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TORONTO, THURSDAY, NOV. 30, 1899.

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LESSONS FOR SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS.

ADVENT SUNDAY

Morning—Isaiah 1: 1 S. Peter 5.

Evening—Isaiah 2, or 4, 2; S. John 13 1-21.

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 hymnals.

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 203, 313, 314, 320.

Processional: 46, 49, 217, 268.

Offertory: 51, 52, 205, 362.

Children's Hymns: 281, 335, 342, 343.

General Hymns: 48, 50, 53, 477.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT.

Holy Communion: 196, 316, 320, 553.

Processional: 45, 305, 391, 392.

Offertory: 51, 214, 216, 226.

Children's Hymns: 217, 565, 568, 569.

General Hymns: 47, 52, 54, 288.

The Last Year of the Century.

Next Sunday will be the first day of the last year of the Church of the nineteenth century. We have the authority of the Astronomer Royal for saying that the year 1900 will be the last year of the century, and as the Church's year always dates from the first Sunday in Advent, we shall yet have another year before us wherein to gather up the fragments of the nineteenth century. What has the Church in Canada to make up? How many deficiencies to supply? How many good works commenced in faith and hope to continue and complete? Let each parish in the Dominion face the question fairly, and set to work, so that the last day of the Church's year, if we are permitted to see it, may show a record worthy of offering to the Lord of the Vineyard for His acceptance.

God's Tenth.

Let the clergy place fairly before their parishes the amount of debt still owing on each church building, Sunday-school, and call for a united effort to start the new century free of debt. This to begin with, for charity begins at home. In those well favoured parishes, where the debt is small, let contributions flow in to a central diocesan fund to supply the deficiencies of the poorer parishes. Let there be no longer any cry from the widows and orphans of our clergy that their small annuities are unpaid. Much can be done if Churchmen will only take to heart the lesson taught by Abraham, and followed by his grandson Jacob, "of all that Thou shalt give me, I will surely give the tenth unto Thee."

A Government Jumble.

We have been well nigh deluged with letters from all parts of the Dominion, revolting against the unmerited slur cast upon the Anglican Church by the refusal of the Premier, as the mouthpiece of the Government, and persisted in till the very last moment, to send an Anglican chaplain with the contingent force to South Africa. Wisdom seems to have dawned upon the Premier at the very last moment, but the slur remains, and has still to be atoned for. It must, however, be borne in mind that our Premier is a Roman Catholic, and as such, is, of course, not permitted by his Church to admit the validity of Anglican orders, and is compelled to regard all Protestants alike as heretics; he may, therefore, be justified in his own mind for thinking that any Protestant minister or even a Y.M.C.A. layman, is good enough to minister spiritual consolation to Anglicans. We are thankful that he was permitted to learn a better lesson, even at the eleventh hour.

Are We Ourselves Entirely Blameless?

We have, most unfortunately, a great many nominal Anglicans, particularly among our young men and young women (so too have other denominations), who are little better than mere butterflies, flitting from flower to flower, from church to chapel, and from chapel to church; attracted in the morning by the announcement of some sensational preacher at one chapel, and in the evening by a programme of gushing sentimentalism, mis-called "sacred music;" while the stately liturgical offices of the Church, and the orderly preaching of her clergy, are not thought good enough for the present generation. It is from this constant "wobbling," coquetting with Nonconformity, that the enemy gather strength for their assaults on our Church. Still, we can thank God that they are at heart Churchmen, and can rally round the altar, and to the service of intercession, when a crisis comes to be realized in the life of the hearth and home.

Temporary Celibacy for Young Clergymen.

The Archbishop of York has lately been lifting up his voice in favour of temporary celibacy for the younger clergy. His words are weighty, as coming from one who early in his own life, as a London curate, knew the sorrow of being left a widower with two infant children to care for; and who had the courage to remain a widower until the eve of his being raised to the episcopate. We think, with His Grace, that this is a matter into which our bishops should make enquiry, and before admitting any candidate into Holy Orders, or granting his license to a curacy, require, under general circumstances, some promise of temporary celibacy, at least during the period of assistant curacy. Such a promise will be found helpful to the curate, and beneficial to the Church work of the parish.

An Alternative Suggested.

In many cases the usual excuses of lonely life, and such like, can be got over by the young curate having the aid and companionship of a sister, to keep house for him, and assist in woman's special department of ministerial life. The late Bishop Tozer, in his terribly trying episcopacy in Central Africa, had a worthy helpmate in the person of his sister, who had the courage to share the dangers and hardships of his life in the plague-stricken swamps of Zanzibar, such as form no part of the life of our clergy in our healthy Dominion of Canada.

Our Clergy in the North-West.

It is gratifying to find in one of the best of the English Church papers a letter from a layman, who says that he is personally acquainted with our North-West, and bearing testimony to the faithful work done by our clergy there under the trying conditions of the climate. We quote a portion of the letter: "I should think very few of the clergy out there had ever afforded himself a fur coat, such as the Government serves out to every one of the North-West Mounted Police; yet I have seen a Sunday when there were six feet of ice on the Saskatchewan, and a neighbouring pond was frozen entirely through. Artillery could have passed over it without any of the cannon crashing into the water, as was the case with the French at the Berezina, beards and hair were frozen, and the breath froze and fell like pins and needles round us. The police stopped in their barracks, for no thieves were likely to be about; but the clergy did not fail to hold an eight o'clock celebration in one church in several districts, to drive in an open sleigh, or, in some instances, to walk, to have the morning service in another; to give an afternoon service in a third, and again an evening service somewhere else; and at this last, in the place where I was, a couple appeared to be married, having come many miles the day be-

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