

**BRUCE MINES.**—The decorations this Christmas in St. George's Church eclipsed all previous attempts in that direction for ecclesiastical accuracy and display. The baptismal font at the south entrance was tastily festooned around its panels, columns and steps, and crowned with a very intricate, but effective, spiral design. Between the nave windows were erected frames with appropriate monograms. On each side of the chancel, above the choir stalls, were screens bearing in white letters the words, "King of Kings," and "Lord of Lords," and above, suspended from the top of the arch, a large star, and directly under it the word "Emmanuel." On approaching the sanctuary is presented the inscription, "Holy, Holy, Holy." The altar frontal of gold and white was designed and executed for the occasion by the mission priest, the Rev. F. C. Berry, as were also the frontals for the lecture and prayer desks. On the super-altar, between the lights and the cross, were vases of flowers. There was a large congregation at matins and evensong. On Christmas eve Mr. Berry became the unexpected recipient of a very handsome Christmas box in the shape of a fur coat, well lined with dollar bills, at the hands of his parishioners and many of the C. P. R. officials.

On the 7th January the Bishop arrived here for his annual visitation of the North Bay Mission, in charge of Rev. J. Gillmor. On the previous evening he had held a bright and hearty service at Nipissing village. On the Sunday, in the church of St. Michael and All Angels, his Lordship administered the rite of confirmation at the morning service to five candidates and preached, and also addressed the Sunday School and preached at evening service. These sermons and addresses were eagerly looked forward to, and came with power and much profit to all his hearers. The congregation has enlarged this church within the last three months by the addition of a Gothic chancel and a vestry. On 9th January he travelled to Sturgeon Falls and consecrated the church of St. Mary Magdalene, all remaining debt having been, by a special effort on the part of the congregation, cleared off. The Bishop administered the rite of confirmation to eight candidates and preached. He proceeded next day, with incumbent, to Chapleau, where, on following day, in the church of St. John the Evangelist, he held evening service and preached. Charles Eaton, Esq., of St. Bees' College, Cumberland, England, is specially in charge at this portion of the mission field as lay reader. On 12th January the Bishop returned from Chapleau to South River for other missions. It is to be remarked that his Lordship travelled 500 miles on the C. P. R. just to hold two services, and, with limited time, had laid down for himself, and was carrying out work, which, physically, would test to the utmost the endurance and zeal of the strongest of his own clergy. He was most hospitably entertained by John Scarlett, Esq., of Nipissing, and J. J. Barton, Esq., station agent, C. P. R., Sturgeon Falls.

**BRACEBRIDGE.**—The Rev. James Boydell has great pleasure in thankfully acknowledging through Mrs. O'Reilly, secretary C. W. M. A., Toronto, from Mr. Harris, 67 Avenue Road, St. Paul's Ward, Toronto, a large box of excellent clothing, together with manifold useful and attractive gifts for Sunday School Christmas trees in the country outstations; also from Mrs. Tilley, London, a large contribution of S. School and other books, and an abundant supply of most acceptable clothing for distribution in the mission. I can only say that the clothes have been distributed to the best of my ability as every one had need, and that the heart of many a country boy and girl has been warmed, and diligence rewarded by the useful and attractive gifts on the Xmas trees.

**ASPDIN.**—The Rev. W. Cumpton begs to acknowledge with heartfelt gratitude, the receipt of a number of copies of "Gospeller Almanac," from a friend in England, and some "Banner of Faith Almanacs," from Como, Ontario; also £5 sterling from a generous friend in England towards broken "rig" and repairs generally, and a handsome copy of Besant's work, "The children of Gibeon," with some kind New Year's wishes from an old friend in Clifton, England.

## Correspondence.

All Letters containing personal allusions will appear over the signature of the writer.

