

and others, mostly Mohammedans, from all parts of West Central Africa, and even from the shores of the Mediterranean. One Arab from Tunis did some good by saying he had seen the English there, and they were a harmless people!

Communication with the coast was established through the Yoruba country, and the news of the wreck of the *Dayspring* reached England by this "overland mail" in exactly three months. On December 13th an American missionary, from one of the Yoruba towns, reached Rabbah with a load of sugar, tea, and coffee, with which he had hastened to the assistance of the party on hearing of the accident. His visit," wrote Crowther, "brought us again into connection with the civilised world. To-day we were first made acquainted with the disastrous mutinies in India, and the newspapers he brought were read with avidity."

At length in October, 1858, the *Sunbeam* appeared, and conveyed Crowther and others down the river. At Gbegbe he found three teachers from Sierra Leone, who had come up in her, and at Onitsha two more who had joined Mr. Taylor there. At the latter place Mr. Taylor had won the affections of the people in a remarkable degree during his sixteen months' stay, and when he and Simon Jonas left in the *Sunbeam*, to visit their families at Sierra Leone, the greatest grief was exhibited. Jonas, who had been so useful an agent in all three Niger expeditions, died shortly after at Fernando Po. Crowther did not return to the coast, but remained behind at Onitsha, and thence, after a while, he made his way up the river again in native canoes to the confluence at Rabbah, a distance of 300 miles. From Rabbah he tried the "overland route" for the first time, and travelled on foot by way of Illorin and Abeokuta to Lagos, in February, 1859.

In the summer of that year he again went up in another steamer sent by Mr. Macgregor Laird, the *Rainbow*, but could only go as far as the confluence,—a message from Dr. Baikie, who was still up the river as an agent of the British Government, informing him that Rabbah was closed to missionary operations for the present. No reason was given, but we may be sure that the real cause was the jealousy of the Mohammedan priests. The work at the two other stations, Onitsha and Gbegbe, however, was hopeful, and at each place there were several candidates for baptism. But the native teachers were now put to a severe test. When Crowther returned in the *Rainbow*, to the coast, two years elapsed before their solitary posts were again visited by any ordained missionary.

The cause of this suspension of operations was again the lack of opportunity to ascend the river. The *Rainbow*, on its return, was fired at by the natives of the delta and two men were killed. A gunboat was promised by the Government to accompany the next trading steamer, and Crowther and Taylor proceeded to the mouth of the Nun (the principal channel through the delta) hoping to go up in it, but no gunboat appeared, and they returned baffled to Lagos. In January, 1861, the cause of African enlightenment suffered a severe blow by the death of Mr. Laird, and the consequent withdrawal of his trading vessels and closing of his factories. The evangelisation of the Niger tribes seemed further off than ever. In the meanwhile Mr. Taylor had visited England, and on his return to Africa brought with him St. Matthew's Gospel, part of the Prayer Book, and some tracts in the Ibo tongue, the fruit of the combined labors of himself, Crowther, and Mr. Schon.

In July, 1861, H. M. S. *Espoir* arrived, and proceeded to punish the hostile villages. Crowther took advantage of the ascent of the river to visit the two stations, relieving the teachers by taking them away for a while and leaving others in their place. At the same time a new station was established at Akassa, at the

month of the Nun, to serve as a depot and base for the Mission; and here Mr. Taylor set vigorously to work.

During the following winter Crowther was busily occupied in preparations for a permanent occupation of the Niger on a large scale; and in August, 1862, a missionary party of no less than thirty-three persons, including wives and children, with their "belongings," were assembled at Akassa waiting for another gunboat, H. M. S. *Investigator*, to take them up to their stations. On its arrival Crowther found, to his extreme disappointment, that the commanding officer had no instructions to convey any; but so much sympathy was awakened on board the ship in his behalf that ultimately room was found for twenty-seven of the party; and with this goodly reinforcement he joyfully passed up the river.

