

3. That rigid uniformity in public worship is undesirable; and that to enforce it by civil penalties is a mistake.

The Christian Sacraments.

We agree—

That, although it is desirable that every one should seek to know the true doctrine of the Sacraments, yet their efficacy does not depend upon that knowledge, but lies on the one hand in the due administration of the sacraments "in all those things that of necessity are requisite to the same," and on the other in the use of them with a true desire to fulfil the ordinance of Christ.

The Christian Church and Ministry.

I. We agree—

1. That the Catholic Church is a society founded by Christ, the members of which are united to Him, and to each other, by spiritual ties, which are over and above those that attach to them simply as men.

2. That these ties depend upon a special union with the person of the one Mediator, and a special indwelling of the one Spirit.

The Nonconformist members of the conference are unable to admit—

1. That the reception of the visible Sacraments is essential in ordinary cases to the establishment of these ties.

2. That through the reception of the visible Sacraments these ties may subsist, though not forever, in those who are not believing and living as Christian people should.

II. We agree—

1. That Christ has established a perpetual ministry in the Catholic Church.

2. That no one can rightly exercise this ministry unless he be ordained to it by Christ Himself.

3. That there is a Divinely appointed distinction of office in this ministry.

The Nonconformist members of the conference are unable to admit—

1. That there is a Divinely appointed threefold distinction of orders in this ministry.

2. That external ordination by the laying on of Episcopal hands is necessary for its rightful exercise.

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—Several immigrant families in the parish of Grace Church and elsewhere have received seasonable help this Christmastide from kind hearts and hands in the shape of warm clothing and Christmas dinners, &c.

ST. HENRY MISSION.—*St. George's Y. M. C. A.*—There was a short evening service in the Mission Room on Christmas Day, and afterwards, the young people enjoyed seeing a Christmas tree, many of them for the first time. The Dean is much pleased with the enthusiasm shown by the workers. Mr. Haycock, of the Y.M.C.A., has actually gone to reside in the neighbourhood.

The Christmas Carol Service drew a large congregation to St. George's. The Bishop, the Dean, and Rev. Mr. Tucker, were present. Messrs. Sumner, Fairclough, and the choristers, who rendered the service most effectively are kindly intending to sing the carols for the benefit of other parishes.

The Cathedral Band of Hope Christmas Festival was a very successful affair, and it was a refreshing occasion in every sense.

A long newspaper list of special services for Christmas Day, testifies to the fact that the time honoured festival is still well celebrated. In his sermon on "the Great Birthday," Mr. Spurgeon professes to see no argument for observing the 25th December, by reference to the Bible Calendar, (Teacher's Edition S.P.C.K.), we find an eight day festival occurring on the twenty-fifth day of the ninth month after the Passover month, which festival as a matter of fact sometimes synchronises with Christmastide, viz., (1) Feast of the Dedication of the Temple, I Macc. iv. 52-59. (2) Feast of Lights, the anniversary of the erection of David's altar on the threshing floor of Araimah. (3) Then there is the argument from the change in counting time between *Annimundi* and *Anno Domini*. (4) The argument too from fulfilled prophecy in connection with the temple, viz., that the glory of the second temple should be greater than the first, cf., John x. 22-23; John ii. 18-22.

ONTARIO.

KINGSTON.—Mrs. Lewis, wife of the Bishop of Ontario, leaves for France next month.

Rev. J. C. Young, B.A., Lansdowne, has been offered by the Bishop of Saskatchewan an appointment as missionary at Edmonton, N.W.T., and will accept it.

Rev. Mr. Harding has declined the appointment to All Saints' Church. The congregation have asked for Ven. Archdeacon Daykin, who has been so successful at Pembroke. He will probably be the new incumbent.

MERRICKVILLE AND BURITT'S RAPIDS.—Christmas passed off joyfully. The two Churches were tastefully decorated, and the music well rendered. The congregations were large, and the communicants many. The offertory amounted to \$63.00, and the communicants to 184. From the statistical returns in the Journal of Synod it will be seen that the parish of Merrickville and Buritt's Rapids has a larger number of communicants than any parish in the diocese with the exception of Christ and St. John Churches, Ottawa. On the 27th inst., Trinity Church Sunday School had their annual festival in the Town Hall, when the choir and Sunday School children rendered a service of song, "Light of the World," under the management of Mrs. Houston. On the Sunday after Christmas the choir and Sunday School children sang a bright service of song in Christ Church, Buritt's Rapids, entitled "Glimpses of Bethlehem," under the training of Miss Mary E. DePencier, Organist, in a most acceptable manner. Altogether the services in this parish were bright and hearty.

VANKLEEK HILL.—A few evenings ago the parsonage of this place was the scene of a very happy gathering. Representatives of almost every family in the parish, and a number of outsiders, assembled to bear testimony to the high esteem in which their pastor was held. Nearly all comers brought well-filled baskets, and a sumptuous supper was spread, which with speeches, songs and varied music, gave the opportunity of a most enjoyable evening. Towards the close our pastor, the Reverend J. Halliwell, was called forward, when Mr. John Potter, on behalf of the churchwardens and people delivered a warm and complimentary address expressive of our admiration of his ability in the pulpit and on the platform; and of our esteem for his character as an earnest and devoted Christian minister. Mr. Potter closed his remarks by presenting a donation from the people, an envelope containing \$100 in cash. Added to this, a large amount of provisions for both house and stable were presented, making the offering altogether worth about \$130. Mr. Halliwell, in fitting and eloquent terms thanked Mr. Potter and all present for their generous offering. On Christmas Day we had a hearty service and a much increased number of communicants, the offertory being much in excess of former years. It is worthy of remark that at Mr. Halliwell's suggestion, on Thanksgiving Day, our little congregation gave an offering of \$10 to the Hospital fund.

