

Canadian Churchman

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Publisher.

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THE CALENDAR

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (February 13th).

Before 1549 the time was counted from the Octave of the Epiphany, so that while six Sundays were provided for, only five were named after the Epiphany. In 1549 the reckoning was made from the Epiphany itself, and the direction was given that, whenever a sixth Sunday occurred, the services of the fifth Sunday were to be repeated. The present Collect, Epistle and Gospel were added in 1662.

The Collect.—This was drawn up by Bishop Cosin, and will compare favourably with any of the older models. It consists of very skilfully interwoven passages from Holy Scripture, including, in particular the Epistle for the day. After speaking of our Lord's work as intended to destroy the works of the devil and provide us with the position of Sonship, prayer is offered that those who have their hopes fixed on Him may so purify themselves here that at the Great Day they may be wholly one with Christ. The close of the Collect is noteworthy as including a direct address to the Holy Spirit, a feature not usually found.

The Epistle.—Taken from 1 John 3:1-8, it blends doctrinal teaching and practical warning. Our Sonship in Christ is intended to look forward to the glorious time when we shall be transformed into His likeness. As the Collect implies, this hope is intended to effect purity of heart here in view of complete likeness to Christ hereafter. Then follows a solemn warning against every influence which would separate theory from practice in regard to righteousness.

The Gospel.—Taken from St. Matthew 24:23-31, the outlook is also on the great Epiphany of the future when our Lord will come again. He first warns against false Messiahs and then describes His coming and the events that will be associated therewith.

Thus, Collect, Epistle and Gospel unite to remind us of the glorious Manifestation, "that blessed hope," the appearing of "our great God and Saviour."

Hymns from the Book of Common Praise, compiled by Dr. Albert Ham, F.R.C.O., Organist and Director of the Choir of St. James' Cathedral, Toronto.

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany. (February 13.)

- Holy Communion: 235, 240, 243, 257.
- Processional: 385, 398, 485, 650.
- Offertory: 112, 476, 588, 619.
- Children: 704, 706, 717, 721.
- General: 71, 99, 433, 510.

The Outlook

Sunday Recruiting.

It is evidently time to call attention to the use now being made of the Lord's Day in connection with enlistment. One of the Toronto papers remarks that even a glance at the audience that fills our theatres these Sundays is enough to convince anyone that the man of enlisting age seems to avoid such gatherings. The result is that the people are definitely asking whether the meetings are not becoming more and more entertainments than efficient recruiting efforts. At one theatre there seem to have been no less than thirteen numbers rendered by the pupils of one musical institution, and it is being frankly said that, while we are warned that not a moment must be lost at this national crisis, one of Toronto's biggest recruiting meetings simply listens to a programme of music. Another of these meetings shows that there was far too much entertainment and too little recruiting. We are not surprised, therefore, to find that clergymen are already experiencing serious diminution in their Sunday evening congregations, and, while we naturally wish to help forward the enlistment to the best of our power, we do not want to use it to introduce a system of Sunday amusements which will do infinite harm to the community. There must be no thin edge of the wedge about these meetings, and it behoves all Christian men and women to use their influence to prevent any disregard of the Lord's Day, especially under the guise of patriotism. Patriotism is important, but we may never forget that God comes first.

Sunday Labour.

For several months past many criticisms have appeared in the English papers about the way in which the Lord's Day is being used in connection with work to provide munitions of war. Again and again it has been urged that this ought not to be permitted, and we are now glad to notice that in a circular addressed to the munition manufacturers Mr. Lloyd George makes a suggestion, which is virtually a command, that Sunday labour should be abolished in all controlled establishments. He rightly says that "it is better to work overtime during the week than to have Sunday work." This is the result of an investigation into the effects on production of munitions by continuous labour involving Sunday work. It has been proved that such effort tended to diminish rather than to increase the output. This is a satisfactory result, and shows once again, what has been pointed out very often, that Sunday is intended for the physical and intellectual as well as the spiritual welfare of man. We may be perfectly certain that what is morally wrong can never be physically or nationally right, and if only we honour God in connection with the war, He will undoubtedly honour us. Who knows but that the absence in great measure of a proper recognition of God, together with a disregard of His laws, may not have been the cause of the delayed victory for which we are all praying. Once again let us emphasize the fundamental principle: "In the beginning, God."

The Gospel of Redemption.

A recent expression of opinion is to the effect that the Church will have to be very sure of her message to the men who return from the war:—

If the Churches are to meet their need at all, it must be with a message that is equal to it. The old pulpit commonplaces will have to give way to a Gospel of Redemption. As has often been pointed out of late, in times of prosperity the theology of moral progress is in the ascendant, but when adversity comes it is a theology of Salvation that is needed. The Churches must re-discover this theology, and preach its message with passion and power.

The statement as it stands is decidedly too general, because as a simple fact very many pulpits have never ceased to proclaim the Gospel of Redemption as the very heart of their message. But those who have been unfortunately proclaiming "the theology of moral progress" will certainly have to alter their message, because the former platitudes about continual human progress are miserably horrible in the light of the terrible conflict in Europe. Much of the lack of true preaching is due to a weakening of belief in the supreme authority of Scripture, with its outstanding message of redemption, and the war will help to teach men the horror of sin and the need of salvation in a very definite way. This is the supreme need of the moment—a message that will satisfy the heart of man and at the same time disperse and destroy the vain gospels of mere philosophy, ethics and social reform which have been far too common of recent years.

The League of Honour.

In September, 1914, the League of Honour was formed in England for the purpose of uniting all the women and girls of the Empire in upholding the honour of the nation and maintaining the strength of its men by prayer, purity and temperance. The League is a movement seeking to work through existing organizations by developing in individuals a sense of their national responsibility and by calling them to greater sacrifice, to spiritual development, to untiring service, and to systematic training. It is pointed out in a very real sense the outcome of the war is in the hands of the women of the nation, for not only are they called to the great surrender of their men, but also to vigilant economy and self-denial in the details of life. The League endeavours to enlist the generous service of all members, both older women and girls fresh from school, and it asks for the training of all women workers—training of brain, eye, hand and heart. Every endeavour is based on the fundamental forces of prayer, purity and temperance. An appeal is made to all women to join the League, and information can be obtained from the Secretary, 332 Bloor Street West, Toronto. For several years past the men of our Empire have been united in the Alliance of Honour, and this new effort among women and girls deserves the earnest attention and practical assistance of all those who wish to do their utmost for the womanhood of our land and nation.

"No Sense of Honour."

Professor J. H. Morgan, a great authority on international law, has just made some remarkable statements on a matter of present importance. He said that he attaches little importance to the absence or presence of formal enquiries in the case of German military proceedings, since he long ago came to the conclusion in the course of his official enquiries on behalf of the Government that the German outrages were part of one vast premeditation. The Professor's words are so weighty and plain that they must be quoted exactly:—

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