

ready and willing to aid in bringing about this act of harmony. Let me recommend, therefore, that my own Bishop, with any others whom he may ask for assistance, convene a meeting of all the active clergy in each religious body, and of the chief lay officers to equal the clergy in number, for the discussion of this subject, and for the appointment of committees to arrange the form of prayer, printed or otherwise as may be agreed upon; music suitable for the service, and which should be of the best; preachers for the occasion, etc.

Yours, etc.,
Toronto, Feb. 9th.

H. S.

THOROLD AND PORT ROBINSON.—The Bishop has appointed Rev. P. L. Spencer, late Incumbent of Elora and Rural Dean of the county of Wellington, to the charge of this important parish. Mr. Spencer entered upon his duties on the third Sunday after the Epiphany. He was inducted into the rectorial rights and privileges by the Bishop on Feb. 1st. The clergy who were present and who assisted in the service were Canon Read, D. D., of Grimsby, acting Rural Dean of Lincoln and Welland; Canon Houston, M. A., of Niagara Falls; Rev. G. A. Bull, M. A., of Niagara Falls South, and Rev. W. J. Armitage, of St. Catharines. The Bishop preached from Heb. xiii., 17:—"Obey them that have the rule over you, &c." He dwelt upon the anxieties and trials inseparable from the office of a spiritual pastor, and expressed a hope that the new rector would find the people of the parish ever ready to second his efforts to advance their highest interests and extend Christ's kingdom in this part of the Diocese. Mr. and Mrs. Spencer before leaving Elora received many tokens of sincere regard and esteem from the members of the congregation and the citizens in general. Their reception in Thorold and Port Robinson has been very kind and cheering.

Flamboro' and Elora missions are vacant, and Georgetown has been vacant for several months. They will shortly be filled by the promotion of clergymen within the Diocese.

The Bishop of the Diocese has created a new Deanery to be known as the Deanery of Hamilton.

The clergy met a few days since and elected the Rev. R. G. Sutherland, M. A., St. Mark's Church, Hamilton, Rural Dean for the ensuing 3 years.

Missionary meetings are now being held throughout the Diocese. The deputations are appointed by the Bishop, to whom reports are also to be sent. The following are the deputations:—The Revs. R. G. Sutherland, M. A., and R. T. Webb; Revs. W. R. Clark, M. A., and J. Ardill; Revs. A. Belth, M. A., and W. R. Blachford; Revs. E. M. Bland and R. Gardiner; Revs. J. Gribble and E. A. Irving; Revs. P. Smith and F. C. Piper; Revs. T. Smith and C. E. S. Radcliffe; Revs. Wm. Massey and R. S. Radcliffe.

HURON.

RIDGETOWN.—The Bishop of Huron has sanctioned an arrangement, by which the Rev. W. B. Rally will officiate in the Church of the Advent, Ridgetown, until the appointment of a clergyman.

TILSONBURG.—Last December, Bishop Baldwin visited this parish and confirmed 55 persons, 30 at St. John's, Tilsonburg, and 25 at St. Charles, Durham. Holy Communion was celebrated on both occasions, and the newly confirmed communicated. By this confirmation and previous accessions, the number of communicants in the whole parish has been increased to about 120 weekly. Early Communion has been established in connection with St. John's Church in addition to the usual monthly mid-day Celebration, and has been regularly kept up all through the winter. The Incumbent about three months ago formed a society of young men under the name of the "Sons of the Church." These young men and "all communicants observe the stated feasts of the Church. They meet once a week, when one of their number reads a paper upon some theological subject. The membership now numbers about 15. A very flourishing Literary Society has also been formed, meeting at present, once a week. The Incumbent has also started a weekly night school every Monday, for the purpose of assisting young men in their studies. On Sunday, Jan. the 9th, a new Mission Church in connection with this parish, was opened at the village of Oulioden, distant about nine miles from Tilsonburg, where services used to be held some thirteen years ago, and where there are a number of Church families. This church mainly owes its existence to the energy and liberality of Mr. Henry Price, late of Quebec, and to a donation of \$100 from his brother, at present of that city, Mr. W. R. Cross, of Tilsonburg, has been licensed by the Bishop to take charge of the little church, which is a neat structure and dedicated to St. Alban. The Incumbent occasionally visits this mission and celebrates Holy Communion.

