

an interesting address. Rev. Mr. Matthew, a great favorite with the "Church people, made a very excellent address. It gave him great pleasure to know that the children were to be cared for, and that a neat and comfortable room would be provided for Sunday School purposes. He commended the Sunday School to the special care and attention of the new congregation, as being one of the most important and interesting branches of Church work. He was followed by Messrs. B. Gerry and J. H. Caldwell, Lay Reader, Brussels, Andrew Morrison, of McKillop, and M. Y. McLean, editor of the *Huron Expositor*, Seaforth, each of whom delivered short, but appropriate addresses.

The speeches were interspersed by choice selections of music by the choir, which were rendered in such a manner as drew from many of the speakers well-deserved compliments and praise. Mr. Abraham Drew sang a solo which showed much taste and a good voice. Miss Ella Stretton also sang a solo. Votes of thanks were passed to the Incumbent, the ladies for the dinner, and the choir for the good music which they supplied.

The new congregation and their esteemed pastor are to be especially congratulated on the commencement they have made, and upon the marked success of their initiatory celebration. The weather was favorable, the attendance was large, and all seemed to enjoy themselves to the fullest extent. The children of the village had a festival on the following afternoon, when a very pleasant time was spent.

The new church will have a basement conveniently arranged for Sunday School purposes. The furnace will be placed in transept of basement, and will be of the most approved modern plan. The design of the church is very pretty and ecclesiastical, indeed. The chancel will be towards the east. The entrance on the side, and over the entrance will be a neat belfry in which will be placed a first-class bell, 250 lbs. The windows in church, chancel, vestry, etc., will be triplets in stained glass with a very pretty border. The ceiling will be open to the roof, finished in black ash, put on diagonally, light and dark colored alternately. The principals will be ash, of a very pretty design. The pews will be ash, light and dark, to agree with the ceiling, and are very pretty and comfortable. The prayer desk, pulpit and communion table are very pretty designs in ash. The cost will be about \$1800, the full amount of which is already secured. It is confidently expected that the church will be free of debt on the day of opening, which will be about the middle of September next.

Correspondence.

All Letters will appear with the names of the writers in full.

PROGRESS OF THE CHURCH.

DEAR SIR,—There are people who desire constantly to force upon us a fallacy, viz., that the Church is getting on very badly, and that the sects are prospering everywhere. We are told how their congregations are growing, how many converts they are making out of the Church, how much money they are raising, and one would think that our branch of the Church was going to destruction, while the sects are each of them prosperous, happy, and doing a world of good.

For my part, I do not believe a word of it. I believe they are not prosperous, and that they are getting worse and worse every day, that, as a matter of fact, they are making no converts worth mentioning, that they are going deeper into debt, and that many of their followers are becoming practical atheists.

This has been forced upon my mind, by a journey I have lately made into one of our back parishes, in the north.

I left the Synod room with its debates, and warmth, and excitement, and my journey led me into the township of Mono, where I was most hospitably entertained by a dear old Churchman, Robert Jackson, Esq., and his good lady. This township, though rough in many parts, is considered a good township. Its scenery is picturesque, and a drive through it brings before the eye many a "bit" of pretty landscape. We see many houses of log, dating back to the time when the last generation, with indomitable courage and strong arms, went to cut out for themselves a home in the wilderness; though, besides these, we find many substantial buildings of brick and stone, testifying to the wealth of the soil, and the comfortable circumstances of those who own it.

On Sunday, seated by the side of the energetic lay-missionary, Mr. Morley, we drove eight miles through a beautiful country, green as emerald, and joyous in

the rays of a bright and cheerful sun, to the church of St. Matthew. This church is built of logs, but as we entered, it looked like a church. It was clean and bore the tokens of care. A large Turkey red curtain was over the window above the altar, and extended on each of it, forming a sort of dossal, and making the altar conspicuous as the chief article of furniture in the church. There was a large congregation—every seat was occupied. The service was not so hearty as it might have been, but this arose, perhaps, from the fact that many of the present habitual worshippers had not yet got used to their Prayer Books. However, the singing was hearty, good, old-fashioned hymn tunes which carried us back years and years ago. The congregation was well-behaved and reverent. Here there were fifteen communicants.

After this, we drove eight miles more, to the Church of the Herald Angel. This is a pretty little brick church, built largely through the energy and liberality of Mr. Jackson. My friend Mr. Swallow was the architect, and he has succeeded admirably in making a church both handsome and well adapted to the wants of a country congregation. In this church, again, the sacrament of our Lord's Body and Blood was brought prominently before the mind by the large altar and its appropriate surroundings. Here there was a full congregation, the conduct of the people reverent, the service hearty, and the singing inspiring. At this service three children were baptized, and there were eighteen communicants.

We then drove four miles to St. George's, a neat, clean church. This church was once a Methodist meeting house, but that society not being successful, the building was sold for—I think I was told—\$100. Indeed, this sum of money secured the congregation as well, for many clung to the old building. Here, again, we had a hearty, reverent service. The number of communicants was thirteen.

This is a back country parish, worked up by a pious layman, and I ask you to observe the state of it. Methodism is, as I was told, almost *non est*. The Presbyterians have a student from Toronto for six months of the year, and for the rest of it depend upon the Church; their sick are visited, and sometimes their dead buried by us.

