

TORONTO.

PENETANGUISHENE.—All Saints' and St. James' Churches are both very prettily decorated this year. All Saints' being a marvel of neatness and beauty.

The members of both churches worked with a zeal and a determination which showed more plainly than words their love and their devotion to their church.

The services on Xmas day were well attended, and were very hearty and very attractive in their character. Communicants, 26; collection, 30; which together, with a very liberal supply of the necessaries, and even luxuries of life, was an example of generous thoughtfulness for their pastor, which might well be imitated by many a wealthier mission.

RUNNYMEDE.—On Sunday evening last our church friends in this locality filled the little building to the utmost, and were highly pleased with the earnest and instructive lecture of Vice-Chancellor Blake, on the first Christmas Day and the early life of Christ. The Sunday School children appeared delighted with his happy manner in instructing them. He expressed his pleasure in meeting them, and promised soon to return. The children sang with much feeling, "What a friend we have in Jesus."

On Monday evening the Sunday School children, accompanied by their parents and friends, again crowded the building with Christmas tree presents, refreshments, recitations, &c., &c. A pleasant and enjoyable evening was spent by all. During the evening Mrs. B. W. Murray was made the recipient of an illuminated address (signed by forty Sunday School children) and also of a handsome Church service. This estimable lady was much affected by this token of affection. A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Miss Kennedy for the kind interest manifested by her in the Sunday School. It was announced at the close of the entertainment that the new Mission building to be erected on the handsome plot of land so generously donated for Church purposes by Mr. Fiskien and Mr. Wadsworth, will be opened for Sunday School work in a few weeks, relying on the Christian zeal of the neighboring clergy, with the approval of His Lordship the Bishop supplying an afternoon service.

COLBORNE.—Trinity Church was very tastefully decorated for the occasion by the following ladies: Mrs. W. Cummin and Miss Strong, the Misses Johnsons, Misses Willoughby, and Miss Goslie, under the very able direction of J. Ketchum, Esq., kindly assisted by Messrs. N. Snetzenger, and G. Goslie.

The usual Xmas texts and emblems were arranged artistically along the walls of the Church and chancel, the latter, together with the altar, presented a neat and chaste appearance.

At 8 o'clock on Xmas Eve a large congregation assembled to hear the service of song, "The Child Jesus," which was effectively rendered by the choir and the clergyman. At the conclusion of this very interesting service the prizes form a Xmas tree, kindly provided for the Sunday School children through the praiseworthy exertions of the Misses Boyer and the teachers, were then distributed to the little ones, thus bringing to a close a very pleasant and well-spent Xmas Eve. On the following day, after the Xmas morning service, the collection for the benefit of the clergyman amounted to a very handsome sum, for which he begs the congregation to accept his sincere thanks. Thus the true spirit of Xmas tide seems to have been fully entered into by the good people of Colborne.

ATHERLEY.—St. John's Church, Christmas Day, was profusely decorated with festoons of evergreen, interspersed with St. George and Maltese crosses on shields and scarlet, over what should be the east window, and on banners of scarlet and purple; in letters of white were selections from Isaiah, 9 chap., 6 verse, the usual mottoes of Alpha and Omega, and I. H. S., and in fact the whole of the decorations do great credit to the few young ladies who worked so energetically. The usual Xmas hymns and the Canticles, were sung with the whole soul of the largest congregation that ever worshipped in the Church. The sermon was delivered by the Incumbent from the words in Ezekiel xxxiii, 32, "A very lovely song."

At the commencement of the Communion Service a cutter came to the Church door, from which an old man, greatly afflicted with paralysis, was lifted and carried into the Church and the Altar rails, where he was supported by other communicants, while he, with tears of thankfulness and joy received the emblems of his Saviour's sufferings and death, in full expectation of enjoying his next Xmas, where we drink of the new wine in the kingdom of Him whose birth we celebrate, and before whom the palsied man was let down from the roof to receive a blessing. St. Mark, chap., 4 verse.