LONDON.—A Mission has been held in St. Matthew's Church by the Rev. W. J. Taylor, one of the Secs. of the Diocesan C. E. T. S. and Rector of St. James' Church, Wardsville. Its duration was twelve days, and although the weather was stormy nearly the whole of the time, the interest was not only sustained, but greatly increased. On the Sunday there were three services, one being for children, parents, and teachers. Several who were not seen at the Lord's Table before, came there at the concluding service, which was one of deep solemnity. It is believed that a quiet, and very real work of God has been accomplished by this mission.

BELMONT.—A pleasant surprise awaited Miss Mills, stepdaughter of the Incumbent, on Thursday evening, Feb. 10th, when the members of the congregation of St. George's Church met at the parsonage and presented her with a handsome watch and chain, in grateful esteem of her services as organist, together with the following address.

To Miss Mills.—Dear Friend. For the past few years you have diligently and faithfully performed the duties of organist of our Church. Your services have been freely and cheerfully rendered. We know that it has often required self denial on your part to fulfil those duties. We feel that your services are much greater than we can recompense, yet we ask you to accept this watch and chain, not for its intrinsic value, but merely as a small token of our appreciation of your services. Our sincere wish is, that, as the hands of this watch circle round and round, marking the flight of time, it also will mark many, many happy hours for you. Signed on behalf of the congregation of St. George's Church, Belmont, by Sara Nugent, Bertie Chin.

AILSA CRAIG.—The wardens and lay delegates representing St. Mary's Church, Brinsley; Christ Church, McGillivray; and Trinity Church, Ailsa Craig; met at the parsonage here on the 5th inst. to take into consideration the relation of each congregation and of the parish to the Mission Fund of the diocese. After a thorough discussion of the subject in all its phases, it was concluded that at present there seems to be no possibility of raising a larger sum from local sources, and of thus relieving the Fund. When the meeting closed, the Christ Church contingent proceeded to unload in the parish barn a large number of bags of oats which they had brought with them for the clergyman's horse. A few days afterwards a similar load was sent in by St. Mary's Church, besides a supply of provisions for the household. These incidents speak plainly of the kindly relations subsisting between the Church people and their clergyman, the Rev. H. C. Thomas.

ALGOMA.

ROSSEAU.—Acknowledgment.—The Rev. Alfred W. H. Choune begs to acknowledge, with hearty thanks, the gift of two barrels and a small box of clothing and toys, etc., from the Women's Auxiliary and the S. S. children of St. Barnabas, St. Catharines, Ont., per the kindness of the Rev. A. Macnab, Incumbent.

BRACEBRIDGE.—Acknowledgment.—Rev. James Brydell gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a most useful and valuable assortment of clothes, books, etc., from the Secretary of the C. W. M. A., which have been distributed to meet the needs of the parish, and most thankfully received.

FOREIGN.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge intends to send out clergymen to the colonies in charge of batches of emigrants, during the present year.

WALES.—A beautiful church, costing £18,000, and which it has taken three years to build, was recently opened at Llechryd, by the Bishop of St. David's. It has been erected at the sole cost of one Miss Clara Thomas, of Pencerrig, in memory of her mother.

The Queen has consented to allow a handsome new church, now in course of erection in Paris, to be called the Victoria chapel, in commemoration of her jubilee. Toward the cost of the church Sir Richard Wallace has contributed £6,000.

The committee of the Official Year Book of the Church state that the amount contributed for 1885 exceeds by about £400,000 the sum raised for church extension purposes in the preceding year. The total sum, £1,781,650, represents voluntary offerings alone, contributed in twelve months for the building and restoration of churches and parsonages and the endowment of benefices.

