

NIAGARA.

(From our OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

ALMA.—At the recent soiree and sociable mentioned in your last issue, the sum of \$82 was cleared after paying all expenses, towards paying for the organ in Holy Trinity Church. Only \$30 remains now to be raised. All did their utmost to make the gatherings both pleasant and profitable.

ROCKTON.—The sad events which have happened at this little place during the last few days lead us to state that the late Mr. Wm. Cook has for the last few years discharged the office of Churchwarden in a most worthy manner; rain or snow or bad roads kept him not from opening the church and performing his duties as warden of St. Alban's. He was one of the most kind and good-hearted of men, and was one of the first and foremost to aid in anything for the church. His house was always open to his clergyman, to his bishop and to all whom he could aid. His daughter Marian, whose death we have to record, was of a sweet and cheerful disposition, when free from restraint. She was a Christian with all her heart; her last words, like her dear Master's, forgave all injuries, and she died in the sure hope of Jesus Christ. An affecting sermon was preached on the subject by the Incumbent, the Rev. John Osborne, of St. Augustine's College, Canterbury, from St. John xvi. 6: "Sorrow hath filled your heart."

WELLINGTON.—To complete the record of the missionary tour in Wellington County, Diocese of Niagara, these particulars are necessary. On the same day (January 21) that the Rev. Mr. Speirs preached in Guelph, the Rev. Mr. Yewens preached in St. Mark's Church, Orangeville, and the Rev. Mr. Henderson of Orangeville, was to have preached in Mount Forest, but was prevented from reaching that place by the blocked condition of the T. G. & B. Railroad. On the following Sunday (Jan. 28) Mr. Yewens preached at the three stations—Rothsay, Houston, and Drayton—of the Rev. Mr. Tooke's mission. The congregations were good and the collections satisfactory. On Monday (29th) Mr. Tooke kindly drove Mr. Yewens across the country to Arthur, the headquarters of the extensive mission of Rev. Mr. Hooper. Here another meeting was held in the evening. Fine weather and other favouring circumstances helped to secure a good attendance, and the addresses of Rev. W. M. Tooke, A. Henderson, C. E. Thomson, R.D., and H. L. Yewens, were listened to with close attention, and responded to by a good collection. On Wednesday evening (31st) the work was closed with a meeting in Mount Forest. Revs. A. Henderson and C. E. Thomson kindly made special journeys to attend it. The audience was not so large as it ought to have been; but the Reverend gentlemen were listened to by those present with marked interest. The experiment was tried of each gentleman dividing the topics he intended to touch upon, and thus make four addresses by the two speakers, which with hymns sung between, gave more variety and interest to the meeting.

HUSTON.—On Tuesday evening the 13th instant, the members of St. John's Church, Huston, waited upon Miss Tooke at the parsonage, and presented her with a purse of \$41 and the following address: "Dear Miss Tooke—We the members of St. John's Church beg your acceptance of this purse as a small token of our appreciation of the valuable services which you have so cheerfully rendered to this congregation."

We cannot allow the occasion to pass by without conveying to you our gratitude for your assiduous labours amongst us; nor can we forget that the pleasure we have experienced as well as the profit we trust we have derived from the services of our Church, are in no small degree due to those exertions in which you have so well succeeded, of promoting the praise of God in His sanctuary. While at the same time, your patient teaching in our Sunday-school, joined to your Christian example, has had, we may well trust, a beneficial effect upon the young, which will not be soon or easily effaced; and we pray that you may long be spared to continue your labours in the same good cause,

and that both here and hereafter you may receive the meet reward of those who are never weary in well-doing. Signed on behalf of St. John's congregation, Huston, Robert H. Johnston, Churchwarden; John Johnston, S. S. Superintendent."

The Rev'd W. Took, incumbent, responded on behalf of his sister, thanking the members of St. John's congregation for this valuable testimony of their esteem, and for the kindly sentiments contained in their very pleasing address.

CLIFTON.—On Monday evening, February 12, a highly appreciative audience, were assembled in the Town Hall, to listen to a lecture by Rev'd Septimus Jones, on Oliver Goldsmith. The choir and Sunday-school children at the commencement sang, with fine effect, "Children's Voices," Mrs. Guerin taking the solo, which she sang with remarkable sweetness. The lecture was an exceedingly entertaining and instructive one, full of pleasant wit and tender pathos, and varied with needful lessons of life. The sketch of the poet's life were word photographs, taken under an April sky where wandering flakes of sunshine are fitfully blown about and against the springing greenness, then lost in the sad mists and the darker rain. Those who missed the lecture can hardly realize the loss they sustained; for setting aside the encouragement given to the Sunday-school work (in aid of which this lecture was given) they missed an interesting treat not often afforded them. During the intermission, between the first and second parts of the lecture, Mr. Sutherland, leader of the Church choir, sang in his best style, "The Village Blacksmith," which was heartily received. Mrs. Guerin was to have sung also, but through some mistake did not favour us, but we hope and trust on some future occasion to hear her. At the conclusion of the lecture, Rev. E. J. Fessenden thanked the reverend gentleman for the great pleasure he had given all present. "God save the Queen" was sung and the meeting dispersed.

