

them, "Sing, O Heavens," by Clare, were well rendered.

Grace Church.—The choir of St. Simon's Church paid a visit to this church, Elm street, on Wednesday evening the 2nd inst., and gave a very enjoyable service of a festival character therein. There was a large congregation present. Evensong, which was fully choral throughout, was sung by the Rev. Ernest Wood, curate of St. Simon's. Tallis' festal responses were used and the "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis" sung were those of Stainer in A. At the close of evensong a set programme was rendered which consisted of two Christmas carols by the whole choir, three vocal solos, sung respectively by Master Willie Wilson and Messrs. Oscar Wenborne and Allan Fairweather, and two organ solos played by Mr. J. F. Harrison, organist of St. Simon's, which were given in addition to the opening and closing voluntaries. During the singing of the anthem, "Hail, Thon that art highly favoured," by Arthur Carwall, the offertory, which was in aid of the Grace Church choir fund, was collected.

SHANTY BAY.—This congregation has experienced a great loss in the very sudden death of Mrs. Geo. Raikes, on the morning of Dec. 26th. Mrs. Raikes was the daughter of the Rev. Edwin Day, who was at one time assistant at Holy Trinity Church, Toronto, now of London, England; and wife of Mr. Geo. Raikes, churchwarden and synod delegate of St. Thomas' Church, Shanty Bay. The deceased lady will be sadly missed. She was the friend of every one and took a leading part in all church work. For over six years Mrs. Raikes was the leader of the choir. The suddenness of her death has been a great shock to the congregation, and leaves a vacant place among them not easily filled.

PETERBORO.—*St. John's.*—A very large congregation attended the Christmas service. Rev. J. C. Davidson, M.A., preached a very appropriate sermon, and the choir, as usual, gave several admirable selections and during holy communion they rendered Simper's "Communion Service." The church was tastefully decorated with evergreens and holly.

NIAGARA.

The following is an extract from "the Mount Forest representative": "The New Year was welcomed in St. Paul's Church with prayer and praise to Ancient of Days, the congregation all, after the service, wishing each other God's blessing, and 'A Happy New Year.' A small deputation then presented the rector with a New Year's gift. It was a beautiful edition of "The Standard Dictionary of the English Language" handsomely bound in morocco. It is a new work, and in the way of dictionaries is the fullest and most extensive, the very best learning of the New and Old Worlds having been engaged in its production. The parish, on Christmas Day, having made a generous offering of over \$40 for the rector, and so welcome and tangible a token of appreciation being absolutely unexpected, Mr. Bevan was too much overcome to make any acknowledgment; after a few incoherent expressions he desisted, but he wishes to say that he hopes on Sunday morning, 6th, to give expression to the intense gratification he has experienced from the unlooked for and undeserved kindness on the part of the members of St. Paul's Church.

HURON.

SEAFORTH.—Two services were held in St. Thomas' Church on Christmas Day, one at 8.30 and the other at 10.30 a.m. Seventy-two persons partook of the Lord's Supper at both celebrations, which was considered an unusually large number, so many going away for their holidays. The services were well rendered by the choir, the chanting of the psalms being particularly so. The sermon, by the rector, was one of the best we have heard him give here, and his reasons why we should keep Christmas were new to many of us, and cannot fail but to have a good effect on the congregation in the future. The offertory (I have not heard the amount) seemed to be a good one, as it should be, as no man is more deserving of the esteem of his people, and was presented to the rector. Our church is now lighted by electricity and we hope by spring to have our new organ.

ST. MARY'S.—In the course of his sermon, on Sunday, 30th Dec., from the words: "A fool's eyes are in the ends of the earth," the Rev. W. J. Taylor dwelt at some length upon the duty of parents in training their children, of their reading, recreations, etc. He spoke of the very great danger arising from permitting the young to prowl the streets at night, referring to the Curfew Bell "cover fire," and saying that there was "fire" still to be dreaded in these days by temptation, swearing and the formation of loose habits from this practice. He exhorted all parents and guardians of children to see that the young are

not on the streets after the ringing of the town bell, and exhorted them to train them-up for God and for duty. A Divine service was held in St. James' Church on Christmas morning, attended by a good-sized congregation. The singing by a full choir was good. In his sermon, from the words, "Thanks be unto God for His unspeakable gift," the Rev. Mr. Taylor warmly thanked his congregation for their many tokens of kindness received from them this Christmas, and for the life-size bust portrait of himself that they had, that morning, given to his family. He also thanked the King's Daughters for the beautiful holy table that they had just presented to the church. The edifice is beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. The offertory of the day was a liberal one.

