

One great want in this parish is a parsonage, and it is with great pleasure we hear that the matter is being taken hold of with determination and liberality. We hope to be able to announce, some day not far distant, the completion of this necessary work.

ALLISTON.—The Harvest Home Festival, was held on the 4th instant, under the auspices of St. Andrew's Church, the Rev. Wm. M. C. Clark, Incumbent, presiding. Under his management, supported by the zeal and energy of his congregation, the affair proved a decided success; the sum of fifty dollars having been realized, a not unhandsome amount when the size of the community is taken into consideration, together with the distance at which many of the parishioners live, and the unpromising aspect of the weather in the forenoon, which, doubtless, hindered the attendance of many. Prior to the gathering for the tea meeting at the Agricultural Hall, Divine Service was held in the Church, which was beautifully decorated with flowers, fruit, grain, and vegetables, arranged with good taste. It is quite a pretty little gothic building, capable of seating 175 worshippers, though its wide aisles would, upon occasion, add largely to its capacity in such connection. The service, being choral, was rendered with the heartiness due to a harvest so bountiful, and it was really a happy expression on the part of the people of their gratitude to the good God who had so abundantly blessed them. The first part was rendered by the Rev. L. H. Kirkby of the Batteaux,—the Rev. C. E. Sills, of Holland Landing, taking the latter. Rev. J. F. Baker, of Cookstown, read the first lesson, the Rev. George Ledingham, of Whitfield, the second. The Rev. Canon Morgan, of Barrie, preached the sermon, which was most practical and appropriate to the occasion. The Incumbent, the Rev. Wm. M. C. Clarke, gave out the hymns and pronounced the blessing; after which the clergy and people adjourned to Agricultural Hall, where the tables, well filled with good cheer, presented a welcome and most appetizing effect. The comfort of the inner man provided for; the intellectual requirements were given attention to, and speeches were delivered by the Rev. J. S. Baker, Rev. Canon Morgan, Rev. George Ledingham and Rev. A. B. Chaffee. The Rev. L. H. Kirkby varied the proceedings, announcing his intention of reading a piece rather than making a speech. Before entering upon the task he had assigned himself, he took occasion to present the fact of the presence of the agent of the DOMINION CHURCHMAN in their midst, expressing the hope that they would give the paper their liberal support, which from its character and the great object it had in view—the furtherance of the true interests of the church—it richly deserved. Having warmly urged this matter upon the favourable consideration of his hearers, he proceeded to read the "Jackdaw of Rheims," and most admirably was it rendered. The Rev. Mr. Bates was called upon for a speech, but the hour being late he confined himself to the few remarks, presenting the fact, and the propriety therefore of his declining. At the request of the agent of the DOMINION CHURCHMAN, whose native modesty is such as prevent his facing an audience in the way of an address, his grateful thanks were presented through the Rev. Canon Morgan for the handsome mention of the paper which he had the honor to represent, and his kindly presentation of himself to the audience. One pleasant feature of the occasion was the witty and amusing speech of Mr. J. B. Watson, Editor of the *Alliston Plaindealer*, the merit of which did not altogether lie in its amusement, the sentiment of charity and christian feeling largely pervading it. It is certainly encouraging to witness the earnestness and zeal in the furtherance of the interests of God's church despite the drawbacks of surroundings, that may well prove discouraging, and the indifference of the many so-called Churchmen as against the love and energy of the true and devoted. We congratulate Rev. Mr. Clark upon his success in the effort just made, and trust he will live to a bright future for his parish and people, who are doing so well in sustaining him.

Miss White (the lady mayoress) has been married in St. Paul's. The first marriage that has taken place there for 120 years.

NIAGARA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

FERGUS.—The mission referred to in our last issue has begun, the missioner being the Revd. Harry L. Yewens, of Mount Forest, in this Diocese, who has already had considerable experience in the work of conducting missions both here and in the United States. Among other places a most successful evangelistic work of this character was carried out by him at Pawtucket, Rhode Island, in the year 1875, where the good results have to all appearance been with God's blessing both great and permanent. In this diocese Mr. Yewens held these evangelistic services at Moorefield and Rothsay in this county; and these having been evidently blessed with good results, an invitation was extended to him to hold a similar mission here about the beginning of October. The invitation was accepted in May last: thus allowing more than four months to make the various preparations requisite for rendering the work, by God's help, successful. It was needful to familiarize the minds of the people with the idea of a mission, its object and mode of operation; showing both what it *was to be*, and what it *was not to be*. Some thought (not unnaturally) that it was to be of a similar character to missions held elsewhere, at no very great distance; which though aiming indeed at the same object, viz., the quickening of spiritual life, and rekindling zeal for God's honour and glory, yet seem to have aimed at accomplishing such results without paying due regard to the Church's Order and System; and which thus while indeed attempting to build with one hand were only too plainly pulling down with the other. Was this to be the character of the Fergus Mission? To others again the idea of a revival in the staid old imperturbable 'Church of England' seemed startling; and the only satisfactory explanation they could conceive of it was this, that it was a scheme for making proselytes; and the good Presbyterians and Methodists were to be entrapped by the specious idea of a revival, or a protracted meeting, and these converted into the Church of England people to increase our little congregation. Some considerable time of preparation was therefore requisite for disabusing peoples' minds of erroneous conceptions of our proposed mission, and for organizing a small band of lay helpers, to assist in giving information beforehand, and distribute the "Mission Leaflets" week by week, and to meet together at the parsonage once a week for United prayer for a blessing upon the work. Meantime a little four page programme of the order and subjects of the addresses and services was circulated by the Lay-Helpers; and through the kindness of the Editor of the Fergus "*News Record*," some notice or other has appeared each week in his paper, to keep the matter before the public. As the church is small and inconveniently situated, a building formerly used by the congregationalists has been secured for the purpose of the mission by paying a small rent.

