

BEDFORD.—The Town Hall was densely crowded on the evening of the 23rd. inst. to witness the Christmas Tree in connection with the Sunday School of St. James' Church. The proceedings were opened by the children singing the hymn: "Come, sing with holy gladness," after which the Rector (Rev. H. W. Nye), briefly addressed the audience, giving a highly satisfactory account of the progress and present state of the school. A number of recitations by the children followed, after which rewards were presented to those who had been most regular in their attendance at Church and School during the past year. At this stage of the proceedings, *Santa Claus* entered the Hall his appearance being heralded by the inspiring strains of the Bedford Brass Band, who also played several pieces during the evening, in excellent style. Then came the distribution of gifts from the Trees, many of them being both "rich and rare." Each Sunday Scholar received a pretty Christmas card and some other token of regard, nor were the Teachers forgotten by the pupils. More than an hour was spent in despoiling the Trees of their precious fruit, and the interest of the evening reached its climax as *Santa Claus* divested himself of the handsome fur coat which formed part of his costume and handed it to the Rector as a Christmas gift from his friends. Mr. Nye was completely taken by surprise by this incident which was not in his programme, and could only express his thanks in the fewest and most hearty words. This presentation was succeeded by another, consisting of a purse containing the sum of Twenty dollars, presented to Miss Lena Ross, as a recognition of her able and faithful services as Organist of St. James Church.

The festival of the Epiphany is regaining its rightful place in the estimation of Churchmen. Services were held in the Cathedral, St. James the Apostle, St. Martin's, and St. John the Evangelist. The service in the first seems to have been no more than the reading of the service with a few attendants. Nothing to make the service a Red Letter Day. No celebration. No sermon. There was a fair attendance at St. James the Apostle, and a very good attendance with a very hearty and stirring service at St. John the Evangelist at 11 o'clock. A full choral celebration with its sermon. There were two services previous to this. An early celebration at 7 a.m.; matins at 8:30 a.m. Evensong had a large attendance at 5 p.m.

Various churches in the country parts had service on that day also. In Glen Sutton where the Church has taken firm root under the energetic and wise efforts of its whole-souled missionary, the Rev. J. Kerr, services are being held through the whole Epiphany season on the Thursdays of each week. The missionary has, when obtainable, the aid of his brethren around him, so that his people may, by hearing the lessons of the season inculcated by the different speakers, see that they all "speak the same thing."

Our winter meetings in behalf of our Diocesan Missions were begun last week by a meeting in the parish of Longueuil. It was presided over by Canon Henderson, and addressed by Mr. Bishop, and the Messrs. Sweeney, B.A., and Mr. Baylis, lately honoured with a B. D. degree from the Archbishop of Canterbury. The holding of these meetings in the various city churches is a good thing; it is striking in minor's phrase, a "lead," that has only begun to be worked, but one that promises rich results, and though to some churchmen who attend a few annual meetings consecutively, there may seem to be a sameness, as indeed there must be, yet let them remember that there are the young people of the rising generation to whom this work is new, as well also, that there are new members being added to the Church, who require information on these very matters. Such listen to the addresses and reports, with every indication of interest, and sometimes enthusiasm. These meetings do a work, the results of which are not to be gathered merely from the amount contributed, but from the Churchmanship fostered and strengthened. At this meeting in Longueuil, of those who addressed the meeting, two at least were once missionaries in the diocese, namely the Bishop and the Rev. Canon Henderson. It is advisable, one would think, to have one or more actual missionaries from the country parts. It may be indeed that these latter would not any more forcibly, perhaps not so much, put the situation of the country missions and missionaries before their audiences, than the city clergy would, if it so be that the city clergy knew from observation or experience the privations his country brother undergoes, and the difficulties he meets with in his Church ministrations. A country missionary cannot always speak his mind freely, or detail fully the work of his own parish. What he says is of course reported in the city papers, and these are read extensively in the country, and consequently his remarks appear probably before the very parties themselves. And they are mortified, if not angered, and the missionary, though all he says is fact, finds himself in a worse case than before. Only let our city clergy visit their

country brethren, exchange services in the summer for a few weeks, and then let them speak of that they know from observation and experience, and the results will be beneficial to all.

