

of Maitland presented a very tasteful appearance on Christmas Day. The chancel was fronted by an artistically ornamented screen, specially designed for the occasion; consisting of three arches, the middle one of which rose some distance above those at either side, and was surmounted by a white cross. It bore the inscription, "Come, let us adore Him," in red letters on a white ground, which contrasted most agreeably with the deep green colour of the spruce which bordered the whole.

Wreaths of spruce were draped with tasteful regularity, along the North and South walls caught up to a point at regular intervals, from each of which was suspended a circular wreath bearing the words of the text, "Thou art the King of Glory," and on the opposite side, "Thou art the Son of God." On either side of the chancel arch were arranged in a diagonal direction the words in red letters, "King of Kings, and Lord of Lords."

The decorating of the west end was similar to that of the north and south walls, with the exception of a circular wreath that hung from the middle window, within which was placed a white crown on a red ground.

At the evening service the interior of the edifice presented a most attractive appearance. The ladies of the Church at Two Mile River added considerably to the already neat appearance of this—the largest Church of the Parish, by decorating the chancel with ferns and leaves.

On Tuesday, the 27th December, the St. John the Evangelist's Day, the young ladies of Kennetcook Church held a Christmas tree and Fancy sale in the Temperance Hall, which met with a measure of success hitherto unsurpassed in that district. The amount realized was \$150. It is to be expended in providing a chandelier, matting and some other requisites for their Church. Such efforts are worthy of the highest praise and are an unmistakeable evidence of a healthy increase of spiritual zeal.

This is a particularly encouraging part of Maitland Parish. On Christmas and New Year's days, their Church was completely filled with a congregation that consisted chiefly of the younger people of the district—a testimony to the untiring pastoral care and energy of their deservedly beloved rector.

We continue the timely article contributed to the *Halifax Herald*, by the Rev. D. Partridge, and deserves an extended reading:

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, ITS POSITION AND PROSPECTS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

Some characteristics of the present time are, impatience of authority, a desire for the novel and sensational and great fickleness of mind in religious matters. The latter trait may be accounted for in part by the alleged search truth, but is much more caused by the rapidity of change observable on all sides and which induces a mental instability. Hence it is impossible that the Church of England, being what she is, can be at this juncture popular. But he sees not far who recognizes not that the present is a period of transition. Methods and theories are agitating like waters in a seething caldron. The new is violently competing with the old. The old itself is stirred to its depths. What is merely antique and unsuited to the times will undoubtedly disappear. What is eternal in principle will stand and cannot be swept away. Revolutions and conflicts unending have striven to upset the truth, and have not altered or modified one iota thereof. The divine remains. The human changes, vanishes or improves. Reforms come slowly. Abuses die hard. Self-interest will cling limpet-like to what sanctified common sense has slain. Looking then to the time when the transient, the weak and the unprincipled shall have been tried and found wanting, the Church of England can work on in the confidence of a certain hope. What is true, steadfast and abiding in other bodies which have sprung from her loins is owed to her, and

will eventually acknowledge her. And between her and her contemporaries in eastern and western Catholicism time and God will judge.

There are, however, one or two considerations which are weighty, and should influence her observing members. There are eyeless moles. There are quick seeing eagles. There are the ordinary work a day sparrows that eat and are thankful. But mind and education imply thought and prescience. What is pressing on the Church in our midst to-day?

1. More real unity. Less disposition to attack each other, more determination to sink unessential differences and to magnify principles. Less of the intolerant, more of the Christlike.

2. More reticence. What does the world care, save as matter of curiosity, or merriment, for bickerings of any religious body? The conclave that elects a supreme pontiff admits not the penny-a-liner.

3. More willingness to accept reforms from within. A man with brains and force is to-day a suspected man. He is bursting with the zeal of the iconoclast. He cannot be trusted. Such is the cry of jealous-hearted mediocrity. Nevertheless, if reforms be not inaugurated and carried out from within, they will be forced upon the Church from without, and will be accepted, not from the warm and sympathetic hand of a friend, but from the iron heel of the foe. And it will be well if the iron does not enter the soul. Time and again it has done so. What the Church needs is a leader.

4. More regard for institutions. These wisely founded and strongly built, are based on a rock and will stand the surging storm. Men change. The institution remains. Churchmen will rue the day they despise or leave unattended the institutions they have. King's College is a century old. It will not see another century unless the Church speedily awakes to its necessity and perfection. It has but now determined to continue to stand alone. Probably better so. These things are divinely guided. But this being so, every effort must be made to sustain, to improve, to make effective what has fallen behind. This alone will revivify it and make it survive. Cold neglect will let it die, just as active opposition would kill it. The Church must rally round it.