The singing in Gloria in Excelsis, was for the first time introduced. The whole of the Xmas services have been very encouraging to the Incumbent.

ST. MATTHIAS.—*Daily Communion, Acknowledgments.*—Rev. R. Harrison wishes to acknowledge the receipt of an anonymous donation of \$10, "for the daily Eucharist Fund," and to say that it will be used, so far as it goes, to defray the expenses connected with the Thursday morning celebrations, unless the donors should express any other wish on the subject. Several persons have kindly interested themselves in maintaining this service, and it is hoped that others will contribute, so as to make it possible to have the Communion celebrated everyday all the year round in St. Matthias' Church.

GEORGINA.—On New Year's Day the congregations of St. George's and St. James' Churches, Georgina, presented to the Rev. Canon Ritchie a large and handsome silver Epergne, as a mark of their esteem and regard on his retiring from the ministerial charge of the parish.

ST. CATHARINES.—*St. Barnabas Church.*—This Church is generally noted for the heartiness of its services, and the beauty of its decorations at Christmas, Easter, and Harvest Festivals, but the Christmas decorations this year are so unique and effective that they deserve special mention, and some of the readers of your excellent paper may be interested in hearing about them. The first thing that catches the eye on entering the Church is the diaper pattern of green work on the windows, which has a very pleasing effect; the handsome stone font at the western door also looks well in its Christmas dress. The rude screen is clothed with evergreen. Along the top runs a brilliant text in straw on a rich chocolate coloured ground, "God with us, Prince of Peace." Beneath are panels of the same colour, with small designs in crayon. Under the cross in the center hangs a red shield with a bright device in straw. The six banners disposed about the chancel are the work of Mr. Hodge, of Hamilton, formerly member of the St. Barnabas choir, and are exceedingly tasteful and pretty. The altar, always the most attractive object in the Church, is vested in white, the reredos supports a fine floral cross and vases of choice flowers; the recesses is of royal blue; over the top of it runs the text, "Thou shalt call His name." Underneath this is a Crown and two large angels in white flowing garments, holding between them a scroll bearing the sacred name "Jesus." The angels are admirably executed, and have a very striking effect. At the sides are panels of blue, with designs in straw tissue (which by the way is one of the most effective materials for decoration) delicate wreaths, large devices in green, and the sacred monograms in bright colors, adorn the walls. No one can enter the Church without realizing that many fair and loving hands must have worked hard to prepare this House of God so beautifully for the joyous festival. Most of the drawings and designs are due to the skill and excellent taste of Mrs. A. W. Macnab, the wife of the Incumbent, who certainly deserves much praise for her indefatigable and successful efforts. We may also add that the hearty choral services on Christmas Day, and the following Sunday were very well attended, the Church being crowded with devout worshippers.

The Bishop of Toronto purposes holding an Ordination on Sunday, 16th January next.

Intending candidates will send their names without delay to the Examining Chaplain, Rev. Canon Stennett, Rectory, Cobourg.

They will be required to present themselves for examination at the Synod Office, on Wednesday, 12th January, at 10 o'clock a.m., and to be provided with their *si quis* and Letters Testimonial. The candidates for Deacon's Orders will be required to bring a Certificate of Baptism.

CHURCH WOMEN'S MISSION AID.—The ladies of the head sewing society intend to resume their meetings in Holy Trinity school room, on Friday, Jan. 7th, at 2 p.m. They cordially invite all Churchwomen interested in mission work to be present on that occasion, as they intend to read a report of the work done by them during the past year; also to discuss ways and means for the year to come.

All clergymen requiring assistance in their parishes during the year 1881 will greatly oblige the treasurer of the sewing society by sending in their applications as early as possible.

Surplices are made to order by the C. W. M. A., from \$4 to \$10; stoles, 2½ yards long, from \$2 to \$5; altar linen from \$3.50; altar cloths from \$10.