(To be continued)

News from the Home Field.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

FRELIGHSBURG.—On the 15th inst., "Old Trinity Church," as it is called, presented a very beautiful sight to the congregation of worshippers. It was charmingly decorated for "Thanksgiving Service." The Rev. Canon Ellegood, of St. James' Church, Montreal, preached an eloquent sermon suited to the occasion. After the service, a bountiful dinner was enjoyed, which was provided by the ladies of the parish. In the evening, Canon Ellegood lectured on Palestine, greatly entertaining all who had the pleasure of hearing him.

MONTREAL.—Trinity Church.—At morning service, the 19th inst., the Lord Bishop made the very pleasing announcement that negotiations were progressing to relieve the church from debt. At the evening service, Canon Henderson informed the congregation that, at the request of the Bishop, he would take charge of the Parish till other permanent arrangements could be made.

DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

COOKSHIRE.—On Thursday evening last, there was a Harvest Home Festival in the English Church. This beautiful church had been most tastefully decorated for the occasion with flowers and "various fruits of the earth," by the ladies of the congregation, to whom, for their loving, spontaneous, and effective labours, too much praise could scarcely be awarded. The service was particularly hearty and cheerful. Prayers were said by the Rev. A. J. Woolryche, incumbent of Bury; and an excellent and practical sermon was preached by Rev. E. C. Parkin, the incumbent. The offertory collection was given to the Mission Fund of the Church Society. There was a large and very attentive congregation, and it was apparently felt by one and all that a more appropriate and devotional service of praise had seldom, if ever, been witnessed in this House of God.—*Sherbrooke Gazette*.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

SUSSEX.—Harvest Thanksgiving Services.—Rev. Canon Medley's church was neatly and fittingly decorated for the harvest thanksgiving service yesterday. The ladies and others of the same church, under Mrs. Medley's direction, are busily engaged already in preparing evergreens, etc., for the Christmas decorations. A camp has been fitted up near Col. E. B. Beer's, residence, and at this every fine day a number meet for work, taking advantage of the favorable season, and not delaying until the frosts and snows of winter interfere.

SACKVILLE.—A rectory has been purchased for this Parish. Rev. C. P. Mulvaney and family have arrived, and are in occupation.

St. Joun.—Thanksgiving Services.—Special thanksgiving services were held in St. John's Church Oct. 12th morning and evening. The hymns, psalms and anthems were selected with special reference to the occasion. Rev. O. S. Newham, of Point de Chene, preached at both services. In the morning, his text was taken from St. John's Gospel, 7th chap., 2nd verse, "Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand." The rev. gentleman pointed out how great cause for thanksgiving the people of New Brunswick had for the abundant harvest and for the mercies of the past year, while the signs of the times indicated a return of commercial prosperity. The sermon was listened to with devout attention by the large congregation present.

SAINT JOHN.—Church of England Institute.—On Thursday, the 23rd inst., the Church of England Institute, an association of some 250 members, male and female, for promoting by all approved means the work of the Church, celebrated its fourth anniversary with peculiarly interesting services; the Metropolitan coming from Fredericton, and several others of the clergy from a distance on purpose to be present. There not being any church in the city available the services were, by the kind consent of the Rector of St. Paul's, Portland, held at his church. At 8 a. m. the Holy Communion was administered, the Rev. Canon Brigstocke, Rector of St. John, and President of the Institute, taking the greater part of the service. The Epistle was read by the Rev. Canon DeVeber, Rector of St. Paul's, and the Gospel by the Rev. T. E. Dowling, Rector of St. George's, Carleton; the Prayer of Consecration was said by the Bishop, and the Rev. F. S. Sill, Curate at St. Paul's, also took part in the Office. The choir of the church were present, and sang the responses, the Credo, (Dyke's), Sanctus, Gloria in Excelsis, and Nunc Dimittis. The hour probably was not a very convenient one for many, but there were some 50 communicants.

For the evening service, which was held in the same church at 8 o'clock, a special effort had been made. It so happens that there has never been formed in this Diocese a surpliced choir, or even one consisting of male voices only. The Council of the Institute conceived, therefore, that they would be promoting the interests, both of the Institute and the Church by affording a service which should exhibit the special advantages of such a choir. To do this, however, it was necessary to look outside the Diocese for boy-choristers, and they naturally turned to Halifax, and to the Rector of the Cathedral Church. By his kindness, and the combined and indefatigable efforts of the Rev. C. Sills, of St. Luke's, the Rev. Mr. Townend, Military Chaplain, Mr. Porter, the Organist of St. Paul's, Halifax, and of a zealous layman of St. John, the services of eight lads from St. Luke's and six from the Garrison Chapel were secured. To these were added six boys and about a dozen men from St. John and Portland, making in all a choir of 30. These succeeded in having two rehearsals with the Rev. Mr. Sills and Mr. Porter, who accompanied the boys from Halifax, aided by Mr. G. A. Scheffeld, of St. Paul's, as choir-master.

