

so many noble lives are being used in the Master's service.

It will be admitted on all sides that in order to have a successful parish we must have a true and faithful pastor, one who is ever ready to lead in good works, and second the efforts of societies and individuals whose object is the building up of His Kingdom. It will also be admitted that in this deanery we are most highly favoured in this respect, having godly men whose object is to bring to a knowledge of the truth, and to build up in our most Holy Faith, those entrusted to their care. But how is it with us—how do we as laymen perform our part? Do we mark, learn and inwardly digest the truths expounded to us from Sunday to Sunday, and seek to profit by the instruction given. Doubtless many of us do avail ourselves of our opportunities and seek to lay up in store against that great day when time shall be no more. We all, however, know that there are those who care for none of these things, and when the call for sympathy and financial help comes, like the priest and Levite, pass by on the other side; who, if they attend Divine Service, are often distressed at the length of the sermon, the dryness of the service, the wretchedness of the singing and the unprofitableness of the service generally. How many of us have attended Divine Service and listened to a sermon that any attentive listener must have known cost the preacher much study and thought, yet almost the first words that greeted our ears on entering the street were, "My, what a long, dry, dole of a sermon that was." He went not up to the house of prayer to seek the Lord, he wanted his ears tickled with smart sayings. In opposition to this it will be said, this is a democratic age, and clergymen, like other people, must expect criticism. Let me say in reply to such statements that I readily agree with the authors of them, but such remarks as I have referred to are not criticism, they are simply condemnation; there is no criticism about them. I would possibly go farther than many of my brother Churchmen in the matter of carefully examining the thoughts expressed in the pulpit. A sermon that will not bear examination had better never have been delivered. Yes, let us have the sermon criticised, analysed and utilized to the fullest extent. It is probably one of the faults of our time that we do not sufficiently watch and profit by what we hear from the pulpit. We are careful to observe any deviation from the ordinary routine of service, but as for the sermon, if it is what is called an ordinary Gospel sermon having no reference to any local matters, the chances, are it will be passed without a remark, or that it was a nice sermon, etc. This is probably just such a sermon as we might carefully discuss to our souls' health. Is it done? No; and it will be well if it is not remarked upon as a "long, dry dose." We read in the sixth chapter of Acts that certain Grecian Jews complained because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations, and the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them and said, "It is not fit that we should forsake the Word of God and serve tables. Look ye out, therefore, brethren, from among you seven men full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business," "and the saying pleased the whole multitude." This I believe is said to be the formation of the Diaconate in the Church nearly 1,900 years ago. We shall not enquire whether the duties pertaining to the office of deacon are the same in our Church to-day as those required of the seven; suffice it to say that the work was such as the Apostles should not be called upon to perform, for they desired to devote themselves "steadfastly in prayer and in the ministry of the Word," but the chosen ones to "serve tables," were to perform duties outside of the sacred calling. Have we not here a lesson for the disciples of our time—in aiding pastors, in providing for those in want of raiment and food, and assisting in parish work generally?

Without entering into details, I may say probably the most efficient work we can perform in our several parishes is that of extending sympathy and hearty co-operation with the clergyman in his good work. How often he feels the need of this none can tell; without it his work must be greatly hindered. Doubtless many of us intend better than we perform, because we are engrossed in the cares and responsibilities of our several callings, and are unmindful of those having claims on our Christian sympathy. We all know how pleasing it is to be assured by those we esteem, when we have been engaged in any good cause, that it meets with their approval, that our efforts have been well directed and are likely to be productive of good results. A hearty appreciation, kindly expressed, will find a responsive chord on the part of the clergyman. None are so humble in life that they cannot do as much, and many would, as the phrase means, "if they only thought of it." Let me conclude with an illustration: An extensive fire had broken out in a city; the flames had possession of the lower part of a high building, when a female was seen at a window in the fifth storey; a ladder was immediately raised to it by the firemen, but the woman had disappeared; a brave fireman ran up the

ladder and into the building, found the woman and drew her to the window in a dazed state, only to find the blinding smoke more dense. With his charge he attempted the descent, but was seen to falter in his effort. The spectators were horror stricken lest both should fall to the ground. A wise head shouted, "Let us give them a rousing cheer." It accomplished its purpose. On arriving at the foot of the ladder his comrades gave the brave fireman a hearty greeting. He replied, "Boys, the cheer did it."