LONDON.—*St. John the Evangelist.*—The Christmas Day services this year were more largely attended than usual. The attendance at the communion, both at early morning and midday, was large. The rendering of the appropriate hymns, anthems, etc., was unusually good, reflecting great credit upon the choir, under the able management of Mr. Forsythe, the organist. The pastor, the Rev. W. T. Hill, preached a most touching and appropriate sermon. This rev. gentleman has the happy faculty of putting more into a fifteen minute sermon than many preachers do in thirty or forty. The Christmas offering was liberal. It would be difficult to give a detailed account of the decorations, for they surpassed those of any previous occasion. They were most beautiful and artistic, and only needed to be seen to be fully appreciated; for all of which the congregation are indebted to Arthur Smith, Esq., of the G. T. R., as the designer, and T. Allerdice, Esq., as his able assistant. These two gentlemen, with a band of willing helpers to carry out the details of the work, have truly turned out a most beautifully decorated church. The chancel, as usual, has received the most careful decorations. A rood screen with its six arches and two gates, neatly wreathed with evergreen, interspersed with red berries, with, midway up, on red ground and gold letters, "Unto us a Child is Born—Unto us a Son is given." The Dean Boomer memorial window, wreathed in evergreen, with festoon at the base, with a beautiful Star of Bethlehem in gold in the centre—on each side of window, two scrolls in red and gold, "God of God," "Light of Light." A reredos in green lattice work with text above it, in white and gold, divided on each side, "Emmanuel, God with us," "Hosanna in the Highest." This, with the two brass vases, full of white flowers on the altar, made the chancel most attractive and beautiful. The pulpit was also most artistically decorated in holly wreathing around its top, base and small panneling with text, in small lettering in red on white, of "God is Love," and in centre of lectern a cross of delicate fern leaves on white ground, a beautiful piece of workmanship. Between each of the supports of the roof were six large texts in coloured letters, in evergreen frames on each side, with wreaths round all the side windows. The special memorial one to the late Dr. Jones was pleasingly decorated with white flowers by members of the family, and the font at the west end, as a Maingault memorial, was also beautifully decorated by the family, all combining to produce a most cheerful effect on this joyful occasion of Christmastide.

ST. THOMAS EAST.—*St. John the Evangelist.*—This little church, which has lately been through a course of cleansing and repairs, began about sixteen years ago as a mission Sunday school of Trinity Church. Through the work done here among the children, their parents and friends became more deeply interested in the mission, which was at length erected into a parish of which the Rev. S. L. Smith, now of Morpeth, became the first rector, in whose time the present neat frame church was built, followed successively by the Rev. J. W. Beaumont, D.D., M.D., the Rev. M. G. Freeman, and the Rev. Wm. Hinde, the present rector, under whose arduous labours the mission has continued to flourish. The present rector entered upon the work of his new charge on Easter day last, and the congregation has gradually increased so that provision for seating fifty more people has been required and made. It is composed in large part of railway people. The churchwardens are Messrs. Magnus Dixon and Geo. Oliver, the lay delegate is J. T. Pullen, Esq. The Sunday school, of which Mr. Geo. Oliver is superintendent in the absence of the rector, who has undertaken to provide services in the afternoon at Port Stanley during the interregnum there, has a roll of about 150 scholars and 16 teachers. In connection with the church are organized the following societies: the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, the Ladies' Aid, St. John's Parochial Association, formed to press forward specific work in any direction required, and the Young People's Guild, a society to promote religious knowledge and practical piety among its members under the guidance of the rector. The parishioners have provided an excellent rectory, a handsome

