

NANTICOKE.

Our Xmas S. S. fete was enjoyed thoroughly by all. It was celebrated on Holy Innocent's Day with church service and sermon at 4 o'clock, tea for children at 6 and tree and distribution of prizes at 7:30 p. m. The children's choir led the singing, rendering the anthem "Glory to God in the Highest," creditably. The offertory went to the Children's Hospital, Toronto. Master Craig Evans sang his first solo and Messrs. J. Jackson and C. Snowden sang a duet part.

The annual sleigh ride was impossible. After enjoying tea in the School House the Town Hall was thrown open for the tree. The Secretary's report was as follows: S. S. collections and subscription for prizes \$28.19
Outlay for leaflets, etc., and prizes 24.77

Balance \$ 3.42

Total No. on roll 89; aggregate No present in year 2088; largest No. present at one time 67; Average attendance 40½.

After a short program in which Miss Jackson, of Jarvis, favored us with three excellent solos and Mr. Evans' graphophone gave us good entertainment, there were several recitations and the prizes were distributed. One boy, Earl Thompson, was present 52 Sundays, several were present 51. All who attended 10 Sundays received a book. The rest got pretty cards.

CAYUGA.

The service on Christmas morning in St. John's church was largely attended. The musical part of it, under the direction of Mr. W. C. T. Morson, Manager of the Bank of Commerce, was exceptionally excellent, and included Sir John Stainer's fine anthem "O Zion, that bringest glad tidings." The collection, in face of the removal from the parish of some of its best families, was liberal and but little less than the average of former years.

On the evening of January 12th there was held in the capacious S. S. room of the new church the annual Christmas tree and entertainment in behalf of the Sabbath School. Much credit is due to all who assisted in providing for the entertainment. The presents from the Christmas tree were numerous. Mr. A. N. Davis successfully performed the part of Santa Claus in distributing them.

The W. A. of the parish, have recently sent to the Rev. H. Smitherman, of Schreiter, of Algoma, a valuable bale, containing some forty useful articles of clothing, etc. There would be more enthusiasm manifested in making up said bales if in every case there was a reasonable assurance that the contents were bestowed on deserving persons alone connected with the church in her distant and poorer fields of labor.

On Sunday morning, January 28th, a solemn service bearing on the serious war in South Africa was held in St. John's church. Special Psalms, lessons, intercessions, and hymns were used and the sermon by the Incumbent was on "War, from the standpoint of Christianity," and special reference to the contest in which the British Empire is now engaged. Several prominent members of other religious bodies in the town were present at the service.

YORK.

Recently the Rev. P. L. Spencer, rector of Jarvis, delivered a short series of three interesting stereopticon lectures on "Early Church History in Great Britain" which were much appreciated by those who attended.

On Sunday, January 28th, an exchange was made by Revs. P. L. Spencer and C. Scudamore, and services

were held and special sermons preached in York, Jarvis, Hagersville and Caledonia parishes on behalf of our Diocesan Mission Fund.

Anniversary Services will be held (D. V.) in St. John's church York, on Sunday 25th inst. Special preacher—the Rev. E. H. Maloney—Incumbent of Nanticoke. Collections on behalf of Apportionment Fund.

The officers and members of the local branch W. A. are arranging to hold an entertainment, as usual, in connection with the anniversary of the opening of St. John's church on Monday evening, 26th inst., in the Sunday School Hall. Mr. James Old, of Caledonia, has kindly consented to act as Chairman.

PORT MAITLAND AND SOUTH CAYUGA.

December 27th and December 28th will be remembered by the Sunday School children as the dates, this year, of the event to which they annually look forward with much interest and expectation—their Christmas Tree.

That for the Christ church Sunday School was held first—at the house of Mr. Edward Logan kindly placed at our disposal for the occasion. We were sorry that the unsafe condition of the ice in the river prevented the pupils and friends from the other side being present. As the crowd was not large Mr. Logan's two cosy sitting rooms comfortably contained it; and the parlor was left free for the Tree until the time for its unloading. Conversation and games was the order until shortly after 8 o'clock when at some one's suggestion a few recitations were called for and willingly given. Then Mr. Francis presented the prizes gained by those who had attended 20 Sundays, after which all adjourned to the parlor, or vicinity, where the feature of the evening, the unloading of the Tree took place. Afterwards, refreshments—the collection (\$3.54 for Sunday School papers)—and home To Miss Splatt, who successfully took charge of the tree, our thanks are due.

The next evening, the other Tree held its graceful, decorated self, erect—though we are told it objected at first—at Mr. H. King's. A short programme was given by the children, consisting of suitable Christmas recitations some of them had learned, and three carols they had practised. Then again, prizes, tree, refreshments and collection (11.15). The large crowd present seemed quite capable of amusing itself, when not being called upon to attend to the items above mentioned.

Enjoyment and success marked both evenings; and if the ground was somewhat hard and rough both for carriages and pedestrians, thanks to the "Frost King" we went and came without the discomfort of "mud." Mr. Logan, Mr. King and their families, have, we are sure, the cordial thanks of the people of the parish for their hospitality.

The monthly meeting of St. John's Branch of the W. A., appointed for the 13th at Mrs. S. Bowden's, owing to the unavoidable absence of the secretary, was turned into a sewing meeting.

The Christ church branch held its monthly meeting on the 14th at Mrs. Hy. Hamilton's. There was a fair attendance of the members and the reports showed that good progress was being made. The Incumbent was present but unfortunately had forgotten to bring the first monthly letter of the newly-appointed City Representative, Mrs. Crisp, 122 Main Street, West, Hamilton, so that the reading of it had to be left over until next month.

During the service in St. John's church on Sunday, 7th inst., the Incumbent expressed his thanks to the congregation for their generous gift through the offertory on Christmas Day. But as on one or two Sundays since, at Christ church, there have been envelopes marked for him, on the plate, he wishes to take this means and opportunity of thanking both congregations for their kindness.