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

ONTARIO.

JOHN TRAVERS LEWIS, D.D., LL.D., BISHOP, KINGSTON.

WOLFE ISLAND.—The funeral services of the late Henry Harper, of Garden Island, were conducted by the Rev. Rural Dean Carey, M.A., of Kingston, in Trinity Church here, on Sunday, 20th Jan. The regular Sunday services were conducted by J. P. Oram, Esq., lay reader, while the Rev. W. T. Lipton, M.A., the incumbent of this mission, officiated in that of Sharbot Lake. The interior of Christ Church, at the east end of the island, presents an improved appearance since the walls and ceiling have been painted.

TORONTO.

ARTHUR SWEATMAN, D.D., BISHOP, TORONTO.

St. Martin's in the Field.—The second monthly parlor concert in connection with this church, to raise funds for helping to pay off the debt on the church, was held at the residence of Mr. A. A. Mackay, on the evening of the 17th inst. and was a decided success. There were a number of students from Trinity University, who gave some very fine songs, choruses and readings. Miss McLean, of Port Arthur, gave some excellent songs, and last, but not least, which added very much to the success of the entertainment, were two recitations by Mr. Harry Young, of Parkdale. The concert was closed by singing "God save the Queen." Lunch was then served.

BAILLIEBORO.—Christ Church.—On Christmas Day a set of new communion vessels consisting of flagon, paten and cups were used for the first time, having been subscribed for by the congregation as a thank offering to Almighty God for the restoration to health of their beloved rector, the Ven. Archdeacon Allen. The following address from the congregation was read to the rector in the vestry before the commencement of the service:

To the Rev. T. W. Allen, rector of Cavan, and Archdeacon of Peterboro:

DEAR ARCHDEACON.—We, the undersigned members of Christ Church, Baillieboro, desire to congratulate you on your recovery from your late sickness, and also to express our thankfulness to Almighty God for having restored you to health. We beg to subscribe the amounts set opposite our names towards purchasing a set of communion vessels for use in Christ Church as a thank offering, coupled with the earnest prayer that you may long be spared to labour in His vineyard, and at the last great day may you and we and all near and dear to us meet in the Church Triumphant, one Fold under one Shepherd.

Xmas, 1894.

The Archdeacon, in feeling terms, thanked the congregation for mentioning his name in connection with their Christmas offering. This beautiful gift to the church added one more to the many kindnesses he had received, showing, what he already knew, how dear he was to their hearts. The church was tastefully decorated, and the service (which commenced with singing of carols by the choir and Sunday school) was bright and hearty. On the Feast of the Epiphany the anniversary service was held, the sermon being preached by the Rev. Rural Dean Creighton; there was a large congregation; the offering, which was for the building fund, amounted to \$128. On the following Tuesday there was a Christmas tree and entertainment for the Sunday school in the basement; there was a good attendance and \$24 added to the fund.

AUROEA.—On Sunday morning last Trinity Church was found to be on fire. It appears that the fire originated from the furnace, which had been lighted for an early celebration at 8 a.m. On going to the furnace room just before the ringing of the first bell for Sunday school, the sexton discovered the whole furnace room in flames. The fire alarm was sounded and in a short time the flames were under control. Had ten minutes more elapsed before being discovered, it is scarcely probable that the building could have been saved, so high was the wind. As it is,

the damage to the church will reach the neighbourhood of \$800 or \$1,000, fully covered by insurance. Too great praise cannot be given to the firemen, who worked like heroes. At one time it was thought that nothing could save this beautiful structure. The Disciples kindly offered their church to the rector of Trinity, where evening service was held.