It needs more professors, more accessories, a new library and gymnasium, and a greater adaptation to the requirements of the times. It is a vital necessity to the Church, and claims the very strongest support of every member. A churchman who will not do his utmost for the advancement and improvement of King's College, is undeserving the name. Whatever his past opinions or judgment of it, no question can arise as to its right to be invigorated with the strength of the united Church. Governors and faculty must be appointed in whom the Church has confidence, and then allowed to carry out their plans. The question of the federation of the college with any existing institution has received its quietus. The Church must now make it, what it has never yet been, her real child. It has been the child of the mother and of the state, but never yet of the Church. As soon as it becomes such, its future is assured.

5. More self-confidence. The Church has now representative self-government, of such a form that both clergy and laity have equal rights equally guarded. She has the impelling force of nineteen centuries within her. She has the good will of most of those who are not of her but work beside her. She has the prestige of many gifts of learning and scholarship, of sound theology and prescriptive authority. She might take the lead which many might gladly follow. She has her future in her own hands, humanity speaking. But she must arise and show her strength. She must cast away leading strings and rely on herself. One by one the props held out by England are falling away. Little by little the steps of the child must wax vigorous and resolute. There is enough of ability, enough

of learning, enough of judgment: There needs more faith, and more self reliance with the parishes, vying with each other to become self-supporting, with a determination to excel in all good works; with a better system of election to parishes, making it in some way concurrent between Bishop and people; with the greatest reform of all and the most radical, but yet which cannot be long delayed either in the Mother Church or in the Colonies, a way of removing idle, incapable or vicious clergymen, by making the appointments not necessarily for life; with a University quick and instinct with the throbbing life which marks other institutions relying wholly on their constituencies for support; with a noble self-confidence born of the glorious past and expecting a more glorious future; with a zeal and a love and a faith inspired of the Holy Ghost, and spreading with divine energy throughout the whole body; with a close grasp of sister churches and a generous emulation striving which can best work and best agree, and with (what may the Great Head of the Church speedily send us) a working Bishop full of vigour and wisdom to quicken and sustain a dormant spiritual life; the Church in Nova Scotia will seize once more the banner of the cross and bear it on to victory; never shrinking, never faltering, never failing, till "the day dawn and the shadows flee away."

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON

CAMPBELL—Is a quiet dissociated spot, which attracts but little notice, and in the winter time is apt to sink into oblivion. On Christmas Day, however, the members of St. Ann's Church arose to the requirements of the glad season, and celebrated it with befitting ceremony. The beautiful edifice was superbly decorated, without stint of labour and attention, the altar being especially resplendent in its costly covering of white and gold, with the addition of what flowers that could be procured. The Church was fairly filled at the Morning service, and in the Evening was crowded beyond its ordinary capacity. The service was choral, the Psalms being chanted by a full choir with a power and precision which it was delightful to hear. Two plain sermons were delivered extempore by the Rev. F. Pember, who was appointed to this parish last summer by the Metropolitan.

On Wednesday, a large Christmas tree dispensed a fine assortment of gifts to the Sunday school children. When we say that the children are one hundred in number, and that they each received two substantial presents besides candy and fruit, we shall have indicated the nature of the tree. Let it be added, and with justice, that this efficient school is thoroughly officered under the superintendency of Mrs. Pember. On Sundays we average over 80 children in attendance.

On Christmas Day there were two celebrations, one at 8 a. m., and the other at noon.

CEATHAM.—The great Festival of Christmas was celebrated in St. Paul's and St. Mary's Churches in this parish with well attended and interesting services. St. Mary's was handsomely decorated; but St. Paul's had not its usual Christmas decorations owing to the small number of attendants who could assist in the work, which requires considerable help and time on account of the size and architecture of the Church. In St. Mary's there is an effective Reredos at the east end of the chancel, and a Rood screen across the entrance of the choir. The screen is Gothic in design and bears the text "Peace on Earth, good-will towards men," and is surmounted with a cross over the central division. Other parts of the Church are trimmed as usual with evergreen and texts.

The services began with the first Evensong of the Festival on Christmas Eve at 7:30 p. m., when the hymn, "O come all ye faithful, &c.," was sung as a processional, and "Hark the Her-