

NIAGARA.

CHARLES HAMILTON, D.D., BISHOP, HAMILTON.

The Local Council of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood of Hamilton met at Christ Church Cathedral on the 16th of March. A good deal of general business was transacted, and steps taken towards the starting of a Chapter at Stoney Creek. Brother Boustead, of the Cathedral Chapter, presided. Brother John O'Neil is the secretary. Brother M. Abrahams was the delegate from the Chapter of St. John the Evangelist, and Brothers Conway and Murray represented the interests of the Dundas Chapter.

The St. John the Evangelist Chapter held its regular meeting on Wednesday, the 18th inst., Brother John Newman, vice-director, presiding. Brother Abrahams, the delegate to the Local Council, presented his report, and stated the next meeting of that body was to be held in the Church of St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton, on 21st May next.

HAMILTON.—Churchmen in the city feel keenly the possibility of the removal of Bishop Hamilton to Ottawa, and active steps have been begun to prevent such a loss to the diocese. A meeting of the Deanery of Hamilton was held on Thursday morning, the 26th inst., in St. Mark's Church vestry, Rural Dean Massey in the chair. The object of the meeting was to consider the proposed translation of the bishop of the diocese to the new Diocese of Ottawa. A memorial to the house of bishops from the Deanery of Hamilton was submitted, considered clause by clause, and adopted. The memorial set forth reasons which, in the opinion of the Deanery, might be respectfully submitted to the house of bishops as bearing, first, upon the general principle of the translation of bishops; and, secondly, with a view to do all that lay in the Deanery's power to retain Bishop Hamilton in the diocese. The following clergy were present: Rural Dean Massey, Canon Bland, Canon Sutherland, Rural Dean Clark, Canon Curran, Revs. W. H. Wade, F. E. Howitt, Thos. Geoghegan, Geo. Forneret and C. E. Whitcombe. In addition to the steps taken by the clergy, a strong and influential memorial signed by the laity has also been prepared.

St. Thomas'.—A tablet has been placed in the Church of St. Thomas, by a number of his friends and old members of the church, in memory of the late Rev. Dr. Blackman, who was the first rector of the parish and first incumbent of the church, from 1856 to 1862.

Church of the Ascension.—At the Church of the Ascension on Sunday, the 22nd inst., Rev. W. H. Wade preached missionary sermons and the annual collection was taken up, amounting to \$608. During the offertory at the evening service Miss Bessie Clarke sang "Draw Nigh unto Me, ye Weary."

BARTON.—Rev. W. R. Clark preached to his congregation at Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, 22nd March, from the same text he first used in the church three years ago. He will preach his farewell sermons on Sunday next.

HURON.

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

St. Mary's.—The following clergymen have preached in St. James' Church during Lent, viz.: The Revs. D. Deacon, Stratford; A. Murphy, Ingersoll; D. Williams, Stratford; Canon Davis, London; and H. W. Jeanes, Thorndale. These services have all been well attended. During Holy Week service will be held on Tuesday evenings by Rev. Canon Richardson, London, and a three hours' service on Good Friday from two to five p.m. and from eight to nine p.m., conducted by the rector, Rev. W. J. Taylor. The Rev. James Stephens, M.A., of Cambridge, England, is to conduct a twelve days' mission in this parish, beginning on Easter Sunday.

ALVINSTON.—St. John's.—This parish, which had been vacant for some time and was opened up by the Students' Missionary Society of Huron College something over a year ago, has grown steadily under their faithful ministrations, and after his ordination at the New Year, Rev. C. J. A. Anderson was appointed to the charge. During the summer a Ladies' Guild was formed, and by their able endeavours the church has been thoroughly overhauled and repaired—a porch and walk added—and now presents a most inviting appearance and is entirely free from debt. There is a Sunday-school which is superintended by the pastor, also a children's service every Wednesday afternoon, and a weekly service every Wednesday evening. His Lordship the Bishop visited the parish on Sunday, March 8th, and administered the rite of confirmation to eighteen candidates, the church being so crowded many remained standing during the entire service.