PARKDALE.—St. Mark's Dedication Festival.—The fourteenth anniversary of the dedication of this church, 20th January, 1895, falling on Sunday, made the usual annual observance of it a more truly festival one; there was the usual early celebration at 8 a.m. At mattins the chancel was well filled by the clergy, Rev. J. A. Peitelbaum, Rev. J. Morton and the rector, Rev. C. L. Ingles, and the choir (vested). The services were well rendered throughout, the hymns appropriate, and organist and choir all that could be desired, especially at the celebration of Holy Communion, after mattins, which was full choral, as also was evensong, when there was, as usual, a large congregation. The Rev. J. A. Peitelbaum, of Saltcoats, Diocese of Qu'Appelle, preached at both services, at evensong giving an interesting review of the formation and history of that diocese, and showing what strong claims it had on the Church in Canada to give it, now in its young days, a liberal support. His sermon at the second celebration was a most excellent and helpful one on the duty of prayer, and was listened to with intense interest, as shown by the complete quietness that prevailed. On the following Thursday evening evensong was sung by the combined choirs of St. Matthias and St. Mark's, with St. Matthias' full orchestra; preacher, the Rev. Prof. Rigby, M.A., Trinity College. Our church looked very bright, being in its full festival array, the Christmas decorations not being yet removed; the effect was also greatly increased when the clergy, of whom there were seven, with over sixty members of the choirs, all robed in white, entered and took their places in the chancel and eight reserved centre front seats, the four lower ones of which were occupied by the supplementary soprano choir of St. Matthias'. The volume of sound from organ, orchestra and about 90 voices was truly grand, but not overpowering, being well-balanced, sung with taste, time and tune perfect. Mr. Kennedy, organist of St. Mark's, presided at the organ with his usual ability, the Rev. F. G. Plummer taking his place for the voluntaries performed by the orchestra and organ. They were very beautiful and appropriate, especially the closing one. The sermon, text Joshua iii. 5, "Sanctify yourselves," was one that could not—one would hope—fail to reach all our hearts, and make us resolve to do our utmost to show our thankfulness to Almighty God for all His mercies bestowed upon us, by at once providing the necessary means to enable the churchwardens to pay off the balance of the debt still on our church. This might be easily done if a united effort was at once made, by carrying out the plan adopted at the last Easter vestry meeting. The festival character of the services was continued on Sunday, the 27th ult., the rector preaching in the morning and the Rev. J. C. Roper in the evening, both most excellent and appropriate sermons. We may trust that much good will result from these services.

RURAL DEANERY OF NORTHUMBERLAND.—The next meeting of the Rural Deanery of Northumberland will be held at Colborne on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 18th and 19th, commencing with Evensong on Monday.

HURON.

MAURICE S. BALDWIN, D.D., BISHOP, LONDON.

(Continuation of Rural Deanery of Elgin meeting.)

The next paper called for and read was that of the Rev. William Hinde, on the subject, "Church Work from the Clerical Standpoint." The rev. gentleman, after making a few prefatory remarks, proceeded to say that, after 22 years' of experience and long reflection upon such poor results as are apparent from labours, endowments and grants of money expended upon the work of the Church in this country, he had come to the conclusion that something had gone wrong. It was his view that if the Prayer Book, the Catechism and the 39 Articles had been thoroughly taught, there would have been a different state of things. The Prayer Book is the constitution of the Church; and the doctrines, precepts and provisions therein contained are not to be divorced from the teaching of the Church. With daily morning and evening prayer, it should be taught in the home. This is the teaching of the Prayer Book itself. The highest blessings of matrimony are derived from the divine character of the union, which, among us Christians, is sanctified by the power of God through the ministrations of His Church. Therein does she recognize Him in every relation of domestic life. The mother participates joyfully in the service for the churching of women; the children are baptized,