

months by Rev. A. C. Kettle, and I have now appointed the Rev. C. Williams as Rector.

(2) *Religious Education.*—We are not troubled in this Diocese with the question of separate schools, at least not more than it concerns us in our interest in education generally, and especially that of the children in this Dominion of Canada. Still the question of Religious Education is with us, and must be one of vital interest to all religious people, and not only to Churchmen. In my opinion any system that ignores religion forfeits its claim to be in any real sense education at all. Now the practical question for us is how far the education in these Territories can be called Religious Education, and what is our duty as citizens and Churchmen under the circumstances. I think it is fair to say that the system of education here—a system excellent not only in theory, but in the spirit and zeal with which it is administered—is yet one that does ignore religion, it is virtually secular. I am quite aware that there is an answer to this, an answer that might read like a contradiction of my statement that religion is ignored. They would say that besides an instruction for the opening of the schools with a religious exercise, there is a special provision that any minister of religion may, with the permission of the trustees, visit the school during the last half hour, and give instruction in religion. This has been the reply made me when I have urged the question with those in authority. Can we accept this as the solution of the religious question in our schools? I say unhesitatingly, we cannot. It looks well on paper, and may satisfy the unthinking, but in its practical results it is in most places useless. I need not ask any who have tried to teach children what is the effect of putting any subject during the last half-hour, just when the children are tired and longing to go home. I need hardly point out how many there are of our scattered country schools which the clergymen cannot reach on a week-day—the only time he is there is for his Sunday visit for Service—but, besides this, that clause at the end “with the permission of the trustees” really in many if not most places makes the provision a dead letter. I have urged the clergy in the different districts to make application to the trustees, for I do feel strongly we have no right to ask for any change until we have given a fair trial to the present system. I have not received any reply from many of the clergy, but the replies I have received are not encouraging. In some cases it is very doubtful if permission can be had; in others a distinct and definite refusal; in one case with a rudeness that only ignorance can excuse. In only one parish in the whole Diocese, and in that of only one of its many schools, is the permission given and used. We may try further, that is, make application to every district where we can find a clergy-