KIRKTON.—In the autumn of 1895 passed away the beautiful Christian spirit of Mrs. F. J. Davis, a very highly esteemed resident of this parish. Some eight months before, Mr. Davis brought her as his bride to this neighbourhood, and her quiet, gentle manner and devoted Christian life won the respect of all and the love of those who knew her best, and it was the cause of universal sorrow when, on the morning of October 28th, the news of her sad and untimely end spread through this community. About 2 a.m. on that morning she awoke and discovered the house to be on fire. She immediately awoke her husband and while trying to escape she fell a victim to the flames. Her remains were tenderly and reverently gathered from the ruins by sympathizing friends and taken to the home of her father, Mr. Robert Creery, sr., Usborne, and on the afternoon of the following day they were followed by a large number of sorrowing friends to their last resting place in St. Paul's churchyard, Kirkton. The bereaved friends have the heart-felt sympathy of the community at large, and we sincerely hope that in their lonely hours of sorrow they may receive Divine comfort and be enabled to look away from the fleeting things of earth to the great, all-wise Ruler of the universe and say, "Thy will be done." Rev. G. McQuillan, who has lately come among us as clergyman of this parish, has started a weekly Bible class which meets every Thursday evening in St. Patrick's Church. We sincerely hope that our Heavenly Father may add His blessing to these efforts in our behalf, and that the class may prove a means of blessing to all who attend it. An annual missionary service was held in this church on the evening of January 29th, and as the invited clergymen were absent owing to unavoidable circumstances, the Rev. G. McQuillan delivered an interesting and instructive address on "Home Mission" work and needs. On Sunday, 16th February, Rev. F. E. Roy, of Hensall, occupied the pulpit of St. Patrick's Church and delivered an eloquent and very practical sermon on "Swearing." It was warmly received and we hope for good results.

WALLACEBURG.—Church of St. James the Apostle.—Sunday, 15th ult., was a day anxiously looked forward to by the congregation of the above church. It was the day of opening of the new church, which takes the place of the old frame building which was burnt on the night of Ash Wednesday, 1895. The corner-stone of the present building was laid last September. The special preacher at the opening services on Sunday was the Rev. Provost Watkins, M.A., of the Western University, London. The lessons were read by the Rev. J. Jacob, of St. John's, Walpole Island. Large congregations assembled both a.m. and p.m., the number at evening prayer being estimated at 400, while many were obliged to go away. The chancel presented a bright appearance. The presence of several beautiful plants was very effective and appropriate to the joyous occasion. The altar was vested in a white frontal, which, as well as the festal stole worn by the rector, was prettily embroidered by one of the ladies of the Senior Guild—Mrs. F. M. Smith. The services of the day began with celebration at 9 a.m., the Rev. J. Jacob assisting. There was also a second Eucharistic celebration at noon. The responses at all the services, as is the custom here now, were chorally rendered. The following is a brief description of the building: The church lies east and west on the north bank of the Sydenham River. Its total length is 85 feet. Its seating capacity is 800, although 350 or 400 can be accommodated easily. The building is of red brick throughout, of superior quality, and roofed with the "Pedlar" steel shingles. The general design is gothic, and in every detail is most carefully and substantially finished. The plans were prepared by the rector, and have been carried out by the local contractor in a most conscientious and painstaking manner. The neat and substantial altar—5 x 3 x 2½—was constructed by him and presented to the church. The internal dimensions are: Nave, 53 x 30; chancel, 17 x 15; chancel platform, 18 x 10; vestry, 13 x 10. The internal woodwork is ash, of beautiful grain and finished in hard oil. A simple but neat reredos surmounted by a Greek cross adds dignity to the altar. The tower, which constitutes the main entrance, stands at the north-west corner, while a roomy porch, enclosing the vestry, and forming a second entrance, stands at the north-east angle of the edifice. A large Celtic cross rises from the west-end gable. The windows are prepared for stained glass, which will from time to time supersede the present temporary plain glass lights. The local circle of the "King's Daughters" have already provided for the east window, while the I.O.O.F. are putting in the west window. Two of the smaller windows are also already provided for. The church is furnace heated and lighted by electricity. The total cost when completely finished in every detail will be about \$5,000. The altar linen was beautifully embroidered by two lady members of the Junior ("Fellow Labourers'") Guild—Miss N. McCrae and Mrs. Torrance. The communion vessels, costing

\$15, were presented by the members of the Juvenile—"Band of Faith"—Guild. The bishop of the diocese visits us Sunday, April 19th, when some 12 candidates will be presented for confirmation.

