, freedom to

come and go without any government to harass and annoy them, and, above all, freedom to worship and serve God according to the dictates of their own conscience, and opportunity to know His will. Is not this spirit of fault-finding much too prevalent? Parents find fault with children and children with parents; teachers with scholars and scholars with teachers; clergymen with their people and people with their pastors, and all of us with our surroundings, and the little trials and difficulties that come in our way and beset our path. I have heard a farmer do more grumbling because the pigs got into a field and destroyed a couple of bushels of grain than rejoicing for the large and bountiful crop that God had given him. I have heard a woman do more complaining because a child had torn a new dress than thanksgiving for all the many garments she was able to procure for herself and family; a business man murmuring over one bad sale or dull day, rather than rejoicing over a dozen good ones. Surely this must be anything but pleasing to a loving Father who gives so many things to His children richly to enjoy, and tells them to "rejoice in the Lord alway," and plainly shows that all things, even the little everyday cares and worries, work together for good to them that love Him. Let us, this new year, seek to cultivate glad, happy, cheerful characters, thinking of our many blessings, and recounting all we have to be thankful for, rather than brooding or worrying over our trials and troubles. It has been well said, "There are two things we should never worry over, things we cannot help, and things we can help." The former it is of no use to worry over; the latter we should at once set about to remedy. How much happier will the homes of many of our readers be this year if all who read these lines determine, by God's help, to be glad and cheerful, ever looking