We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

### A LENTEN PASTORAL.

SIR,—Most cordially do I endorse the suggestion recently made in your columns by "a priest of Huron" that the Bishop should issue a pastoral in connection

with the Lenten season which is now rapidly approaching. There is not a parish in the diocese where this holy season is not now, thank God, in some shape and degree observed, and such a pastoral could not fail to very materially strengthen the hands of the clergy. We get plenty of pastorals bearing on matters financial, disciplinary, etc., but how refreshing one would be from our good Bishop with a direct bearing on the spiritual life. There could not be a more opportune time than the Lenten season, at this time, at least, ninety per cent. of our clergy are urging upon their people a close walk with God and the special duty of self-consecration. Such a pastoral couched in the pithy forcible but affectionate language of our good Bishop would, I feel certain, be productive of immense good, and would be welcomed by the clergy of all shades of opinion. Truly yours,

ANOTHER PRIEST OF HURON.

### COTTAGERS' ALMANACK.

SIR,—Will you allow me to call the attention of the clergy to the "Cottagers' Almanack" for 1888, to be obtained at the Church Book Depository, Synod office. Some of the clergy have found the distribution of almanacks among their parishioners to fruitful in good results, that, in spite of the expense, they have imported them directly from England. Now, however, these large sheet almanacks can be obtained at the Church Depository at the low price of two dollars per 100. The Cottagers' Sheet Almanack shows at a glance all Sundays, Holy Days and Church lessons, gives the lessons for every Sunday and Holy Day, and a short text for every week-day in the year. It is, therefore, a constant witness for the Church in the family, an excellent Church educator, and a perpetual reminder of Church seasons and privileges. All which help to make it the readiest way by which a clergyman may reach every family in his parish, and influence them for good, all the year through, by a small outlay at the beginning of the year. The offerings on Sunday will not be the less either.

J. D. CAYLEY.

P. S. May I also call attention to a note at the end of the catalogue mailed to every clergyman to the effect that orders for tracts for Lent, Good Friday and Easter, should be sent in before the end of January.

### THE NEPIGON MISSION.

SIR,—Having received letters from many friends, both in England and Canada, who are deeply interested in the temporal and spiritual welfare of the poor Indians, and who by gifts of clothing, medicines, teas, books, papers, have, from time to time, given substantial help both to the missionary and Indians of this place; and some of whom, indeed, have been sending us money to help to build our new mission house. I beg that you will once more allow me space to offer our most sincere and hearty thanks to all friends who have been helping us in any way to carry on the Lord's work; among whom, I must also include, as neither last nor least, those who have helped us with their prayers alone, and with their sympathetic letters, holding up our hand and cheering our hearts in hours of despondency.

First of all I must state, in explanation of my seeming negligence and carelessness in not responding sooner to letters received months ago, that the delay has been altogether unavoidable, because living as we are in such an isolated place, sixty miles from the nearest post-office, and one hundred and twenty from the nearest town, our mails must necessarily be few and far between.

We have no communication, whatever, with the outer world from the end of October to the first week in January, and from the end of March to the middle of May. In the first interval the lakes and river are only partially frozen, and no Indian, except under very pressing circumstances, would venture to travel to Red Rock at that time. In the second interval, from the end of March to the middle of May, although the lakes are sometimes safe enough, yet the ice on the Nepigon River gives away under the influence of the rapid currents beneath, so that it is sometimes all open in April, and I have known instances, in which, when food was very scarce, and to avoid almost inevitable starvation, the Indian started out with a small canoe strapped upon his toboggan, travelling over the frozen lakes till he reached the Nepigon River, and then leaving his empty toboggan on the ice near the place where he was about to embark—himself and his dogs entered the frail birch-bark canoe—thus performing half of the journey by ice and half by water. But this mode of travelling is both dangerous and uncertain, because on returning sometimes the Indian finds that the ice on the lake over which he had travelled on his way down has already commenced to thaw, there may be half a foot of water on the surface, and if, through this, the toboggan

must go, the flour, the tea and missionary's mail will be destroyed.

The foregoing statements will, I trust, be a reasonable excuse to offer to my good friends who have received no response to their letters and gifts sent them between October and New Year's day. But now that the rivers and lakes are quite safe I shall (D. V.) endeavour to answer every communication with all possible despatch.

