

Thursday Jan. 5th. After morning prayer at 9 30 a.m. in Christ church, the conference met again in the Music Hall. The Bishop opened the proceedings with prayer, and then examined "letters of orders," and gave his "license" to those who had not yet received it. The subject of Sunday Schools being resumed, the Bishop emphatically laid down the dictum that the clergyman of any mission ought to have absolute control and supervision of every Sunday school in that mission. The clergyman being responsible to the Bishop, the Superintendent responsible to the clergyman, and the teachers receiving their instructions from the clergyman through the Superintendent. Thus all would be "under authority" and more probably work as a harmonious whole, than when "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." The suggestion was made that a series of Lesson Papers should be arranged which should receive the approval of the Bishop, and in which should be given distinctively church teaching as to the different church seasons, and every Sunday; and in this series to be Lesson Papers on church history and cognate subjects written clearly and in simple language, so as to train up our children in such a way that they may in after life, give a reason why they belong to the church, and why they believe her to be a true Branch of the church of Christ amongst us. The idea was strongly endorsed by the whole conference, and, at the suggestion of the Bishop, a committee was appointed which should take up the subject of Sunday school instruction, and, if possible prepare a scheme of lessons on the basis proposed which could be approved by the Bishop, and by him laid before the clergy of the other parts of the Diocese, and, when agreed upon, to have thus one uniform system of teaching in all the Sunday schools of Algoma.

A paper on "Clerical Stipends, with reference to local contributions" was read by the Rev. Mr. Knight of Port Carling, and in the discussion upon it, every member of the conference took part. It was agreed to without dissension that "there ought to be no payments whatever from congregations to the clergymen personally, but that all contributions for the support of the clerical staff ought to be sent directly to the Treasury and the Stipends all paid therefrom. The difficulty which met the conference was "how could this be managed?" Every one bore testimony to the fact that there was a willingness on the part of the people to contribute to the support of the clergy, if not in money, (which at present they have not) in kind or produce. But how can this be made available or properly directed? Giving "in kind" needs great care and supervision, or much might be given which would be of small intrinsic value. The idea suggested was a good one but the conference was reluctantly compelled to come to the decision that the plan must be deferred.

The Bishop stated that the proposed Widow's and Orphan's Fund was moving slowly onward, there being \$3000 in hand, but nothing which could be made available at present. There was absolutely no provision for those left behind should any of the clergy be called away by death. There was a scheme afloat by which it was proposed to insure the lives of clergymen in some cases at the expense of the Di-

oces, but this, like all other schemes, could not be carried out, however good they might be in themselves, without the necessary means of doing so at command.

The Rev. Mr. Llwyd of Huntsville read a thoughtful and earnest paper on "Missionary work, its methods and requisites," in which he gave the suggestion that students from the various Theological Colleges should be urged to come and spend their vacations in the different missions under the superintendence of the clergy, he, himself, being prepared to welcome four good men at any time. This would be a means of giving these students the best possible insight into the work which hereafter would be required of them, and also enable them to test and prove their fitness or unfitness for that work. The discussion, or rather consenting speeches, which followed (for not one differed) were warm, hearty, and loving; the paper with its practical suggestions being praised on every hand.

The Bishop wound up the conference by remarking that he had come to it with no small amount of fear and trembling, for which he now felt not a little ashamed. The proposed conference was a new thing, and an experiment in a fresh course by means of old materials, and "what was he, that he should dare say, the experiment would be blessed with complete success?" But he ought to have had more faith in Him who had put it into his heart to call his clergy together for this, their first conference. He should go away rejoicing that they had thus been brought together, and at his having seen the loving spirit of unanimity which appeared to move them all; divided, they could do nothing, but united as they had seemed to be, there was nothing in reason, which they could not do.

Before separating a unanimous and cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. Mr. Plante of Port Sydney for the admirable arrangements he had made for the accommodation and comfort of the clergy; and with this was coupled an expression of feeling for the general courtesy which had been extended to the members of the conference by the people of Port Sydney.

His Lordship's earnest and feelingly pronounced blessing brought to an end the first conference of clergy ever held in the Diocese of Algoma; a conference which, from the fact of its being the first, will be forever memorable in the annals of the Diocese, and every one, as he left the room, most emphatically endorsed Bishop Sullivan's words when he declared, "he felt it had been good to have been there."

MANTOWANING.

ST. PAUL'S S.S. CHRISTMAS TREE.

Jan. 1st, 1885. The teachers and scholars of St. Paul's Sunday school met in the Agricultural Hall at 5 p.m. for tea and at 8 p.m. the entertainment for the general public began, consisting of hymns carols, duets etc. The programme was entirely sacred and gave great satisfaction to all present, the hall being crowded by an appreciative audience. After the singing Mr. Cole delivered a short address, and explained the principles upon which the church of Eng-