

THE CHURCH GUARDIAN

—: EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR:—

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ANNOUNCEMENTS SEE PAGE 16.

DECISIONS REGARDING NEWSPAPERS.

1. Any person who takes a paper regularly from the Post office, whether directed to his own name or another's, or whether he has subscribed or not, is responsible for payment.

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4. The courts have decided that refusing to take newspapers or periodicals from the Post office, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is *prima facie* evidence of intentional fraud

CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER.

DECEMBER	4.—2nd Sunday in Advent.
"	11.—3rd Sunday in Advent. (Notice of Ember Days.)
"	14 } EMBER DAYS.
"	16 }
"	17 }
"	18.—4th Sunday in Advent. (Notice of St. Thomas.)
"	21.—St. Thomas; Ap. and Mar.
"	25.—Christmas, (Notice of St. Stephen, St. John and Inno- cents Days.)
"	26.—St. Stephen; First Martyr.
"	27.—St. John; Ap. and Ev.
"	28.—Innocents Day.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The present position of affairs in the political world, both Provincial and Dominion, recalls to our mind the wise words of the Bishop of Tasmania to his Synod in May last. We commend his remarks to the consideration of our readers. There would appear to be much similarity in the condition of affairs in Australia and in Canada. Certainly the words of the Bishop seem to apply directly to the position here. His Lordship said:—

"Our great need is high principled leaders in all departments of Church and State—men who do not merely echo the sentiments of the mass but speak their own convictions, and would at once stand aside rather than move an inch out of the road which to them appears the true one.

Let me impress upon you a truth which none of you will gainsay. We must not look vaguely about for our leaders expecting them to drop from the skies. *We must produce them for ourselves.* Great leaders are not casual excrescences upon a nation's system, governed by no law of life. Were the Hebrew prophets, think you, accidental appearances? No; they were thrown up from the intensely earnest spirit of the Jewish nation, chosen and guided by God, as it was for a special purpose. They were as natural in one sense in their sphere, and under God's guidance as the flower which is developed by the strong growing plant which has been duly nourished, and this lesson I urge on you to take home to yourselves. For this reason no amount of trouble is misspent, which is expended upon the young in teaching lessons of Godliness and Christian principle. Are we bent upon training the next generation as Christians or not? Are we prepared to say that this paramount duty needs no aid from the State, and what is worse, no sympathy? Put thus plainly to ourselves, it makes us realise the gravity of the trend of some of the political forces of the day in Australia generally. At least we can all determine *to act and argue, and vote* as if there were a God above, as those who believe in Jesus Christ as the Light of the world, and in the principles He taught. But this which seems self-evident when we are met in solemn session here is not in conformity with all the actions of our society. Sometimes we are afraid to speak out with indignation, we accept selfish compacts with resignation, we condone crime and live beyond our means without compunction. We may even pass laws for the sake of expediency, though we believe them un-Christian. Doubtless these are all the characteristics of the young nation which has much to learn before it becomes established in principle. But there is another view of youthful temper, in my opinion truer and nobler. What of the ideals born of ardent and spiritual hopes, the hatred of shams, the contempt for weak evasions, the love of straightforward dealing? This is the truer ideal of youth, the heritage of the younger sons of Christian England. It is not too much to say that this assembly, and those it represents, can affect all I have depicted and more in God's Providence. Give us then great leaders, you laity and clergy of the Church. Give them to us by the only natural process, *through godly homes and a Christian society.* Then men and women, full of the Holy Ghost and of power, will be sent us in abundance, because we shall have laid the obvious foundations which God has shown us how to plant."

THE SECOND COMING OF OUR LORD.

BY IRENE WIDDEMER HARTT.

"And thou shalt see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and might."

For centuries the cry of the saints, not only of those under the altar, but of those toiling upon the earth, has been: "How long, oh Lord, how long?" Now it seems as if it cannot be long before the Lord will come again. The day is very near when every prophecy will be fulfilled. The Gospel has been preached in every land; the Bible has been translated into almost every tongue; "Many run to and fro;" men go around the world, exploring every part of it as easily as they formerly travelled a hundred miles. Steam and electricity are fulfilling prophecy. Knowledge is certainly increased. All things are hurrying to the glorious time when the Son of Man shall appear.

So we may have but a little time now to wait till we shall be "forever with the Lord." Any night we may say, "He may come before morning." In the morning, as we open our window

wide, and look upon the earth, bathed in His own glorious sunshine, we may comfort our hearts with the soft whisper, "Perhaps He will come before this little day is out." We have trimmed and filled our lamps, and are listening always, as we go about our tasks, for the coming of the Bridegroom. We have made ready for our journey home, and are doing our best to hasten the coming of Him who is to take us to the mansion He has prepared for us.

So we watch for Him.

We know so well what it is to watch for some loved one, of the time of whose coming we are not quite certain. "He may be here to-day," we say. "Yes, before the setting of the sun we may be looking into His face again." As we go about, we think of little else. We think how it will be when the first sound of the "music of his step" is heard, the familiar form approaching the rushing to him, the greetings. Yet over all this joy a shadow is thrown; for it means parting again soon. But we are to be "forever with the Lord." Joyful as is the coming of an earthly friend, such joy is as nothing when we compare it with the coming of the Lord.

Sometimes, when we sit alone in the twilight, after a busy, bustling day, stealing a moment of sweet communion with the Master before the evening comes with its duties and pleasures—sometimes, when we sit watching the shadows fall, talking to Him of the shadows that are falling over our path in life, of how we are longing for the clear shining of His eternal day and for the sight of His loved face, we picture to ourselves His coming. We have visions too sacred to be whispered to anyone but to Him as we think how it will all be. We wonder if another twilight will find us waiting still. We wonder if all these shadows will have passed away in another day, and if after to-night we shall never know what darkness is, being then in the city "where they have no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it, and the Lamb is the light thereof; where the gates of it shall not be shut at all by day; for there shall be no night there."

We sit and think of that glorious time till the earth with all its bitterness is very far off. We forget for a while that it is still to-day with the sameness of yesterday about it, that all is vanity and vexation of spirit, except serving the Lord, that the sky has no brightness; for the Lord still tarries. Then as the evening comes with its old duties, we rouse ourselves from our dream, and go back to our life. Yet the recollections of the blessed picture goes with us to strengthen us in our work here, making us realize the little worth of anything, but a life hid with Christ. Dwelling on Him and on His coming makes us lose our hold on this world and its toys, and makes us care less what comes to us, whether it be joy or sorrow. It teaches us, too, that our Master is all in all. So we slip our hand a little more closely into His, and look up into His face with a faith and love we never had before. We have the blessed assurance, too, that we are one day nearer His coming. "Then let us be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord." "For yet a little while, He that shall come, will come, and will not tarry." "Stablish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."

"Even so, come, Lord Jesus.—(Parish Visitor, N. Y.)