

3. By exercising true self-denial; by abstaining from unnecessary things, and by being strictly moderate even in necessities. The church does not go into details, but leaves each individual to make his own arrangements for the keeping of Lent, so long as these are in harmony with the principles of the Gospel—interpreted in the authoritative teaching of the Catholic church. Care must be taken always to see that our Lenten practices are not done merely for custom's sake, or to be considered churchmanlike.

4. By making use of this season as a preparation-time for Easter. When we consider how glorious is the Feast of Easter, and how wonderful is the fact which it commemorates, we must look on our Easter Communion as worthy of all the preparation we can give for it. We dared not approach it, unless we were cleansed from wilful sin by repentance, faith, and prayer.

May we all think seriously over these matters, and resolve that, God helping us, we will make a due use of the Holy Lenten season, for God's glory, and our own progress in holiness.

LAYMEN'S WORK IN THE CHURCH

In our last weekly issue, which appeared on January 28, we raised the question of the Office of Layreader in the Canadian Church, in the hope that some interested person, or persons, would continue the discussion, and some practical results eventuate therefrom. That the question of lay work is forcing itself upon thoughtful people we are well assured; not a few have expressed their opinions privately; but, is the matter to end there? We earnestly hope that it will not be so. We mean, from time to time, to keep up the agitation, believing, as we do, that the Canadian laity only need to be educated up to their duties and responsibilities, to make them better themselves.

This year, our venerable Primate goes to England to attend the Lambeth conference. How much the church in the Province of Rupert's Land owes to his whole-souled devotion very few seem to estimate. If churchmen would show him how heartily they appreciate his labors, they could not choose a better way than to take up the question of lay work in the province—not as isolated individuals, but in a corporate manner. Church work has hitherto been too much left to the ladies of the various congregations; the men have done very little in the aggregate. The Ladies' Aid in most parishes has to raise the necessary funds for carrying on the work; female teachers in the Sunday schools are in a big majority; the care of the sick and the needy is relegated to the wives and daughters of churchmen; both

on Sundays and week-days, the proportion of women present at the church's services is as three to one man, in some cases much more. We do not forget the noble work of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew; but there are, after all, only a very few chapters in the province. Now, there ought to be a chapter of this Order, or a branch of some other Guild of male church workers in every parish. Why do so many of the young men who come to settle in the far west drop out of church-going altogether? Simply because their brother churchmen take no interest in their welfare; no one bothers himself to find out to what religious communion they belong; no one thinks it worth while to ask them to go and be introduced to a clergyman. God's House ought to be the churchman's spiritual home; all who meet within its walls ought to regard themselves as brothers and sisters in Christ; and, when any one—however humble—of the great family of our Master comes to live in their midst, he should be cordially taken by the hand and brought in to the circle of Christ's family. What man is there among us so hardly pressed with the commonplace duties of life, that he could not exercise this courteous hospitality? And again, how much genuine church work is there which can be better done by a layman than by a cleric? As matters are at present, our clergy are called upon to perform a great many duties connected with the work of the parish which ought to be out of their hands altogether, and which in other religious bodies are entirely cared for by earnest laymen. Comparisons, we know, are odious; still, we cannot help being firmly of opinion that the success which has attended the efforts of the Methodists and Presbyterians in Canada has been mainly due to the energetic and self-denying efforts of their laymen. Why should the reproach of indifference rest upon the laymen of the church? Let us be up and doing. This Lent, let every churchman—young and old—in the Province of Rupert's Land make up his mind to give up a goodly portion of his time to definite church work. Brother churchmen, do not wait till your clergy entreat of you to take up your duties, but, of your own free will and accord, band yourselves together and relieve your pastors and their lady helpers of those portions of church work which ought to have been undertaken by you long ago! Thus will you give heart and encouragement to His Grace when he goes to speak of this vast province at the great Assembly of the Anglo-Catholic Church; thus will you be doing your utmost for the extension and consolidation of the Church of Christ in this Canada of ours; thus, also, will you be drawing God's choicest blessings upon your own spiritual lives!

Soldiers of Christ arise,
And put your armor on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies
Through His eternal Son.

THE INDIAN FAMINE.

Canadians are just beginning to realize the terrible nature of the calamity which has befallen their fellow-subjects in the Indian Empire. The sharp criticism to which the people of the Dominion have been subjected in Britain, on account of their apparent indifference in the matter, is perhaps to some extent not unmerited. When, however, the facts are taken into consideration, it will be admitted that we are not after all so very much to blame. In the first place, India is a long way off, and the people of Canada have never been in any way brought into touch with that portion of Her Majesty's possessions. There is little or no intercourse, social or commercial, between the two countries, and our newspapers have not been in the habit of paying much attention to Indian affairs, except to quote statistics in regard to the wheat crop. Even since the famine became serious we have heard very little about it, it being, in fact, only within the last week or two that the subject has assumed with us anything like the importance it deserves.

Again, the word famine in its real sense is not understood by the people of the Dominion as a whole. Hard times have been with us, not once, but many times, but even in hard times our people have generally no great difficulty in finding enough to eat, and it is consequently not easy for them to grasp the idea that under our own flag millions of men, of women, and of little children are literally starving to death. Canadians are, as a nation, generous to a fault, and now that the real state of affairs is known, and an organized effort is being made to put into practical form the pity and sympathy just aroused, we are sure that the result will justify the most sanguine expectations, and that Canada will do her fair share towards alleviating the sufferings of the famished and plague-stricken people of the far east. One thing must not be lost sight of, the old proverb, "He gives twice who gives quickly," is especially true in the case of giving bread to the starving. The Nor-Western some time ago recommended the shipment of a cargo of flour from Manitoba, as being not only a good act in itself, but an excellent advertisement. Never mind about the latter, but let us buy the flour right here, get the C. P. R. to haul it to Vancouver, load it on a fast steamer specially chartered and lay it down in India as fast as steam can put it there. In this way we may save lives by the hundred, which, if the ordinary roundabout methods are pursued, will be lost. Right here,