

If we could go back and be with the Apostles before Pentecost, we should not be so near to Him as we are now. If we could be with S. John at Patmos, and see His radiant glory, yet we should not get thereby nearer or closer to Him. The same Spirit that was in Him when He lay in His Mother's arms in Bethlehem, that led Him into the wilderness, that was in Him when He uttered His thrice repeated prayer beneath the olive trees of Gethsemane, that was in Him, inspiring every act and word and desire and emotion to the very last cry on Calvary, that same Spirit, comes to dwell in us, and more and more reveal Christ to us, and make us Christ-like. And this spirit is given us in Baptism and Confirmation. How ought not Churchmen to value their privileges and gifts, and draw by their holiness others to desire them.—*Diocese of Fond du Lac.*

News from the Home Field.

Diocese of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX.—The rector of St. Paul's Church, the Rev. Dyson Hague, was presented with a very valuable fur coat and Mrs. Hague with a very handsome escritoire at Christmas time by his congregation. The Rev. Mr. Perry, the Assistant, received a purse of money and an easy chair. On the Sunday previous to Christmas the Sunday-school was a scene of delightful gift-giving, each teacher and scholar bringing a gift of books or toys, to be given to four or five of the poorer parishes in the country parts, until from 600 to 700 presents lay heaped on the table. This is a delightful custom, and not only gives great joy to many, but teaches the rising generation of Canadians that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Last year four large wooden cases were sent in this way, and even more will be sent this time. On Monday, the gifts of the people to the poor were sent to the St. Paul's Sunday school (Argyle hall) in lavish profusion. Turkeys, geese, poultry, plum-puddings, fruit, vegetables, cakes, mitts, mufflers, toys, boots and shoes, and all sorts of good things poured in, and after being distributed in baskets and bags, were carried by the young ladies and gentlemen of the congregation to the homes of the poor. It has been found that this plan is far better than allowing the poor to come themselves, as it does away with the pauperizing or begging process. This is the only time in the year too (with one or two exceptions) when eatables or coal is given without being worked for. The Christmas services were bright and hearty, the church in its Christmas colors looking very beautiful. A handsome Reredos stood at the end of the chancel with the Star of Bethlehem pouring golden rays of light on the words "Jesus Christ" while at the sides in rich red lettering the mottoes "King of Kings" and "Lord of Lords" shone out conspicuously. The pulpit and reading desk were also beautifully worked, the large text around the gallery bearing the words: "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy. Unto you is born this day a Saviour."

The collection which is given to the rector to distribute to some of the more needy of the country clergy, amounted to \$158. Besides all this, the gifts of the people to the St. Paul's almshouse must not be forgotten, many useful things being sent, and the delightful presents of flowers to the sick, each sick person in the congregation being presented with a beautiful flower and with fruit. Another most valuable present this Christmas to St. Paul's Church was a pair of very handsome solid silver Communion Cups presented by certain ladies of the

congregation, but unfortunately, on arriving, a mistake with regard to their size was found to have been made. The chalices will be ready, however, very shortly. Such is only a very brief and partial account—for no one can describe the vast amount of individual and personal charity that flows out from hearts touched by the charity of the Son of God's love at this happy season—of the Christmas doings in this old church, the oldest church in Halifax, and the mother church of the Church of England in the Dominion of Canada.

A Christmas tree was furnished to the inmates of the Poor House through the thoughtfulness of Mrs. Courtney and friends. These with the Bishop met in the Church of the Institution on the afternoon of the 26th of December when the inmates were called down and the gifts from the tree were distributed. This is the first time in the recollection of Mr. Dow, and officers of the Institution, that the inmates have been treated to a Christmas tree, and the chairman of the Board, Mr. Dennis, expressed to Mrs. Courtney its appreciation of her kindly act.

The Rev. F. H. W. Archbold received from the congregation of St. Matthias on Christmas eve a gold headed cane and a handsome piece of silverware suitably engraved accompanied by a fluttering address.