But, while Methodism and Presbyterianism languish, the Church is prospering.

I administered the Holy Communion to forty-six persons, and baptized three children. I saw everywhere full congregations, with not a seat to spare. But more than this, and it is an astonishing fact, there are in this parish one hundred and seventy Sunday School scholars. This parish has been worked for some time back by Mr. Morley. He obtains no aid from the Mission Fund, being a layman, but has been assisted by the Church Woman's Aid Society. I hope this account may encourage them, and lead them to give further assistance.

In the evening, having no service to take myself, we drove into Orangeville. We were, unfortunately, late, but I was delighted both by what I saw and heard. The large church was full, the chancel well and handsomely furnished, the walls of both nave and chancel neatly colored, and a handsome reredos was at the back of the altar. A fine new organ accompanied the singing of a well trained choir. The service was heartily rendered, the people joining well, especially in the hymns.

I felt well repaid for my rapid drive. This was one day's church visiting. I had seen four churches. I found them full of worshippers, the services were well rendered, and I saw none of that irreverent conduct that a few years back shocked the minds of Churchmen.

I believe this experience may be gained in many parts of Canada, and it convinces me more and more of this, viz.: That whenever Church doctrine and Bible truth are faithfully taught, and the services reverently conducted, the people are ready to throw away the husks of dissent and receive the Church's food, and to change the irreverent sermon-hearing of the meeting-house for the simple, stately worship of "The Church of our Fathers;" yes, I may say of their Fathers, too.

Yours truly,

W. HOGES CLARK.

CHURCH WORK IN THE EASTERN SECTION OF THE DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

DEAR SIR,—It has occurred to me that a few words of passing comment, from an English incumbent, on the present aspect of Church work in Muskoka, might interest your readers. Acting on this assumption, and without further preface, I dash at once in *medias res*.

I reached Gravenhurst about a fortnight ago, and, after a short detention, left for Bracebridge, where we (that is, I include my friend, Rev. W. L. Leeman, Rector of Seaforth, near Liverpool, Eng.) had the pleasure of making the acquaintance of Rev. T. S. Cole, who has charge of the important missionary circle of which Bracebridge is the centre. His office is no sinecure, as in addition to his village duties he has much laborious travelling to perform, to various outlying stations at distances from the aforesaid centre, varying from 6 to 80 miles, at some of which stations I preached. Mr. Cole's certainly an energetic man, and is doing a great work in this district, which is hardly appreciated at its true value. From Bracebridge I pushed on to Baysville, where Mr. Walker, the lay reader, holds service regularly on Sundays, having gathered about him a congregation of some 20 persons. There is no place of worship at all in Baysville (100 inhabitants), but a Church Hall is in course of erection, or rather preparation, and the site purchased. I also was delighted with my visits to Falkenburg and Stoneleigh. From Baysville I went to Seguin Falls, where I held a meeting and found considerable interest existing in Church matters. The Bishop of Algoma seems to have won the hearts of the people in these woodland regions, by whom his name is treasured as a household word, and when his annual return is a joyously expected epoch in the domestic calendar of the isolated settler. The grand project on the *tapis* at present in Bracebridge is the fostering and enlargement of the parsonage fund. The present system, by which the clergyman has to shift his quarters annually or biennially, from house to house, introduces a very undesirable kind of domestic itinerancy into the Church, and the Anglicans of Bracebridge are straining a point financially, in the attempt to provide their pastor with a permanent home; an effort which will not be looked upon with frigid indifference, I should hope, by the wealthy Churchmen of your Canadian cities. I was much pleased generally with the decorum, singing, &c., of the Muskoka congregations. With regard to my friend and myself, I may say that we both take so lively an interest in the work here that we were most happy to promise to aid, as far as lies in our power, on our return, and earnestly recommend the incumbent to pay a speedy visit to England. I must not omit to mention a very enjoyable visit to Rosseau, at which place we met Rev. A. Chowne.

I should be glad, were I not reluctant to trespass on your space, to give an account of a very interesting parochial meeting in the St. Thomas' Church School house (one of the regular monthly meetings), at which the parsonage fund was inaugurated, after an address by Mr. W. E. Hamilton, and a subsequent discussion on the distinctive stand of the Church as compared with other Protestant bodies.

I must, however, now conclude.

I remain, yours truly,

LEWIS LEWIS,

Rector of Oakbrook,

County Derby, England.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE, LONDON, ENGLAND.

SIR,—Permit me in your next issue, as Local Secretary of the above for the Diocese of Niagara, to remind the Clergy, Sunday School Superintendents and Teachers, and members of Bible Classes, that prizes and diplomas are yearly offered by the Institute for proficiency in the knowledge of the Scriptures and the Prayer Book.

The next examination will be held (D. V.) in the month of May next, 1881, and the subjects of examination will be:—

Scripture—Genesis xxxvii. to Exodus xiii.

Prayer Book—The Litany, together with Articles 15, 16, 17, and 18.

Lesson—To be selected from Genesis xxxvii. to Exodus xiii.

The examinations will be conducted by means of papers of questions, previously sent out to the Local Secretary, who transmits the answers to the Secretary of the Institute.

Besides the money prizes, there were awarded in 1878, certificates of the first class, 185; of the second class, 365.

Further particulars on application to

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