ONTARIO.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

ARNPRIOR.—Emmanuel Church was beautifully decorated for Christmas. The Festival commenced Christmas Eve, with carol singing previous to evening. There was a celebration of the Holy Communion next morning at 8 o'clock, and a second celebration after Matins at 11. This service was largely attended, and the offertory amounted to \$57, which was afterwards increased to \$65. Presents sent to the Rectory increase it still further to \$70.

OTTAWA.—*St. Alban the Martyr.*—The annual Sunday School festival in connection with this Church took place on the Festival of the Epiphany. The basement of the edifice where the entertainment took place, was well filled by the children and their friends. A substantial tea was served to all present. Among those who contributed to the success of the entertainment were, Mrs. Bedford Jones, Mrs. Grant Powell, the Misses Reiffenstein, Miss Borrodale, the Misses Gwynne, Miss Ritchie, the Misses Aird and other teachers of the Sunday School. After the report had been concluded, and several carols sung, a prize list was read and rewards to the successful pupils distributed.

The following address was also presented to Canon Incumbent:—**REVEREND AND DEAR SIR:**—The teachers and pupils of St. Alban's Sunday School who are assembled here to night to celebrate the feast of the Epiphany, desire to convey to you and to Mrs. Jones their very warmest wishes that the new year which has just begun, may prove to you both, one full of happiness. They feel that as teachers they owe much to the association with you in the good work of teaching which they have enjoyed during the past year; and as pupils, that they can never be sufficiently grateful for the example and instruction with which you have constantly provided them. They therefore all join in offering you and Mrs. Jones this screen as a slight though inadequate token of the esteem and affection in which they have held and will always hold you. Wishing you a very happy New Year, and many more crowned with happiness and prosperity, they remain,

Your grateful and affectionate,

TEACHERS AND PUPILS.

Epiphany, 1881.

After this pleasing presentation Mr. Topley exhibited some very fine magic lantern views.

BROCKVILLE.—*Trinity Church.*—The Xmas services at this Church were more cheery and hearty than ever before. Thirty-four communicated at the early celebration, and 67 at the midday. The music was excellent. Tours' beautiful *Te Deum* and *Jubilate* in F being very well rendered. The anthem also by Tours, "Sing O Heavens," and the "Gloria in Excelsis," by the same composer, were very grand. At 4:30 p.m. the Sunday School held their Xmas service, consisting of evening prayers and a short address by the Rector. The Sunday School choir sang the chants, and several pretty carols, and at the close of the service Xmas cards were given to the whole school. The good people of this congregation have not been idle of late. During the past summer they finished the basement of the Church, at a cost of nearly \$700. They have also put two new furnaces in the Church, at an expense of about \$250, and outside windows on the three large windows at a cost of \$100. The 6th annual Xmas sale realized a total of \$401.70, while two concerts given by the children of the Sunday School netted about \$75. On January 4th a very pleasant parochial gathering was held in the basement of the Church, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Rector's marriage. About 300 of the parishioners were present, and a delightful evening was spent. Tea, coffee, and cake were provided by the ladies, and each person present brought a cup, saucer and plate, which they left for the use and benefit of the Church, and thus upwards of 300 cups, &c., were obtained without any trouble and slight expense. A pleasing feature of the evening was the presentation to the Rector and his wife of a lot of the useful granite ware now so much in vogue, and also all the tin ware necessary to furnish the Church kitchen.

TORONTO.

On Sunday last, the Lord Bishop held an ordination in St. James's Church. Messrs Macleary and Ballie, Theological Students of Trinity College, were ordained as Deacons; the Rev. H. G. Baldwin was ordained Priest. The Dean of St. James's and the Archdeacon of York assisted the Bishop in the celebration of the Holy Communion.