The Christmas services at St. Luke's Cathedral were as usual full of the joy and brightness which the festival inspires. There was a choral Evensong with choral singing at 8 p. m., on Christmas eve, which was fairly attended. Celebrations of the Blessed Eucharist were held at 7, 8, 10, and 12.15, the 8 o'clock celebration being full choral with 350 communicants. Matins was sung at 11, when the Bishop preached a beautiful sermon on the words "Peace on earth." A children's service was also held at 4.30, but owing to the downpour of rain was but slimly attended. The Church was beautifully decorated, the altar being magnificently vested in white, with white dorsal and wings, vases of white flowers, and on each side three splendid scarlet poinsettias bending towards the cross, as if reminding of the purpose for which the Saviour was born. A star of gas above the altar seemed to point the way to Bethlehem, our 'House of Bread': All the poor connected with St. Luke's were provided with Christmas dinners through the liberality of the people: The annual feast for the members of the Mother's Meeting took place on the afternoon of St. John's Day, and the Christmas Tree and feast for poor children took place on Saturday, 29th ult.

ANTIGONISH.—A bright and hearty service was held on the morning of Christmas Day. The offertory was devoted to the Rector, Rev. C. Sydney-Goodman, S.A.C. Carols were sung during the morning service, hymns during the celebration of Holy Communion—all were heartily taken up by the congregation. In the evening the Christmas tree for the Sunday school was the source of attraction. Held, by kind invitation, in the spacious house of Mrs. Milledge, the children were greatly pleased and interested. It would have been still more successful had the weather been more propitious.

The watch-night service, inaugurated by the Rector last year was again celebrated. A large number were present when the service commenced at 11.30 p.m. The service was impressive and congregational. The Rector's address was upon the God-entrusted treasures made to each alike in the past year—Time, Opportunity, Experience—had they been used or wasted? Then followed a few moments of silent examination, all kneeling, a general confession, the Absolution, followed by the Lord's Prayer. The old year died away and the new commenced as the assembled worshippers with heart and voice sang the familiar strain: 'Nearer, my God,

to Thee, nearer to Thee.' A general thanksgiving, the delivery of the watchword text for the New Year, another hymn and the Benediction closed the solemn service. Commencing with the year, the Rector's Sunday afternoon Bible class will consider topics in connection with the History of the Church.

BAYFIELD.—We had a great treat in the Christmas tree held by generous permission at Mr. Edward Randall's. Our devoted Lay Reader and S. S. Superintendent, Mr. Elisha Strophe, had charge of the proceedings. The presents were numerous and excellent. The Rector has removed from this part of the parish, to reside during the winter in the new residence built in the town, entirely at the cost of the earnest church people of Antigonish. The residence is a charming spot. The house is most comfortably built and has every convenience. In the rear is an excellent barn and coach house.

CAPE BRETON.

NORTH SYDNEY.—Breaking in on our Christmas-tide festivities with a keenness not at all softened by a previous knowledge of the event, we, on Sunday last, December 30th, were called upon to listen to a touching address from our Rector, Rev. R. D. Rambrick, on separation.

Elected in November last to the Rectory of Yarmouth he decided to leave here at the end of the year. Sunday finished his twelve years service in the combined parishes of North Sydney and Sydney Mines. Large congregations assembled at both churches to hear his final message.

The message was worthy of the man and of his office. The subject—the joint responsibility before God of pastor and people.

Reviewing his own service here which began when he was both young and untried he had to admit many natural shortcomings arising from these causes, but never any due to intention or indolence, and he trusted at the great account his labours might stand approved. The responsibility of the congregation was also great, and for the manner in which its members had assisted or frustrated his ministry they would be unerringly judged. It was frequently found that congregations considered they were not shurers in the labours of their pastor, and that their privilege was to carp at his ritual, criticise his motions, discriminate in his teaching and endeavour by all means to make his life miserable. Advice was always forthcoming and abundant.

However, in his case, he had pleasure in a retrospect of twelve years kindly relationship with the Wardens and Vestry of "St. John's," North Sydney, unbroken by any friction whatever, and only now severed his connection with the parish under pressure from the Bishop, and the call to a larger field of labour. Were his own feelings alone consulted he would remain. On Christmas Day he presented to "St. John's" a very handsome altar cloth, which is much appreciated. On Friday evening, 28th, after Evensong the parishioners met in the Sunday school-house and presented him with an address and a purse of \$112.00 in gold, a golden gift for golden service.

Sydney Mines parishioners were not behind in demonstrating their regard for the retiring Rector. An address and a purse of about \$100 were presented.

The Oddfellows and Masons also offered addresses and suitable presents. Several social receptions were also held for him at Sydney Mines and North Sydney. I also hear that the Yarmouth congregation has provided a car on the I.C.R. to convey the reverend gentleman's effects direct to destination, a considerate kindness further bespeaking the estimation in which he is held. Neither was Mrs. Bambrick forgotten.