brick building, conveniently situated near the church, the cost of which the Ladies' Aid have undertaken to pay by their united endeavours. In view of the Christmas festival, the walls of the church were suitably decorated with appropriate texts and lettering of a permanent character, in addition to the usual evergreen and floral decorations. The service on Christmas Day was well attended, a goodly number of communicants remaining, thus while celebrating His Birth, "to show forth the Lord's death until He come again." The Sunday school children were afforded an interesting entertainment and Christmas tree at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, at which they acquitted themselves very well as entertainers, careful preparation having evidently been made, on the 27th Dec., the day being that of St. John the Evangelist, the anniversary of their parish church. The programme consisted of readings, recitations, music, vocal and instrumental, with certain light entertaining performances which were well executed, and in which the scholars alone took part. The affair was ably presided over by the rector, whose vein of humour threw much life into the proceedings, which all thoroughly enjoyed. The evening was brought to a close by the distribution of gifts of fruit and sweets, and prizes in the form of beautiful books as rewards of merit to the children. The Christmas tree was well laden, a rather novel feature of the evening, and one which, if more extensively adopted, would, no doubt, be productive of good results, was the distribution of graded money prizes to a number of scholars according to the merit, for the most accurate written reports of a sermon delivered to the children on the last day of the Church's year, on the text, "Suffer the little ones to come unto Me, &c." The young people took a good deal of pains with their work; and one made a verbatim stenographic report. Were this course pursued more generally, sermons might be more effectually listened to.

Presentation to Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Hinde.—The close of the old year witnessed in this parish a very pleasing event, viz., a surprise and presentation to the Rev. Mr. and Mrs. Hinde. Shortly after eight o'clock a large number of the parishioners, including the Ladies' Aid and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, took possession of the parsonage with the determination of having a good time, being provided with an abundant supply of oysters, cakes, etc. After the seasonable greetings were over, order was called, and Mrs. Cockram, on behalf of the Ladies' Aid, read a nicely worked address and presented Mrs. Hinde with an elegant drawing room reclining chair, as a token of esteem. The Rev. Wm. Hinde replied in his usual felicitous manner, thanking the ladies for their beautiful and useful gift. He had come among them at their express and unanimous call, and he had yet to feel sorry that he had done so. He felt proud of his congregation and their neat little church of St. John's, and sincerely hoped that in the coming year they would all act and walk in harmony, and thus place St. John's in such a position as would reflect credit upon themselves and add to the glory of God. He was glad to be their spiritual leader. He not only thanked them for this expression of their good will, but also for the general kindness to him and his wife since their advent to the parish. Mr. Dixon then took the floor and another surprise was in store for the Rev. Mr. Hinde. In a few well chosen words Mr. Dixon presented to the reverend gentleman a beautiful and chaste emblem of the order of St. Andrew, set in gold. Mr. Hinde feelingly replied. Refreshments were then served and the remaining hours were spent in social conversation, games, recitations, music and songs. As midnight drew near the Rev. Mr. Hinde requested that the solemn closing moments of 1894 be devoted to a religious service. Appropriate selections of scripture were read, words of encouragement given, and as the old year departed all were on their knees in prayer. The new year was welcomed by singing the Doxology and pronouncing of the Benediction, after which the usual greeting of "A Happy New Year" was in order. In the wee sma' hours of 1895 all dispersed to their homes feeling that it had been good to be there.

CLINTON.—The church was tastefully decorated for our services on Christmas Day. A good congregation was present and the service was bright and hearty. On the offertory was laid a cheque for \$70 and the following kindly worded address signed by over fifty heads of families and members of the congregation:

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—Pray accept the accompanying Christmas offering as an expression of confidence and esteem, coupled with sympathy and best wishes, and in appreciation of your faithful labours and of the good results you have been enabled to effect, in the face of most unmerited opposition and detraction, especially in that nursery of the church, the Sunday school, which, by your excellent system of management, you and Mrs. Fairlie have so improved that it is now worthy to serve as a model for adoption throughout the diocese. "May the Lord