

benevolent ladies have assembled in the Parochial School Room, and spent entire days in making up different articles of clothing suitable for this rigorous season. It is delightful to witness in the parish this active and unceasing performance of the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy in the instruction of the ignorant and the clothing of the naked. On the collection of to-morrow, will depend, the comfort or misery, during the winter, of many a fellow-creature, whose heart's blood is almost frozen by the bitter blast of poverty and cold—whose pallid countenance and shivering limbs make an appeal to our feelings which neither as men nor as Christians we can easily resist. Indeed, in a climate like that of Nova Scotia, the piteous and trembling moan of the naked poor, should melt the hardest heart. How many a time through the drear and desolate winter when 'the chilly, smothering snows' fall fast and thick over the frost-bound earth, are we not forcibly reminded of the beautiful lines of our great poet :

" Poor naked wretches, wheresoe'er you are,  
That bide the pelting of this pitiless storm !  
How shall your houseless heads, and unfed sides,  
Your loop'd and window'd raggedness, defend you  
From seasons such as these ? "

Let us therefore all remember on, to-morrow, that He who clothes the lily of the field, and whose bounteous Providence extends over all the works of his hands, will abundantly reward those who cover his little ones for His sake, and in His name. There is a 'luxury in doing good' far more delicious and enduring than all the enjoyments of the world. It is a gl'drious and god-like work, out of love for God, to clothe and protect his own image ; and with great justice was it written, that,

" The heart benevolent and kind  
The most resembles God ! "

We have no fear for the result of to-morrow's appeal.

### ST. MARY'S.

After High Mass, on Sunday, a large distribution of premiums, to the children who are under the religious instruction of the Catechistical Society, took place at the Cathedral. About 240 children who had made the greatest proficiency in the Catechism received their reward at the Altar, from the Bishop. The prizes consisted principally of interesting religious works, and the whole scene was edifying in the highest degree. Owing to the great severity of the weather, the

attendance of spectators was not very numerous, though we could have wished that the whole parish were present on the occasion. The premiums were purchased at the expense of the Catechistical Society, and afford another proof of the valuable services of that most useful body. The examination of the children at St. Patrick's will be held to-morrow, and the distribution of premiums will take place on the Sunday following.

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## LITERATURE.

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### THE WOODEN CROSS.

A RELIGIOUS TALE.

Chapter 4.

[Continued.]

The disinterestedness of poor Sophy was duly appreciated by some members of Madame de Linden's family. Her noble conduct was finely contrasted with that of some of the legatees who were not at all satisfied with what was left them, and were raising perpetual disputes and quarrels on the subject. It thus often happens that in families which are well united before, avarice and selfishness occasion grievous scandals when a property is left by will.

Some time after the death of her benefactress, Sophy was asked in marriage by the old gardener's son. This union had been spoken of even during the lifetime of Madame de Linden, but the young man went to travel in order to perfect himself in his business, and had only returned for the lady's funeral. Sophy agreed to give him her hand because he was religious, and led a very regular life. The affair was therefore soon settled, and the marriage took place. It was most happy in the beginning for about three years when the poor old gardener died. Sophy and her husband for a long time bewailed his loss ; their grief was still farther increased by an unfortunate accident which happened soon after to William the good Sophy's husband. It was in spring ; the young man was engaged in training up trees when the ladder on which he stood fell, and he broke his right arm. Several persons hearing his cries ran to the spot to give him assistance. They were obliged to bring him home and send for a surgeon who on seeing him declared that the accident would be attended with no bad consequences.—But unfortunately it turned out otherwise ; for after long suffering William was obliged to give up his profession as gardener and continued during his life deprived of the use of his arm. The new