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LESSONS FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS.

Jan. 2nd.—SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS
Morning.—Isaiah 42. Matt. 1, 18.
Evening.—Isaiah 48 or 44. Acts 1.

Appropriate Hymns for Second Sunday after Christmas and First Sunday after Epiphany, compiled by Mr. F. Gatward, organist and choirmaster of St. Luke's Cathedral, Halifax, N.S. The numbers are taken from H.A. and M., but many of which are found in other hymnals:

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS.

Holy Communion: 70, 316, 319, 555.
Processional: 62, 165, 393, 464.
Offertory: 55, 179, 483, 485.
Children's Hymns: 58, 73, 329, 339.
General Hymns: 59, 71, 72, 74, 523, 548.

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY.

Holy Communion: 177, 311, 320, 557.
Processional: 76, 79, 219, 393.
Offertory: 81, 178, 306, 367.
Children's Hymns: 79, 334, 337, 565.
General Hymns: 78, 218, 220, 487, 522, 547.

OUTLINES OF THE GOSPELS FOR THE CHURCH'S YEAR.

BY REV. PROF. CLARK LL.D., TRINITY COLLEGE
Gospel for Circumcision and Second Sunday after Christmas.

St. Luke ii. 16: "And they came with haste, and found both Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in the manger."

It is natural that the Church should linger over the Nativity of her Lord, and surround it with tokens of honour. The commemoration of the first appearance of the Word made flesh. Many lessons of deep interest from the words of the angels, the visit of the shepherds, the magi. At present to consider the shepherds as our examples on the way to Christ.

i. They had a call, as we have.

Different circumstances, yet essentially the same. It comes to each according to need, position, capability. (1) From God. (2) May be recognized or ignored. And now at the beginning of a new year it comes again.

ii. Their conduct an example to us.

1. They obeyed. (1) No attempt to evade. Understood and acted upon the command. (2) So we should try to understand the meaning of divine calls and act upon them. We may do something—give up something.

2. They obeyed readily: "Came with haste. (1) Delay one of the commonest faults, and most dangerous. Appeals to sloth, indecision; engenders self-deception. (2) The shepherds acted with promptitude. No procrastination or hesitation, no seeking of excuses. Understood the appeal, responded. (3) An example to be imitated. The call of God and our supreme interests involved, for time and eternity.

3. They succeeded. They "found," etc. Prompt obedience rewarded. Sufficient guidance—acted upon—success. An example here also. Certainly to all who imitate. Grant—some do not find because they do not seek. Others think they find and do not. But here the end of the Divine calling, that we may find and know God in Christ. (a) All meant to lead to Christ: Law, Gospel, Joy, Sorrow, Angels. (b) And this alone satisfies God, even the living God. (c) Have we found Him? No needless doubts and no presumption. Have we sought, found? Do we serve?

Gospel for the Epiphany.

St. Matt. ii. 2: "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? for we saw His star in the East, and are come to worship Him."

The story of the manifestation of Christ to the magi beautiful and picturesque; but also instructive and suggestive, reminding us (1) of the universality of Christ, and (2) of the way in which the human soul is led to Him. We have here:

i. The case of men spiritually enlightened seeking for further illumination.

1. They were expecting a King. (1) How we know not, whether by tradition or from a heartfelt need, or both. (2) And a sign granted, suited to their position, etc. (3) But also inward illumination.

ii. They recognized and responded to the call.

1. Reminds us of Abraham. So these Magi, expecting a sign—obtaining it, set forth on a long and arduous journey.

2. Surely among us some seeking for larger truth and guidance not withheld. By some recognized, by others not.

iii. They met discouragements and help by the way. (1) Jerusalem troubled. (2) Yet guidance. (3) And they obeyed. (4) And again the star.

iv. They had the joy of finding.

(1) Saw the star and rejoiced. (2) Came where the young Child was. True wisdom

leads to Christ, and in Him alone full satisfaction is found.

v. They gladly offered their best.

1. Here is a test. How do we show love and devotion?

2. A splendid example. (1) Gold—a constant measure of value. (2) Frankincense—representative of worship and adoration. (3) Myrrh—self-sacrifice.

How is it with us? Jesus Christ among us: and we can offer to Him. "Vainly we offer," etc., if not love.

THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

The Governor-General and the Countess of Aberdeen having spent several weeks at Government House, Toronto, are now returning to Ottawa; and we feel it fitting that we should join with other organs of public opinion in expressing our appreciation of their efforts for the wellbeing of the community, and our gratitude for their self-denying devotion to the interests of the people over whom they were placed as the representatives of the Queen. We mean no disparagement to those eminent personages who have occupied the vice-regal chair in Canada, when we say that the Earl and Countess of Aberdeen have taken a line of their own. They have not been content to discharge their important duties in a graceful and dignified manner. This they certainly have done; but they have done much more than this. They have manifested an interest in the country and in the people of the country which is more than official, which is personal and universal. In one respect they have identified their interests with those of Canada by becoming large owners of property in the Dominion; but this is by no means their chief claim upon our regard.

It is to their benevolence and philanthropy that the records of our history, when they come to be written, will chiefly direct the attention of posterity. There is no cause which they have not done their best to search out. They have striven to remedy what was amiss physically and morally, they have looked for guidance to supply what was lacking and needed, and they have spared neither money nor toil in their humane and Christian work.

So startling indeed did their line of attitude seem to some among us that there were not wanting those who were ready to charge them with Quixotism, and even with some thought of subverting the received social system. Absurd stories were circulated, to which even an allusion at the present time does too great honour; but these are now forgotten, or remembered only to be derided. Their Excellencies have never forgotten the lofty place which they occupy. The dignity of the Empire has been uniformly upheld by them in every position and relation. None of their predecessors have ever exercised the same lavish and splendid hospitality. If we have an upper class, that class can certainly not complain. But they have done more and better than this. They have shown that every class and the interests of every class are very