

Parish and Home.

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CALENDAR FOR JANUARY.

LESSONS.

- 1—Circum. of our Lord. *Morning*.—Gen. 17, 9; Rom. 2, 17. *Evening*.—Deut. 10, 12; Col. 2, 8, to 18.
Prop. Coll. Ep. and Gosp. to serve till Epiphany. Christ Prof. at Holy Com.
- 1st Sunday after Christmas.—Notice of Epiphany. *Morning*.—Isaiah 35; Rom. 2-17. *Evening*.—Isaiah 38 or 40; Col. 2, 8 to 18.
- 6—Epiphany of our Lord Hth Creed. *Morning*.—Isaiah 60; Luke 3, 15 to 23. *Evening*.—Isaiah 49, 13 to 24; and John 2 to v. 12.
- 8—1st Sunday after Epiphany. *Morning*.—Isaiah 51; Matt. 5, 13 to 33. *Evening*.—Isaiah 52, 13 to 53, or 54; Acts 4, 32 to 5, 17.
- 15—2nd Sunday after Epiphany. *Morning*.—Isaiah 53; Matt. 9 to v. 18. *Evening*.—Isaiah 57 or 61; Acts 9 to v. 23.
- 22—3rd Sunday after Epiphany. Notice of conversion of St. Paul. *Morning*.—Isa. 62; Matt. 13 to v. 24. *Evening*.—Isaiah, 65 or 66; Acts, 13, 26.
- 25—Conversion of St. Paul. *Morning*.—Isaiah 49 to v. 13; Gal. 1, 11. *Evening*.—Jer. 1 to v. 11; Acts 26 to v. 21.
- 29—Septuagesima. *Morning*.—Gen. 1 and 2 to v. 4; Rev. 21 to v. 9. *Evening*.—Gen. 2, 4; or Job 38; Rev. 21, 9, to 22, 6.

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NEW YEAR'S DAY—1893.

God lends to us the leaves of time,
We write upon them what we will;
But, having written, to erase
Transcends the bounds of human skill;
When God requires His own again,
Whose volume will be free from stain?

He makes each well-spent year a star
To gem the golden crown that waits
The soul which, through death's friendly flood,
Shall pass to heav'n's eternal gates;
How many stars, O friend, will be
In His fair crown for you, for me?

In the new year that dawns to-day,
Lord, let us fill a higher part!
Wean us from our own selfish way,
And make Thy work fill life and heart.
Let day-dreams fade and idols fall,
And Thou, dear Lord, be all in all.

A. M. ARDACH.

FOR PARISH AND HOME.

THE NEW YEAR.

Decision:—I Will.

THE opening days of the New Year offer to us a time in which to renew the past and to make new resolutions for the future. The state of mind which is afraid to resolve, is much worse than that which is ready to undertake but lacks force to carry the

promise into execution. The brink of despair is well-nigh reached. When a human soul is tempted by the sad thought of failure in the past to say, "I have made so many good resolutions which have never worked out into action, that I have not heart to make another." Nothing so destroys character as to be afraid to make resolutions. If there is but a spark of hope left it will cast a gleam of light into the future, and as it remembers that every day is a fresh beginning, will take heart with the morning and begin again. Hope is the last good thing that dies in the human heart.

The Christian who knows the meaning of life will begin not only every year but every day with a resolve, "I will, with God's help, live a steadfast and a better life than in the days and years that are past." But he can only do this when he remembers that for every year, as for every day, we need the cleansing fountain of Jesus' blood, before we dare lift our faces to the dawn of new duties and fresh responsibilities. And as his feet enter upon the pilgrimage of the unhidden future, we need in this unknown path the guidance of Him who has said, "Behold, I make all things new."

But what of the past? Are we to forget it? Are we to bury it in oblivion? Are we to blot out its failures and its falls, its mercies or its victories? The command of Scripture is to go on and to go forward. It is often a sign of a morbid state in the spiritual life when we live in a sort of dreamland of the dead past. Forward is the watchword of action. Thus Tennyson says:—

When the dumb Hour, clothed in black,
Brings the dreams about my bed,
Call me not so often back,
Silent Voices of the dead.
Toward the lower ways behind me,
And the sunlight that is gone!

Call me, rather, Silent Voices,
Forward to the starry track
Glimmering up the heights beyond me,
On, and always on!

Yet every true life must have its roots in the past. No earnest soul can pass from one year to another without

thoughts that are often too deep for tears. For the past is the school in which we learned all the knowledge and experience that we possess. It is rich in precious memories. It is a lesson book which enables us to make use of failure, in building up a wiser and better future.

"For men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things."

It is when we remember how much we owe to past failure and past defeat that we dare as tried men to face the future without shrinking.

Let us, then, make this New Year a fresh beginning. "I will" be better, do better, live better, God being my helper. Such a resolve needs decision and the exercise of will power. It may be said that the will is the driving wheel of man's complex being. The word "I will" expresses deliberate choice and steadfast purpose. It marks decision of character. The man who wills is firm and steadfast. The waverer is like the surge of the sea driven of the wind and tossed. It is far from my purpose even to suggest for a moment that the unsanctified will can go forth to battle sure of victory. There is needed first the essential principle of life, given by the Life-Giver through faith in Jesus Christ. The life of earnest Christian action, showing itself in works of love and mercy in a will brought into harmony with the will of God, can only come from life in Christ. Yet, as St. Bernard said, "Our will does nothing thereunto without grace, but grace is inactive without our will"—human willing is not an illusion, it is a great reality.

The secret of true success in the spiritual warfare lies in a will renewed and sanctified. We thus teach our children the value of decision based upon a humble reliance on divine grace. "Yes, verily, and by God's help so I will." It is thus that the will becomes irresistible, for faith brings to decision a new and a Divine power. The power of decision "I will," is a necessary element in every true life. But it is not the fruit of idle dreams. It needs cultivation. It requires con-