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Canadian Churchman.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOV. 24, 1898.

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LESSONS FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS.

November 27—1st SUNDAY IN ADVENT.
Morning—Isaiah 1, 1 Peter 1, to 22.
Evening—Isaiah 2, or 4, 2. John 10, 22.

Appropriate Hymns for First and Second Sundays in Advent, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., organist and director of the choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto. The numbers are taken from Hymns Ancient and Modern, many of which may be found in other hymnals:

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 51, 107, 311, 313, 318.
Processional: 47, 48, 50, 217, 268, 362.
Offertory: 49, 53, 203, 226, 288.
Children's Hymns: 45, 334, 565, 568, 569.
General Hymns: 52, 205, 287, 477, 479.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 304, 311, 314, 521, 559.
Processional: 7, 30, 33, 233, 393, 529.
Offertory: 213, 358, 359, 360, 526.
Children's Hymns: 215, 330, 346, 473, 550.
General Hymns: 4, 12, 206, 227, 438, 534.

OUTLINES OF TEXTS FROM THE FIRST SUNDAY LESSONS.

BY REV. PROF. CLARK, LL.D., TRINITY COLLEGE
Second Sunday in Advent.

Isaiah v., 4. "What could have been done more to my vineyard that I have not done in it?"

A remarkable mingling of tenderness and remonstrance in these prophetic utterances. Prophet Isaiah in more senses than one the Evangelical Prophet. God by him appeals to the House of Israel, and through that to us also. He is disappointed and He reasons.

i. Application to Israel.
1. The Almighty disappointed. He looked for grapes and got wild grapes. Surely

not too strong. Consider the history of this stiffnecked and rebellious people.

2. He declares that He has done His best for them. A remarkable challenge. We may not understand all that it means. But we must believe its truth. God loves all men and all nations. Chose Israel not for its own sake alone—for the sake of the world—yet conferred high honour and privileges upon chosen people. And received little in return. He might well put this question: What could have been done more?

ii. Application to Christian Church.

1. If such an appeal, how much more to the Church of Christ. Fulfilment of Prophecy—Realization of expectations. That which Abraham desired we see. That which the Law prefigured we possess. Provision made for all our needs. Remission of sins, renewal of nature, joy of reconciliation and fellowship.

2. What results have followed? Much doubtless for which we have reason to be thankful. Yet how have men marred the work of God! By their divisions, heresies, superstitions.

3. Might not God make this appeal: What have I left undone? What could I have done more or better? Look back. Are the failures to be laid to God? Are not His demands good? Has He not provided all aids for the fulfilment of them? Has He not offered every inducement? What could He have done more?

iii. Application to individuals. Let us come nearer to ourselves.

1. Some may say—they have not had the opportunities that many others have had. Can any, however, say that they have done the best possible for themselves? As well as God has done for them?

2. Many, however, will not deny that "Goodness and mercy have followed them all the days, etc.," and that they have made but a poor return. If God puts to us the question—What could I have done more? are we in a position to answer Him with reproaches? Can we lay the blame of our failures upon God?

THE REVISED VERSION.*

We rejoice in the various indications around us that the Revised Version of the Scriptures is attracting increasing attention and attaining to a wider circulation and influence. During the last three weeks we have had first, an edition of the Revised Bible with references, a folio edition for reading in churches, and a set of extracts from the Revised Version, recommended to be

*The Holy Bible: The Revised Version; with Revised Marginal References. Prices from \$1.50 in cloth up to \$6.25 (in various bindings); with Teachers' helps up to \$11; also with Apocrypha: Toronto: Upper Canada Bible Society. Report of Commission on Marginal Readings in the Bible to the General Convention. New York: Whittaker

printed in the margin of the Bible, and to be substituted for the readings of the Authorized Version in the American Church—to say nothing of a Revised Version of the Apocrypha, which was published three or four years ago. These are significant facts. Many persons were grievously disappointed that the great and fruitful labours of the revisers had not received a readier and a wider recognition. They were not aware that the version of the time of King James, which is now so highly and rightly honoured among ourselves was met by the same opposition; yet this was the case. And there are many who, like the Bishop of Durham, are quite satisfied with the progress which the new book has made, although they lose no opportunity of enforcing its claims. One serious drawback to the general use of the book was the absence of marginal readings to which all careful students of the Bible had been long accustomed. This defect, we are most thankful to say, has now been supplied, and this in a manner which leaves nothing to be desired. All who have used the traditional marginal readings must be aware that a great many of them are quite worthless and worse, because they waste the student's time and dishearten him in his pursuit of Scripture teaching. Many of them, for example, are mere references to words which have no real connection with the meaning of the passage to which they are attached. The present readings are the result of most careful and conscientious work, carried on for years by one of our most valuable and accomplished biblical scholars, the late Dr. Scrivener, who in the latest revisions was assisted by Dr. Moulton, a scholar no less eminent. As a result of their labours, a series of references are given of different kinds which are carefully discriminated under the following heads: 1. Quotations, or exact verbal paragraphs. 2. Passages referred to for similarity of idea or of expression. 3. Passages referred to by way of explanation or illustration. 4. Historical and geographical references:—names of persons, places, etc., which recur. 5. Passages referred to as illustrating differences of rendering between the Authorized and Revised Version. So far as we have already examined these references, we find them in all respects satisfactory—almost beyond belief; and we are persuaded that no one will be disappointed in the use of them. Teachers, preachers, and students, may now, therefore, feel confident that the best appliances for their work are now provided. The translation of the Apocrypha may be had separately or bound up with the Old and New Testaments. The companies were chosen by the translators of the Canonical Scriptures, and their work is done in the same thorough manner. The alterations are very numerous. We have not actually counted them in any part, but they seem at least as numerous as those in the New Testament,