HURON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

WOODSTOCK.—The readers of the DOMINION CHURCHMAN will doubtless hear with pleasure of the continuous prosperity of the Church here. It has been, it is true, under favourable circumstances. When the Church throughout the land was despoiled of her inheritance, she was enabled in Woodstock to retain a small endowment, but she also possesses a greater store of wealth in the undying attachment of her people. The present church of Woodstock is a good brick edifice, valued at \$6,000, and has a congregation of 500 worshippers, 150 of whom are communicants, and, not least, the church is consecrated. The Rector, Rev. Canon Bettridge, has for some time been unable, from his good old age, to perform the parochial duty. He is one of the few still living of the old school of divines, so favourably known here as the early labourers in this field.

Friday, the fifth of October, the Lord Bishop of Huron, assisted by Rev. Canon Bettridge, Rector of the parish, and Ven. Archdeacon Sweetman, assistant minister, laid the corner stone of a new church in Woodstock. The church will be 100 feet in depth, with a width of eighty feet, affording accommodation to 800 worshippers. There

will be no gallery, and a lofty groined roof will span the walls. The space between the floor and ceiling will be 70 feet, and the entire edifice will when finished present a handsome type of the purest modern style of Gothic architecture. The tower will be finished with dressed Cleveland stone, and will be 130 feet in height. The foundation stone is to occupy a central position in the front wall; it is two feet six inches by two feet, and weighs half a ton. The front window will be of stained glass in beautiful design, thirty feet in height by fifteen in width. Nor was the laying of the corner stone the only event to make that day one to be remembered in the history of the church in Woodstock. That day was the day of Thanksgiving for the ingathering of the harvest, and the consecration of the cemetery. The Harvest Home was at 11 o'clock; the choral service was rendered by the choir of St. Paul's, London, under the direction of their organist, Mr. Sippi. There was lunch in the Drill Shed, at which there were addresses of congratulation. After lunch his Lordship the Bishop consecrated St. Paul's cemetery. In the evening there was a concert, vocal and instrumental, in the Town Hall, by the choir of St. Paul's and a number of local amateurs. It was well patronized, and a very happy evening was passed. The whole day was one of rejoicing.

LONDON—St. Paul's.—There was a special service of praise and thanksgiving in St. Paul's Church for the bountiful harvest, on Wednesday evening, the 10th inst. The church was beautifully decorated as becometh rejoicing for the harvest. The pillars and candelabra were tastefully entwined and crowned with oats from the sheaf, evergreens, grapes, and flowers. The pulpit, lectern, reading desk, and font, were especially entwined, and they presented a very handsome appearance. The fruits of the orchard, vineyard, and the harvest-field, showed to great advantage as they were gracefully intertwined on that day of thanksgiving. The Communion Table was above all other places enriched with fruits and flowers. On the centre of it arose a small and graceful pyramid of unthrashed grain, and around the base and sides of the pyramid were the most beautiful flowers and the richest fruit. On the wall over the chancel windows was the text, "Glory to God in the highest: Peace and good will towards men"; and beneath the windows, immediately over the pyramid, the text, "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." Banners in the chancel bore the inscriptions, "Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia," "God is Love," and other mottoes indicative of joyful thanksgiving. Throughout the church were also mottoes. The evening service from a suitable form of thanksgiving services by the Bishop of Huron was said by Revs. Canon Innes and J. Gemley. The music by the choir, led by Mr. Lippi the organist, was all that such a joyful service demanded, soul-aspiring with aspirations of devotion and gratitude. The hymns were: "We plough the fields and scatter," Psalms 145 and 147, Magnificat and Nunc dimittis; the Anthems, "Fear not, O Land," and "O, give thanks," and Credo.

The Ven. Archdeacon Sweetman preached an appropriate and excellent sermon from Joel ii. 23-26. He spoke of the reasonableness of Harvest Home Services, and of this one as calling especially for thanksgiving, God having so blessed the labours of the husbandman and given in their season the former and latter rain and the sunshine, so that "our floors are full of wheat, and we shall eat in peace and are satisfied." The dwellers in the city are called on to offer their thanksgiving service as well as the tiller in the fields. The merchant, the manufacturer, the mechanic, and he who lives on his private means, as well as the tiller of the soil, have cause of rejoicing in the blessing that has crowned his labours. He graphically portrayed a scene of rejoicing at the Harvest Home at which he preached sixteen years ago at Epping Forest, in England. The church was not as this of St. Paul's, in the midst of a city. Around it on every side were the fields; the congregation he then addressed were the men who toiled in the fields, and on whose labors God had poured down the blessing for which they had met to offer up praise and thanksgiving. Here he saw before