Thursday morning broke fair and pleasant, but before noon a dripping rain set in, and continued till late at night. Notwithstanding this, St. Paul's Church was as full as it well could be at 8 o'clock, when the anniversary service of the Church Institute began. At that hour, the accents of prayer were heard from the Vestry, and the Choir and the Clergy immediately issued forth, singing as they approached the Chancel, and filed into their respective places, the processional hymn "Forward be our Watchword!" The ordinary evening prayer was then proceeded with; the Rev. Charles Sills of St. Luke's, Halifax, intoning the whole service, except the Absolution, which was

pronounced by the Bishop. The lesson was read by Rev. George Schofield and the second by the Rev. Canon Bridgman. The Psalter, the Canticles, responses and hymns were most beautifully and effectively sung by the choir. Many of the congregation present probably never heard a full choir of voices only; and such could not being struck with the purity and precision of the boys' clear, ringing tones which filled the Church as it never had been filled before. The appearance of the Chancel, too, occupied as it was, by pure white surplices alone, was strikingly church-like, compared to the miscellaneous and versatile fashions which ordinary mixed choirs present.

The following hymns were also sung in lieu of the Anthem, "Crown Him with Many Crowns;" before the sermon "Come forth, O Christian Brothers," during the Offertory, "Holy Offering rich and rare"—the charming refrain which—

"On Thine Altar laid we leave them:
Christ present them! God receive them!"

was perhaps the most stirring and touching chord in the whole service.

The preacher, the Rev. Mr. Pentecost, took for his text "Let us consider one another, to provoke unto love and good works."—Heb. x. 24,—and, in an eloquent and earnest discourse, set before the congregation the nature of the Christian democracy; the equality of every baptized man before God; the right to every Christian privilege; the claim upon the regard and benevolence of every Christian brother; and his duty to join in every Christian work. In commending the Church Institute, and its various organized means and opportunities, in the several parishes of this Diocese and its vicinity, for realizing and carrying into effect these principles, the preacher took occasion to say most plainly and most truly that in an organized effort of the kind he advocated the Church had allowed, what he called "the great neglected charities" with their grand houses and charities to put her in the back-ground.

After the benediction, which was pronounced by the Bishop, the clergy and choir retired from the chancel, singing the exquisite processional hymn "Through the night of doubt and sorrow, and the large congregation slowly dispersed. Mr. Porter presided most efficiently at the organ.

In addition to the clergy named, the following were in the chancel: the Revs. Canon Brigstocke, President of the Institution; Canon DeVeber, T. Dowling, G. H. Sterling, R. Mathers, S. Sill, J. H. Talbot, W. J. Wilkins, and the Rev. Mr. Richey, of the Diocese of Nova Scotia.

After the service the Visiting Clergy and Choristers were entertained by the Council of the Institute and Ladies' Association in St. Paul's Church School House.

The boys from Halifax did great credit to their trainer, and by their demeanour both at the church and at the private houses at which they were entertained won the good opinion and regard of all who came into contact with them. On the whole the service is considered one of the finest ever held in these Maritime Dioceses. Why may not the Church Institutes of Halifax and St. John arrange a meeting at either place, or at Amherst or Moncton, where joint services and meetings for mutual edification should be held?

The offerings throughout the day for the benefit of the Institute,—not to procure cassocks and surplices for St. Paul's Church, as stated by a Halifax paper, amounted to nearly \$70.

FREDERICTON.—The Canonry in the Cathedral, Fredericton, vacant by the death of Rev. Canon Harrison, was bestowed by the Most Reverend Metropolitan upon the Rev. Francis P. Bridgman, B. D., Rector of Rothesay.