

OUR PARISHES AND CHURCHES.

NO. 9.—LACHUTE AND ARUNDEL.

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(Concluded.)

IN the summer of 1885 the Mission being vacant by the retirement of the Rev. Mr. Brown, who had succeeded Mr. Evans, Mr. Sanders, of the Theological College, was sent out as Lay Reader, and was afterwards ordained deacon, and appointed to the full charge of the Mission. Mr. Sanders has proved himself most acceptable to the people. Two of the leading Methodist families have united with the Church and are among her most active working members. A lot has been purchased for a parsonage in Lachute, and steps initiated for the raising of funds for the building. There is a total of 95 Church families in the Mission, distributed as follows:—Wentworth, 20; Arundel, 30; Lachute, 45. Besides this the congregation of course includes some in each of these and other places in the Mission, who, although not actual members, attend the services and will probably eventually be drawn in. Mr. Sanders felt, as Mr. Evans had felt before him, that it was impossible for one man to do the work of this back and scattered Mission.

During the summer vacation of this year the bishop kindly sent Mr. Harris, another Theological student, to assist Mr. Sanders in Arundel. Mr. Harris, like Mr. Sanders, has been eminently successful in his work, and the people have since petitioned the bishop to appoint him permanently, offering, if he will reside amongst them, to contribute \$163 towards his support.

Now, what is most wanted of outside help? In Lachute there is no communion service, for the service used is an old one belonging to St. Andrew's, which the church there kindly lends; and the altar linen is always lent for the occasion by some parishioner. Sunday school papers too would be most acceptable, either a yearly club of, say 25 copies, which would come direct from the book seller or office of publication and would alternate with the club taken by the school itself, and surplus or old copies which might be saved from any of our city Sunday schools. Subscriptions also towards the building of the Parsonage are needed, or indeed towards any one of the numerous church objects which are ever straining to the uttermost the energies of a willing but poor and struggling congregation. The Church is but the household on a broader scale. If every day of every year the household has its wants that must be supplied, its claims that must be met; so, also, has the Church, which is the Household of Faith. Let us not ignore them. As for Arundel, it is still poorer. I was astonished when Mr. Harris told me what the people were willing to do in the event of his being sent there, for money is not plentiful amongst them, and what there is of it they are, perhaps

naturally, reluctant to part with. As an illustration of this I may mention an incident, for the truth of which I can personally vouch, and which proves the kindly nature and loving hearts of some of these rough backwoodsmen. One of those sudden changes, common to our variable climate, had set in. It was towards the end of autumn; the mercury had fallen suddenly; a wind of sleet lashed the face of the Missionary like a scourge and almost blinded both him and his patient horse. Making his way with difficulty through the lonely and romantic glen of Harrington to hold a Sunday-morning service the Missionary was met by a well-to-do farmer, Henry Burns. The man accosted him in the usual friendly manner, and then, noticing that the clergyman's head was protected simply by a felt hat, he laid his hand affectionately on his shoulder and said in tones of genuine concern:

"Dear, you're froze with the cold! Now when you go home just go into Meikle's (a shop in Lachute) and buy yourself a good war-r-m fur cap, and tell them to charge it to Henry Burns."

The clergyman fearing that in the event of his accepting this generous offer he might go beyond the donor's idea as to price, inquired further into the matter and learned that "a good war-r-m fur cap" could be got at the shop in question for one dollar and fifty cents. It is needless to say that he did not avail himself of the offer, though he never forgot the kindness that prompted it.

In building the Arundel Church the contractor agreed to put in a foundation of cedar, it not being convenient to procure stone just then, and delay being considered unwise. Had he done his work thoroughly there would have been no trouble; for a solid cedar foundation would have lasted, if not as long as the building itself, at least for a great many years, and could have been replaced by one of stone at any convenient time. Unfortunately the work was bungled, and the result is a cold and now unsafe condition of the church, to remedy which funds to the extent of about \$60 are required immediately.

During Mr. Harris' residence he had worked the Sunday school up to thirty, and the Bible and the Church Catechism were regularly taught. When he returned to Montreal, he left a Miss Smith, the teacher of the day school, in charge, and so faithful and efficient has she proved that an increase of ten is since reported. Books, papers, reward cards, and Sunday school literature of every description are here required, also a surplice and communion service and linen, a reading cushion and carpet for the chancel, and furniture for the vestry.

It is for our Society to take up the cause of struggling parishes such as this and many others. To bear them in our hearts in prayer and to succor them with our gladly given material help is a duty clearly laid upon us as Christian women.

"Give us, they cry, our portion, co-heirs of grace divine;
Give us the word of promise, give us the three-fold line."

Let us not be deaf to the cry.