Glass Communion services can be had at very moderate prices; linen for sick Communion \$4 a set.

Donations intended for the assistance of any special mission, or for the general works of the society, will be gladly received.

Address,

MRS. O'REILLY,
31 Bleeker-st., Toronto.

WEST MONO.—G. M. Morley, L. R., desires to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of a package containing a large number of Christmas cards for the Sunday School children of the Mission from Thomas White, Esq., M. P. for Cardwell.

Two tea-meetings were held in this Mission last week, and proved not only an intellectual treat, but a financial success. St. George's realized \$45.55, that of the Herald Angel \$76.85.

HURON.

From Our Own Correspondent

TARCONELL.—The congregations responded to the "pastoral" issue by the Bishop, the offertory collections amounting to \$40 at St. Peter's, and \$3 at St. Stephen's, besides numerous substantial gifts to our beloved pastor and his estimable wife, whose untiring labours met with the warm appreciation they merit. St. Peter's Church was tastefully decorated for the Christmas service, and a handsome chandelier—a gift to the Church by some kind friend—added greatly to its beauty.

On the evening of the 29th the residence of Stephen Backus, Esq., was thrown open to the children of the school and their friends, who, with his usual kindness and hospitality, placed it at the disposal of the Managing Committee, and a happier gathering has seldom met. A Xmas Tree, which was well laden with suitable gifts, and the smiling faces and joyous voices, expressed the satisfaction felt. The entertainment consisted of vocal and instrumental music, dialogues, recitations, and speeches. It was a great success, and exceeded in interest and enjoyment any former one.

Correspondence.

All letters will appear with the names of the writers in full, and we do not hold ourselves responsible for their opinions.

CHURCH OF ENGLAND SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE.

EXAMINATION OF TEACHERS, 1881.

SIR.—Please permit me to state in your column that "Forms of Application" will be supplied by me with directions, &c., to those who may desire them. The time and place of the Examination for this Diocese (Niagara) will be announced (D.V.) hereafter.

WILLIAM BLIT, M.A.,

Local Secretary C. E. S. S. Inst., Diocese of Niagara.

INNOVATIONS AT THE PROVINCIAL SYNOD.

SIR.—I am glad to see in your contemporary of Dec. 23, a letter from an old Presbyter, calling attention to an alleged Romish practice of "reserving" the consecrated bread and wine, and quoting the Rubric and the Article referring thereto. The Rubric states, "And if any of the Bread and Wine remain unconsecrated, the Curate shall have it to his own use; but if any remain of that which was consecrated, it shall not be carried out of the Church, but the Priest and such other of the communicants as he shall then call unto him, shall, immediately after the blessing, reverently eat and drink the same." The 28th Article states, "The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not by Christ's ordinance reserved, carried about, lifted up, or worshipped."

A similar practice to that alluded to by your contemporary has, for years, prevailed in the Church of St. James, Toronto, and that too in spite of attention having been called to the subject at the Toronto Synod. It is, however, to be hoped that the attention now called to the subject by "the party" themselves will be more successful in removing this scandal in St. James' (called a cathedral) Church, which has given great pain to many who have communicated there.

Yours,

WM JOHNSON.

Toronto, Dec. 30, 1880.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARD.

DEAR SIR.—In your issue of Dec. 23, Mr. Hardin commences his letter by enunciating a very crude idea of the value of a constitution. He thinks it a matter of slight moment that the Constitution should be violated by introducing a change in Legislation without due notice, or obtaining the required majority. He has yet to learn a great deal about the primary principles of Government, for the veriest tyro who ventures to publicly discuss constitutional matters should have sufficient acumen to recognize the grave consequences resulting from any unconstitutional proceeding, and the danger threatening the rights of property as well as the legitimate exercise of liberty. If the constitution can be broken with impunity in one point, we have no safeguard against a similar proceeding in other matters, which would prove ruinous to everything of moral worth, and even invade the sacred precincts of domestic life, by robbing