

News from the Home Field.

Gathered specially for this paper by Our Own Correspondents.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX.—St. George's.—A very large class—the fruits of the recent Mission services—is being prepared by the Rector for the Apostolic Rite of Confirmation. Since the Mission a marked improvement has shown itself in the attendance upon the services of the sanctuary; also in the number of communicants. A large number of additional district visitors and Sunday School teachers are also working faithfully in the Parish.

ST. MATTHIAS' MISSION CHAPEL, under the care of the Rector of St. George's, has a large and growing Sunday School, and a congregation which nearly fills the building gathers for service every Sunday evening. The Mission here, conducted by the Rev. W. H. L. Cogswell, has been productive of much good. A thriving Guild meets on Thursday evenings.

St. Luke's.—The Mission held in this church, and about which so much has been said, did a great deal of good. Recently several adults were baptized, and the number of communicants, if one may judge from the increased attendance at the various celebrations, has been fully doubled. Large classes are being prepared for Confirmation. Efforts will soon be made to establish a new Mission, and to revive another in the western outskirts of the Parish. The Sunday Schools of the Parish have received many accessions, and a large addition has been made to the staff of teachers.

WINDSOR.—The Rev. J. S. S. Mountain, D. C. L., son of the late Bishop Mountain, has, in addition to his generous gifts to Lennoxville, endowed two scholarships at King's College, Windsor, under the same conditions which govern the first named, and to which reference has already been made in our columns. The capital of the fund will be not less than \$3,000. Are there no wealthy Nova Scotians or New Brunswickers who will follow so good an example? Surely if outsiders are moved to such deeds, our own people should not be behind hand in caring for this important Institution.

A correspondent writes: Our new Parish Church is nearing completion, and if all goes well we hope to occupy it early in January. The contractor is doing his work faithfully and well, and when finished we shall have one of the prettiest churches in the Province. The ladies of the congregation, who have already done so much, are hard at work raising funds for the carpeting and furnishing of the interior. The Wardens recently received the handsome sum of \$10 from the Rev. Dr. Courtney, of St. Paul's Church, Boston, towards the building fund. Will not some of our friends in the Province follow his example and aid us? We still require between two and three thousand dollars.

BEAVER HARBOR.—The Rev. R. Smith has, within a few weeks, been called to part with two darling children whom God has taken Home. We extend our warmest sympathy to our brother and his wife in their great bereavement.

NEWPORT.—The ladies of Woodville surprised Mrs. How by the gift of a handsome "comfortable" when she started the sewing society. Attached to the affectionate address accompanying the very useful article were the following names of married ladies: Mrs. T. Mumford, Woodruffe, Davison, Metzler, Bowes, Shaw, Mumford, (Martin and Luther), and Mrs. Benj. Mumford; and the following young ladies: S. Mumford, P. Mumford, E. Parker, E. J. Parker, J. M. Parker, M. E. Parker, Maggie Metzler, Ella Constantine. The presentation took place after an excellent tea, provided by all, at Mrs. L.

Mumford's. The St. Anne's Sewing Society was started, and \$6 delivered to Mrs. How for the purchase of goods. During the evening Mr. How was also kindly remembered by the gift of several bushels of oats. The Cottage Lectures have been again begun.

AMHERST.—The first entertainment given this season by the Lay Association of this parish has just taken place with very satisfactory results.

Amherst Deanery.—The Chapter of this Rural Deanery met on Dec., 4th, at Stewiacke. The Rural Dean's absence was much regretted, a resolution to this effect and expressing carried hopes that his trip to England would enable him to return to preside with renewed strength was unanimously passed. Rev. Dr. Bowman said morning prayer at 11. The lessons being read by the Rev. V. E. Harris and Rev. J. A. Kaulbach, Secretary. The Blessed Sacrament was celebrated by the Rev. D. C. Moore, the Rev. I. Brock reading the Epistle and administering the Chalice. Mr. Brock also preached. The sermon showed marked scholarship, being a condensed commentary on the Book of Ecclesiastes, from the words: "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter; fear God and keep His commandments; for this is the whole duty of man." The business meeting was held at the Rectory, and was of the usual propitable and agreeable character. At this the Rector was able to be present, having returned from a funeral which unfortunately kept him from Divine Service. Evening Prayer was said at 6.30 by Mr. Kaulbach. Mr. Harris and Mr. Moore reading the lessons. Mr. Brock gave an excellent address to the (very good) congregation on the Church year, as impelling the teaching of the whole Gospel, and not leaving it possible for any prominent portion of the system of Christ to be overlooked. Dr. Bowman with his usual ability taught the duty of the support of the clergyman, recommending the now well tried "Envelope System." The hospitalities at the rectory, and at Mr. Holesworth's, were most heartily rendered, and those of the clergy who were compelled to be absent missed a meeting in every way most pleasant. The offertories were for the Diocese of Algoma.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