We are now settled in the new mission house, which, although far from complete, is certainly very comfortable. Our potatoes and other vegetables will not be frozen this winter; the snow will not melt through the roof upon our heads; we can sleep comfortably every night, and we find neither ice nor frost upon our blankets in the morning. This is, indeed, a great blessing, and we do feel thankful to know kind hearts, both in England and Canada, who have provided a warm house for us this winter, and above all, I trust, we thank our Heavenly Father, also, who is the author of every good and perfect gift.

Christmas has been with us a very busy, happy time. I have never yet seen any little flock more zealous about their Church than those poor Indians are. We had a midnight service on Christmas eve when our little Church was almost full to its utmost capacity; several strange Indians from Flat Rock Portage, although Roman Catholics, came and joined heartily in the services. On Christmas day, also, the service was very hearty, the school children sang the "Te Deum" in English, and "Happy day when Jesus washed my sins away." We had eight communicants who gave ample proof that they were really sincere and wanted to be "meek partakers" of that Holy Feast, by coming to the school-house the Wednesday evening before to receive special instructions out of the Bible, Prayer Book and Catechism, before approaching the table of the Lord.

The friends of this mission will also rejoice to hear that those poor creatures, many of whom cannot afford such common articles of food as flour and pork, laid their offerings upon the Communion Table that day, amounting to fifteen dollars in money and furs. Perhaps that sum may sound small in the ears of some of your readers, but in God's sight, I am sure, it is by no means insignificant. That fifteen dollars includes the offerings of some who gave not merely a tenth, a third, or a half, but literally all that they had; one Indian who had neither tea for his family, nor sufficient twine to set his net during two months previous, kept a new dollar bill; it was his all, and gave it willingly to the Lord on that happy day. Another, a poor old woman who had nothing at all to give was so overwhelmed with grief, that after the service was over she came to Mrs. Renison and said, "Oh do give me seventy-five cents, and you can call upon me to wash or do some other work at any time;" a few days afterwards her husband killed a small beaver, the skin was worth about two dollars, he entered the Church and laid it upon the Communion Table, and then came over to the mission house and said, "Nendada, (my father) the old woman's offering was too small, you will find a beaver skin upon the Holy Table, I have given it to the Lord." I cannot close this letter without returning special thanks to the Rev. Mr. Chance, Tyroconnell rectory, Mrs. Chance, and all their kind parishioners, for a box of clothing intended for the Indians and missionary's family, also some honey, apples, a beautiful magic lantern and a lot of splendid views. The magic lantern will sometimes cheer the monotony of the long winter nights, and with, indeed, be a source of great pleasure to us all; also to Mrs. John Roper, one of our best and kindest friends, for a box of valuable medicines and a box of clothing. Far away from all doctors and all drug stores, who can estimate the value of a case of medicine in a place like this. It strengthens the missionary's hands very much, and adds force to his efforts when he can also save the poor Indians' bodily wounds and ease their pains, and pour in a little of the oil and wine. Also to the Woman's Auxiliary in connection with St. Matthew's Church, Quebec, for a bale of very valuable clothing intended for the missionary and family, per Mrs. Pope, secretary for the committee. To Mrs. Gibbs and Dr. Clarke, Port Arthur, to whose indefatigable efforts we are indebted for our first Christmas tree, plenty of candy, nuts, beautiful books, caps, mufflers and sash—a nice doll for May, boxes of paint and brushes for Willie and George, two nice books for Julia, with presents also for missionary and wife. Also to Miss Pigot for a small parcel of clothing intended for little Hannah Oshkapikida, who has since gone to her Father in Heaven, also materials for a Christmas pudding for the Indians. To our good friend Miss Peache, London, England, (who sent £60, the very first donation toward the building of our new mission house) for some beautiful serge dresses, trimmed with red, for the Indian women, and shirts for the men. To Mrs. Ramsey for a parcel of useful articles for Mrs. Renison; to Mrs. Tippet for useful articles of clothing for the little ones; to Mrs. Richardson, Winnipeg, for \$5 to help our Christmas dinner. And now in conclusion let me say to those who

have not yet done our work, to a very dilapidated the walls, a roof upon a box stove, is now shivering through the floor or repine at the supplied all good time Church and what it ought to be write to the friends who not hearing Nov. 11th, is sent to nothing about a letter dated when one is are working

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