CLIFFORD.—We, the undersigned Churchwardens, on behalf of the congregation of the Church of the Ascension, desire to thank the Women's Auxiliary Cathedral Branch, Hamilton, for their very handsome present of altar cloth, communion linen, etc., which was thankfully received. J. Plummer, R. Rowntree.

MITCHELL.—The services in Trinity Church, on March 22nd, were conducted by Rev. Professor Sherwood, of London. The rector, Rev. J. Kerrin, has been secured for a second week's mission in Christ Church, London, his first week ending 22nd March, having stirred up a lively interest in his work, and encouraged another week's effort.

LONDON.—Western University.—The arts faculty have arranged an excellent programme of lectures in aid of the foundation for the arts library. Tickets for the course of six lectures are issued at \$1 and for the single lecture at 25 cents. All are to be delivered in Bishop Cronyn Hall, London. The programme is as follows: 1. "Tennyson and Arthurian Story"—Professor F. H. Sykes, London; 2. "Moral Aspects of Greek Tragic Poetry"—Chancellor Burwash, Toronto; 3. "George Eliot"—Provost Welsh, Toronto; 4. "Emerson"—Prof. Cappon, Kingston; 5. "Burns"—Prof. Clark, Toronto, Trinity University; 6. "Browning"—Prof. Alexander, Toronto University.

Bishop of Huron's Episcopal Visitations.—In April and May the bishop visits the counties of Waterloo and Oxford, and in June the county of Lambton. Particulars of the above visitations have been already given. His appointments beginning with July are in the counties of Middlesex and Lambton as follows: Lucan and Biddulph, July 5th; Granton and Prospect Hill, July 6th; Brinsley and Ailsa Craig, July 7th; McGillivray and Parkhill, July 8th; Greenway and Thedford, July 9th; Forest and Cam-lachie, July 10th; Oil City and Oil Springs, Oct. 11th; Inwood and Alvinston, Oct. 12th; Metcalf and Glencoe, Oct. 13th; Appin and Aughrim, Oct. 14th; Florence and Newbury, Oct. 15th; Wardsville and Mount Brydges, Oct. 16th; Delaware and Caradoc, Oct. 18th.

British and Foreign.

The Bishop of Zululand returned to his diocese in the "Goth" on the 21st ult.

The Bishop of Rochester has become a vice-president of the Church Sanitary Association.

A chancel-door porch is to be added to Hawarden Church as a memorial of the late Mr. William Henry Gladstone.

Bishop Wilkinson, on leaving St. Petersburg, proceeded to Riga, and thence to Berlin, to confirm. From Berlin he will go on to Moscow.

An anonymous donation of £500 has just been received by the Church Army in aid of the society's work amongst the outcast and destitute.

The British and Foreign Bible Society reached its 92nd birthday on March 7th. It was kept at the Guildhall, Alderman Sir Henry Knight presiding.

The important living of Mortlake has been offered by the Dean and Chapter of Worcester to Canon Knox-Little; it is worth £400 a year with residence.

The Bishop of London has instituted the office of "marine reader," to which captains and other responsible officers of the mercantile marine may be admitted.

The new Benefices Bill includes the prohibition of the sale of next presentations, and mortgage of advowsons, and the rendering illegal the sale of patronage by public auction.

The Church party held a meeting recently for the consideration of Lord Cranborne's Benefices Bill, and went through it clause by clause. The Bill passed the second reading by an overwhelming majority.

The Rev. G. C. Fisher, late vicar of Croydon, who has been appointed Bishop-Suffragan of Southampton in succession to the Bishop of Osaka, will be consecrated at St. Mary's, Lambeth, on the Feast of the Annunciation.