SACKVILLE.—The Deanery of Shediac met at Sackville on Wednesday morning. There were present the Rev. J. Roy Campbell, Dean; Revs. W. B. Armstrong, A. Hoadley, D. Bliss, and the Rector. Services were held at 11 o'clock Wednesday morning, with celebration of Holy Communion. In the evening, a public meeting was held in the pretty school house, which was well filled. Addresses were delivered by Mr. Campbell, whose subject was "The Comprehensiveness of the Church"; by Mr. Armstrong on "The Relative Duties of Clergy and Laity," and Mr. Hoadley on "The Care and Training of the Young." The business meetings passed off as usual, and were profitably spent.

PORTLAND.—St. Paul's.—The sewing circle in connection with the ladies' work of this Church, held a highly successful Parlor Table, on Wednesday last, at the Rector's house, the President, Mrs. DeVeber, presiding. \$225.80 was realized, clear of all expenses. We heartily congratulate all concerned on the success which has attended their efforts.

RICHIBUCTO.—The Rev. F. H. Almon, Rector of this Parish, has been enlightening his people on the subject of Confession and Absolution. Mr. Almon held that these doctrines might be drawn from the language of the Prayer Book, but that he believed what was meant by the words "I absolve thee" was, "I declare thee forgiven." That the words were uttered not in a judicial sense, but were simply declaratory. All will be disposed to endorse Mr. Almon's concluding

words: "Beware of the dangerous practice of never confessing your sins to God, for this is far more dangerous than confessing to the priest."

NEW DENMARK.—It is quite touching to see the simple earnest manner in which the Priest ministering to the interesting colony of Danes at this place, performs his pastoral duties, and seeks to train his flock in the ways of the Church. Difficulties of many kinds have left him undaunted and more than ever determined to remain loyal and true to the Church of his adoption and to his sometimes very trying work. His endeavours to stir up his people to serve their God, have been frustrated to some extent by the dishonest efforts of those who would, if possible, lead them astray, notwithstanding, the work has progressed and the good man has the comfort of knowing that God is blessing his labours, and he may well take courage and hope for greater things in the not far distant future.

ST. JOHN.—Anticipating Mr. Davenport's letter and some remarks which we contemplate making next week, we desire, in all fairness, to say that in no sense did we wish to convey the idea that the sermon sent us for publication purported to be anything more than it really was, viz., a sermon preached in Philadelphia and re-preached in substance extemporaneously in St. Luke's Church. Our point was that it was not a verbatim report of the sermon actually preached in St. Luke's.

PORTLAND.—Rev. L. G. Stevens, Rector of St. Luke's Church, lectured before the W. C. T. U. in Union Hall last week. A large audience was in attendance. The subject was "A night with Longfellow," and was ably handled by the lecturer. The audience showed their approval by frequent applause.

ST. STEPHENS.—The Rev. J. Rushton, until recently Rector of Christ Church, has been elected Incumbent of Pullman, Illinois. Mr. Rushton is a good preacher and an active and earnest parish priest, and his many friends here will be rejoiced to learn of his new appointment.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

ST. JOHNS.—The annual missionary meeting of St. James' Church, St. Johns, was held in the church on Tuesday evening, the 11th inst. The Rector in the chair. Revs. Canon Carmichael, Belcher and Lewis were the speakers. The addresses were all to the point and stirring, and were listened to with great attention. Canon Carmichael's address was most practical and effective. He advocated the envelope system as the best means of raising what was necessary for the support of all Church objects, and showed conclusively how small had been the offerings of Church people in the past, and how important it was that new and better means should be used to largely increase the people's contributions. After the addresses, a collection was taken up and the meeting was closed with singing and the benediction. The sale of work of the Ladies' Association of St. James' Church, held in the Firemen's Hall on the previous Thursday afternoon and evening was a great success. \$300 was taken, which will leave about \$235 clear profit. This certainly reflects credit upon the ladies who organized and planned the sale and who carried it out in so satisfactory a manner.

FRELIGHSBURG.—The Rev. Canon Davidson is with his people working faithfully in the Master's cause. Great preparations are being made for Christmas services and decorations, and surprises are in store for those who keep the glorious festival. Recently the Rev. Jno. Smith, of Sutton, preached an excellent sermon in the Advent course upon the fulfilment of prophecy; and on Sunday last the Rev. H. W. Nye of Bedford was the preacher.