The number of confirmees in the diocese of Rochester last year was 12,018, or 1,600 more than in 1885, the year in which, as Bishop Thorold says, all the work was at flood tide. It may be added that in 1878 the number of confirmees in the two London dioceses was 22,478. This year it will probably be 84,000.

The Rev. J. W. Bardsley vicar of Huddersfield, at an "at home" to a thousand people in the town hall, recently, said in reference to the new see of Wakefield, "I intend to hold a short service of intercession each Sunday to invoke the influence of the Holy Spirit on the Prime Minister, that he may be guided to the choice of a new bishop, who may, by God's blessing, stir us all up to greater devotion."

The Bishop of Lichfield, in his New Year's address to his clergy, expresses his firm conviction that there are in almost every quarter of the diocese unmistakable signs of increasing vigor and deepening spirituality. He congratulated them on their revival of the uses of the means of grace which had fallen into neglect, and adopting, fearlessly and soberly, new methods to meet the altered circumstances of our days, keeping, as the Prayer Book speaks, "the mean between the two extremes of too much stiffness in refusing and too much easiness in admitting any variation." He desired particularly to impress on all his clergy the immense importance of individual confirmation, speaking face to face, for perhaps the only time, with the young of the flock at the most critical moment of their lives.

Lord Selborne in his "Defence of the Church of England against the Disestablishment," replies to the question put, *ad invidiam*, Do Evangelicals, Broad Churchmen, and Ritualists hold one faith:

"The question is put, not as to any exceptional cases of unsettled minds or insincere professions, but in a broader and more general way. So taking it, I answered without hesitation, 'Yes, they do.' There can be no greater error than to confound articles of faith with matters of mere opinion; nothing would be more dangerous to faith than to insist that there cannot be substantial religious unity where there is any divergence of thought upon religious subjects" (p. 290).

And he adds—
"The effervescence of individual piety and earnestness—the habit of pushing doctrines to the extreme consequences, which the pursuit of absolute truth in the highest region of thought is apt to engender—impatience of restraint and disturbing forces produce unavoidably some eccentricities and some friction. But these are shadows, which must be present where there is light" (p. 291).

Almost every journal in the kingdom has devoted an elaborate criticism to Lord Selborne's magnificent defence of the Church of England against Disestablishment. It is of so exhaustive a nature that a brief notice can convey no idea of its argumentative value. I must therefore be content with transcribing the concluding words: "We are told with loud voices that the Church of England is doomed, that the accomplishments of these (our enemies') designs are coming inevitably upon us. I do not believe in such doom; I acknowledge no such necessity. If God has appointed that, for the faults of this Church and nation, that judgment is to fall on us, then come it will; not otherwise, if we, who believe that it would be disastrous for our country, acquit ourselves like men and 'are strong.' If we fail it will not be through the power of our adversaries, but through our own fault. Let us take warning from their reproaches. Neglect, in one place, of ministerial duties; in another, political narrowness, driving friends into the ranks of foes; in a third, faction or intolerance, impatience of the restraint of law, exaggeration of private tastes, or party notions, at the expense of edification—these things, wherever they are found, are against us; these may be real dangers. Good men and wise men should, now more than ever, discourage and avoid them. The issues are in higher hands; but much may depend upon the way in which each man does his own particular duty. Meanwhile, since the contest is forced upon us, let us put our armor on and gird ourselves up with a good courage in defence of what we hold most dear; finding encouragement in those promises in which, though not made to particular or national Churches, every Church and every Christian man has a share."

The Archbishop of Canterbury declared the other day that Disestablishment would be prefaced by civil war. This was thought by many to be an extreme opinion, but the Head Master of Harrow, Mr. Welldon, a man of pronounced Liberal opinions, said last week, at a public meeting, "I am by profession and inclination a man of peace, but if it were proposed to sell by auction our Cathedrals for secular purposes, I should wish to shoulder a pike in that campaign."