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LESSONS FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS.

December 3-First Sunday in Advent. Morning—Isaiah 1; 1 Peter 5. Evening—Isaiah 2, or 4, 2; John 13, to 21. December 10-Second Sunday in Advent Morning—Isaiah 5; 1 John 3, to 16. Evening—Isaiah 11, to 11, or 24; John 18, to 28.

December 17-Third Sunday in Advent. Morning—Isaiah 25; Rev. 1. Evening—Isaiah 26 or 28, 5 to 19; Rev. 2. to 18. December 24-Fourth Sunday in Advent. Morning—Isaiah 30, to 27; Rev. 14. Evening—Isaiah 32, or 33, 2 to 23; Rev. 15.

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 294, 309, 314, 315. Processional: 391, 392, 446, 532. Offertory: 293, 522, 536, 539. Children's Hymns: 332, 536, 565, 568. General Hymns: 299, 306, 512, 537.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 203, 313, 310, 314. Processional: 46, 49, 217, 268. Offertory: 51, 52, 205, 362. Children's Hymns: 281, 335, 345, 363. General Hymns: 48, 50, 53, 477.

Bountiful Goodness.

How wisely and graciously the Church leads her children on from season to season. With apt and moving phrase she gently teaches them the lesson appropriate for each eventful day in her calendar, and at the same time gradually and suggestively prepares their minds and hearts for the succeeding stages of their onward journey. Full well does the Collect foreshadow the near :approach of the blessed commemoration of the day which brought to believing men absolution from their offences and disclosed the bountiful goodness of God in delivering them from the bonds of those sins, which by their frailty they have committed.

Mild Weather.

November has certainly smiled on us this year. The mild and pleasant days have come and gone with many a gleam of sunshine and many a thankful comment. To those of us who live

where, during the winter season, the frost king rules and the winter snow so long abides, this charming respite has been most welcome. Most welcome it too has been to those who are sadly lacking in the very necessaries of life, to say nothing of their more favoured brethren who are not so ill off. To one and all it has most agreeably shortened the winter and the better prepared us for its more sterner moods.

Put Yourself in His Place.

One sometimes hears a person say, "What an easy time a parson has." How little does the speaker know the weight of the heavy, ever pressing, and at times apparently insupportable burden of care, duty and responsibility that rests upon the heart and mind of the faithful clergyman. Not seldom straining nerve and spirit almost to the breaking point. We speak not of the easy goer, the self-indulgent, the neglectful, if such there be. Troubles without, trials within. The sacred character of the office; the solemnity of its duties. The life of purity, self-denial, toil and devotion. The succourer of the poor and needy. The friend of the friendless. The visitor of the sick. The comforter of the sorrowing. The preacher and exemplar of truth, of righteousness, of gentleness, of goodness. Who is sufficient for all these things? And yet dear reader, knowing the tremendous test of life and character involved in the above requirements and that you have your own share of responsibility for the due performance by your clergyman of his high, arduous and most exacting duties as a fellow worshipper, member of, and coworker in the church with him and knowing too, as you do, that despite his high office he is a man with all that means of frailty, limitations and imperfections. May we ask how much true, loyal support, personal helpfulness, and heartfelt sympathy, are you giving him each day of your life? How often in a word do you frankly, honestly and justly try to put yourself in his place; and then fairly ask yourself how much better, after perhaps many years of work in the same office, you would discharge all its varied, exacting and onerous duties than he does. If you have turned the rough edge of your tongue on your clergyman and on his defects and shortcomings during the year now closing, try through the new year and the rest of the old, by way of preparation, the smooth edge of the unruly member on his good points, and, what is more important, lend him a helping hand, and take our word for it-the growth of the Church in membership, in efficiency, in cordiality and in all that goes to make a Church what it ought to be and what it is capable of being will be phenomenal, and the personal blessing which will come to each disciple of forbearance, endurance, self-control and brotherly kindness will prove a rich and ample reward for the requisite self-suppression and personal self-sacrifice involved.

Blue Books.

It was wise, timely and public-spirited of Earl Grey, in a recent address, to recommend some definite plan of instruction for all who choose to avail themselves of it, from our Parliamentary Blue Books. These books are the printed records of the reports of the various departments of Government, which appear from year to year, and contain a vast depository of valuable and practical information, statistical and otherwise, relating to agriculture, trade, commerce, manufactures, mines, minerals, forests, industries, and, in fact, everything that bears on public activities, progress, and the status and resources of our country from a Governmental standpoint. No public man is efficiently equipped for his duties unless he possesses a competent knowledge of the contents of the Blue Books; and no one who informs himself of their contents can fail to be

aware of the great advantage such knowledge is to him as a citizen, and how much more useful it enables him to be in everything that relates to the well being and advancement of his country.

The Growth of Brotherhood.

By unmistakable signs we are convinced that the spirit of Brotherhood is more and more rapidly, as the years go on, attracting the attention, enlisting the sympathy and rousing the active co-operation of men of divers countries and differing creeds and nationalities. To the reflective mind how strange yet impressive has been the drawing together of the two mighty Island Empires of Europe and Asia. Then again the notable access of friendship between England and France, and the marked improvement in the relations between the United States Republic and the British Empire. One might be pardoned in saying that the apostles of annexation are singularly silent these days on their one time favourite topic, the emigration of Canadians to the United States. The vast and unceasing immigration of United States farmers into our fertile North-West seems to have dried up their ink bottles and worn out the nibs of their goose quill pens. Even those who have aspired to combine the office prophet and historian seem to have stumbled on the threshold of our vigourous and expanding nationality. It would have been wiser to have played one role, then the historian would not have been called upon to record the facts which confuted the predictions of the seer. But we have digressed. It is certain that our relations with our neighbours have improved in friendliness with their growing realization of our great natural resources and with the gradual growth of a wholesome self-confidence and respect on our part. Even in poor war-worn, disrupted and bleeding Russia the seeds are being sown, it is true, with sorrow, pain and tears, which will in due time bring to harvest a purer and truer spirit of Brotherhood for all within as well as without the territories of the Czar. Surely the world is ripening for a great development of the Brotherhood of man along lines which indicate design, masterful, consummate superhuman.

National History.

At a recent meeting of the Scottish Historical Society, Lord Rosebery observed that Scottish history had for our purposes long ceased to exist: "The Waverley novels really demolis... or put an end to the isolation of Scotland from the rest of the world-the isolation which really made Scotland peculiar and interesting. The Waverley novels threw open the gates of Scotland to all lovers of romance throughout the world. From the time which coincides pretty nearly also with the introduction of railways, the irruption into Scotland of other influences has been taking place, and we have lost those strong national characteristis which really make the subject matter of the operations of the Scottish History Society." These remarks, clever as Lord Rosebery's always are, seem to be contradictory. The isolation of a nation is not in itself either romantic or historical. Lovers of romance or adventure can only apprehend the existence of such qualities when the gates are thrown open. Lord Rosebery continued: "It is a melanchory fact-some may think it is a very genial and delightful fact, but it is a fact, at any rate—that since those days we have become more like the rest of the world than we were before, and our peculiar history, our peculiar national manners and customs, may be said to have come historically speaking, almost to an end. I do not say that since that time Scotsmen have been like other folk. I should be very sorry to think so; but I do say the special peculiarities which we are endeavoring to commemorate in our