On the 15th March Vice-Chancellor Blake has kindly consented to give an address in aid of the same work, and we hope to see a full house. For if the Sunday-school is to be a felt power in the land, we must look to the parents and friends in the Church to sustain by their presence and means, the efforts made to increase the usefulness of the Sunday-school.

BARTON.—The Rev'd Rural Dean, George A. Bull, B.A., has taken a "new departure" and one which I think is correct and will eventually become very popular. On Monday, February 12, a "social" was held in Barton Parsonage, at which nearly fifty of Mr. Bull's parishioners were in attendance. After the arrival of the guests, and the singing of a hymn, Mr. Bull stated that the object of the meeting was to afford some idea of church work, Parochial, Diocesan, or Foreign, and so create a livelier interest as members of the Church and as brethren. The speaker stated that much information would be obtained if Church publications were more freely circulated amongst the people than at the present time. He spoke of several weekly and monthly publications that would aid in this work. Next to the information culled from publications that were received at such meetings as these, supplied in a measure the wants of the enquirers. Mr. Bull then alluded to the Diocese of Niagara and the missionary work in it, thus bringing home to the hearts of those present the great and glorious mission work of the Church at large. The appeal sent out by the Bishop of Algoma was read by the Rev'd W. S. Speirs, Assistant Minister of the Cathedral, Hamilton; and then Mr. Bull went very fully into the needs not only of the Diocese but of what may be called "Foreign" as contrasted with "Home." The people were urged to consider this matter of giving of their abundance to aid parishes and dioceses which were struggling. Mr. F. Foote, who formerly resided at Muskoka, was asked and did give a very instructive and interesting description of the hardships and trials of the missionary in that portion of the Dominion, portraying very vividly the power of the Holy Spirit, which enabled the missionary to surmount all difficulties in order to preach the "glad tidings of great joy." The Rev. Mr. Speirs was next called upon to give a history of the recent trip on deputation duty through a portion of the County of Wellington,

after which he described the missionary workings in the Southern States. The meeting was eminently social, no formality nor any appearance of its being a missionary meeting. "Onward Christian soldiers" was sung, then refreshments were passed round, and all seemed to enjoy themselves very much indeed. A vote of thanks was passed and tendered to the Rev'd Mr. Speirs for his attendance and the information he imparted. The Rev'd Rural Dean deserves great credit for inaugurating a new style of entertainment by which people can become better acquainted with the Church and its requirements.

WELLINGTON Co.—On Wednesday, February 7, the quarterly meeting of the clergy of this Deanery took place at Guelph, commencing with a celebration of the Holy Communion at St. George's Church, the Rural Dean, the Rev'd C. E. Thomson, celebrating, assisted by the clergy present. The time was somewhat unfortunate for the meeting, as the clergy were more than usually occupied in their respective parishes, the series of missionary meetings having been only just completed, and all being now busy with their preparation for Lent. Five clergymen out of the twelve were, however, present, viz., the Rev'd C. E. Thomson, R. D., the Rev'd Canon Dixon, Rev'ds William Tooke, C. R. Lee, and Robert C. Caswall.

A communication was read from the Rev'd Harry L. Yewens, unavoidably absent, suggesting, among other subjects which he would have brought before the meeting had he been present, "That the topics of public instruction at the services, on the occasion of the Chapter meeting, should be appointed beforehand, and should always be in defence and explanation of some point of Christian doctrine, or in explanation and enforcement of some point in the Church's system, and that at one of the evening services, instead of a sermon the subject agreed upon should be presented in its various parts, in a series of short addresses by the clergy present, each of course having undertaken a particular division of the subject."

No action binding the Chapter permanently in the matter was resolved upon; but inasmuch as the existing rules appeared to admit of so doing, it was determined to make trial of the plan proposed by Mr. Yewens at the next quarterly meeting.

It was resolved that the next meeting should be held (D.V.) at Fergus, on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 15th and 16th, beginning with service at St. James' Church, on the Tuesday evening at half-past seven o'clock, followed by a sermon on "The Church of God before and under the Christian dispensation," the Holy Communion to be celebrated at half-past seven o'clock the next morning, followed by the usual business meetings, and then at the evening service a series of short prepared addresses on the Threefold Ministry of the Church, and the Scriptural and historical evidence for the same, etc.

The subject arranged for the discussion this time was "the Proper Frequency of Reception of the Holy Communion," opened by an essay by Rev. R. C. Caswall. During the discussion that followed one important topic was debated, "Is a priest bound to receive as often as he celebrates?" It was considered that ecclesiastical usage was adverse to the reception of the Holy Communion by any one more than once in the same day, whether priest or layman. On the other hand, it was argued that ecclesiastical usage was equally adverse to a priest celebrating more than once in the same day. Yet necessity frequently required an infringement of this usage, as in the case of a dying man wishing to receive his last Communion, after the usual celebration had taken place in Church; or as on Easter Day, when every parishioner is bound to partake of the Holy Communion: so that where one priest serves more than one Church, within a sufficient limit as to distance, necessity is almost laid upon him. It was considered by some, therefore, that the necessity would include also the necessity of receiving, and be a sufficient condonation for the infringement of the ecclesiastical usage referred to: the more so since, whereas no canon or rubric of the Church of England forbids a priest to celebrate more than once in a day, the Rubric in the Communion Office is, to all appearance, explicit as to reception when he does celebrate: "Then shall the minister first