ST. MATTHIAS.—*Entertainments.*—It is the practice in this parish to postpone the Children's Christmas Festival until twelfth night, in order that the busy workers of the congregation may give their undivided attention to the decorations of the Church and the usual Christmas charitable work. As to the decorations this year, they were a very model of "what to do with evergreens," and solved the problem of how to make a beautiful Church's interior still more picturesque. Nor was the case of the poor and needy less considered by those who were most active in the care of God's House; the two things naturally go together—Love of God and Love of the Brethren. However, the little ones come in for their share of consideration in due time; and the evening of Epiphany found Trinity College dining hall filled with children and their friends. The tea, chiefly under Miss Whitaker's indefatigable supervision, occupied the first hour. The second was occupied with recitations and little songs of the girls trained by Miss White, and the carols of the boys under Mr. Fred. Timm's direction, with Mr. Farnival as organist. The whole performance was most creditable and interesting. The last hour of the evening was occupied by Mr. Golding's exhibition of the magic lantern, an entertainment of itself of rare excellence. The ripple created by the efforts of the teachers to make this children's Christmas treat a success, has scarcely subsided before some active workers of the parish have started a series of social meetings at each other's houses. It was very soon found that the idea evoked so much enthusiasm, that the largest rooms available had to be brought into requisition; and they were found in the house of Mr. Banks on Strachan street. A work from the date of the children's treat, "Children of larger growth" filled these rooms to overflowing, and after tea, ministered for two or three hours to one another's enjoyment. The Chairman, Rev. R. Harrison, took occasion to thank the originators of this "social" enterprise. Something he had longed to see for years past as a means of making the people better acquainted with each other, and to compliment the wives of several workingmen, and some of the men themselves too, on their cultivation of the art of singing and music. It is understood that any surplus from these "socials" will go towards founding a "parish hall" of some kind.

GUILD OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST.—This Society, connected with St. Luke's Parish, held its fourth annual commemoration Festival on Thursday evening last the 13th. inst., in St. Luke's School House, and although the weather was unpropitious a goodly number of friends was present.

The Guild Office was sung to Festal Endings—the opening hymn being "Let our Choirs new anthems arise" set to the stately tune of Sullivan's St. Kiven, and the Office hymns "Soldiers who are Christ's below" and "Onward Christian Soldiers" to Roe's setting. The Psalm and Canticles were sung to Gregorian tones. After the Service, the Warden Mr. W. A. Shutt addressed a few words to the meeting, in which after stating that the usefulness of Guilds was now universally recognized in the Motherland both for old and young, he gave a short history of their Guild and of its claims on Church people, and asked for the co-operation and prayers of the members of the Church for the work. The Rector the Rev. Canon Langtry, the Rev. Canon Runsford, Mr. John Hague and Mr. Kemp then made stirring speeches in which they testified to the good work being done and commended it to the hearty support of the parishioners. It was stated during the evening, that it was the intention to provide a suitable room for the Guild in connection with the new Church, where the Guild would be able to carry out their work more efficiently, and extend the same by library and recreation accommodation. After refreshments were dispensed by the Guild to their friends present, carols were sung under the direction of Mr. F. T. Shutt, organist to the Guild. Having had a very successful Festival the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

Grace Church.—We understand that there is a rumor afloat to the effect that a proposal has been made to rent the pews in this church after its reopening. We sincerely trust we have been misinformed, as we are almost certain that such a return to a distinctive relic of "the dark ages" of the Church would be most disastrous to this thriving but poor congregation. The progress of the church in this parish since the appointment of its present incumbent has been extraordinary—the Sunday school numbering we believe, seven hundred children—and it would be very unfortunate if so mistaken a policy as this should be adopted. Let the officials of the Church do their duty, trust in God for the result, and they will find they need not rent the pews. Soliciting subscriptions from house to house is not a thousandth part so bad.