TORONTO.

St. George's.—We are informed that our report of the number of communicants on Christmas Day, though really correct, was somewhat misleading. It is true that there were more than 150, but the real number was 311.

The Rev. Canon Dumoulin preached a special sermon last Sunday evening in this Church to young men. He selected his text from Chronicles v. 17. The congregation was not large, but the young men identified with the church were apparently largely represented. The preacher warned them against the agnosticism of the age and other prevailing vices, concluding with an exhortation generally against anything that would destroy the influence for good of the rising generation. He appealed to them to keep themselves pure. That, he thought, was the only way of carrying out life as the Creator designed. There was no use in sacrificing a part of life for the general whole. Christianity enjoined the principles inculcated in the text. There was nothing in infidelity to give a motive to young men to provide for themselves a future. The career of all young men must be founded on those teachings given in the nursery. The teachings of the nursery were sacred, because they were the outcome of the fundamental principles of Christianity itself. Special music was furnished by the choir.

EAST TORONTO.—There were two celebrations of Holy Communion on Christmas Day, with nine and ten participants. The three services of the day were very well attended, and there is much need for the new Church which we hope to see commenced in the

spring. The Hall was beautifully decorated by the young ladies under the charge of Mrs. Gammack, and had a wonderfully Church like appearance. The walls and windows were draped with evergreen wreaths and devices, the most effective of which was a large piece of trellis work enclosing the text "Peace on earth." The services were rendered by the mission priest in charge, the Rev. Dr. Gammack.

NORWOOD; WESTWOOD, AND BELMONT.—On the second Sunday in Advent, the new Church of St. John the Evangelist, at Havelock, in the township of Belmont, was opened for divine worship. Morning prayer was said at 11 a.m., and evensong at 7 p.m. The Rev. Canon Allen, M.A., of Cavan, preached at both services. His sermons were eloquent and appropriate. The congregations and singing were good. The offertories amounted to \$61.00. The building is early English in style. It is of Trenton lime stone quarried in the vicinity. All above the eaves, including the gables, is of wood. The roof is of full pitch. The windows are triplets having pointed arches. In the belfrey, which stands above the eastern end of the nave near its junction with the chancel, hangs a bell of excellent tone and volume, weighing 419 lbs., manufactured by the Clinton H. Meneely Bell Co., of Troy, N.Y. There is a crypt the full size of the nave, completed and furnished for Sunday School purposes. A stairway to the nave enables it to be used as a vestry. The choir stalls are placed chancel-wise at the eastern end of the nave and raised one step above it. The chancel is two steps above the choir, and the altar is raised still another step. The ceiling is of plaster with the principal trusses of the roof and the main braces showing through. The length of the Church is 63 feet, and the breadth 29½ feet. It will seat without crowding, 200 persons. The plans, which were somewhat modified in details, were prepared by Mr. Gambier Bousfield, of Toronto. The estimated value of the building and land is \$2,500, on which there will be a debt, which, if all subscriptions be paid, will not exceed \$400. It is necessary to state here that the amount actually expended on the building did not nearly reach its estimated value, but this is due to the fact that the land was given, and also to many generous contributions in labor and materials. On the following evening a tea-meeting was held in the crypt and a sacred concert in the nave. The tables were most tastefully arranged and laden with a varied assortment of the most favorite meats and delicacies. The programme of the concert, which was carefully selected, was admirably rendered. The Rev. Canon Allen and Mr. McClure addressed the audience. The Rev. T. Walker, of Campbellford, was present. The proceeds of the evenings entertainment amounted to \$100.00. This together with the offertories of the previous day will be devoted to the building fund.

NIAGARA.

The ninety-seventh meeting of the Ruri-decanal Chapter of Lincoln and Welland, was held in Thorold on Friday, December 27th. The Holy Communion was celebrated at 8 a.m. by the Rural Dean. The morning session was occupied in critical study of the first chapter of the "Acts of the Apostles," and in the discussion of matters connected with the diocese. The afternoon was spent in a very interesting and profitable consideration of the Church's teaching and the testimony of Holy Scripture in regard to the doctrine of "The Intermediate State," the abode and condition of disembodied souls between death and the resurrection. Eighteen of the clergy were present. At 8 o'clock evensong was said in the Church by the rector, Rev. P. L. Spencer, and a paper read by Rev. W. J. Armitage on the subject of "Christian Science."

FONTHILL.—Died on the 2nd of this month at his residence in Fonthill, Mr. John Lavigny in the 75th year of his age. Mr. Lavigny was a native of Montreal, and had only lived in Fonthill for about fifteen years, but during that period had won the profound respect of everyone, and the highest esteem of those who knew him well. He was a devout member of the Church of England, and for several years acted as clergyman's warden in Holy Trinity Church, Fonthill. He would have been re-appointed the year of his death had not business required him to remain the greater part of his time in Montreal, and he felt that he could not attend to the duties of the office. He partook of the Holy Communion a short time before his death, and at 12 o'clock on Monday the 2nd, he fell asleep in the full assurance of a living faith. Our Church in deep sympathy with his bereaved family mourn his loss.

GUELPH.—The various guilds and associations of St. George's Church have done much work of interest during the past month. Foremost in the list is the Rainbow Fair, held on the 4th and 5th ult. in the City Hall, which originated with the Young People's