

That is hardly worthy the enthusiasm of congratulation excited by this meeting, especially in view of this consideration, that to obtain this very small result every parish in Toronto has been deprived of its local meeting. Those who attended St. James' school-house were chiefly those who would attend any parochial meeting called to promote the same object, and in every parish all those were left unaffected by this movement, who could attend the local mission meeting, but could not go one or two miles on a severe winter night to a joint meeting. By all means have a central meeting, if it proves useful and attractive, but to sacrifice local effort and dampen local mission spirit seems to us a tactical error. That the local meetings have not been as well attended as we could desire is most true. But that is only an argument for greater efforts being made to give them life and attraction, not for putting parish meetings out of existence. The local mission meetings have failed because no adequate means were ever taken to make them succeed, they were often dreary, tedious, unprofitable to the last degree. If each congregation could not get up a good meeting, parishes should have been grouped, and a speaker like Mr. Rainsford utilized for three or four nights. We say like Mr. Rainsford, but remember that we have in Toronto platform speakers of far higher powers, as Mr. Rainsford well knows. In politics men speak one or two hours night after night for weeks together at Ward meetings to catch the local vote. Surely the Mission cause is capable of arousing and sustaining as much enthusiasm as a political fight? There is nothing very exhausting in such efforts, for strength comes in this work as in many others by practice! The Church needs more lay opportunities, but the abolition of the Parish Mission meetings withdraws one of the very few which exist. The Church needs also more opportunities for her clergy to acquire the invaluable art of public speaking apart from the pulpit. The cancellations of parochial mission meetings not only deprives the clergy of a welcome break in their routine of work, but cuts away from them a valuable opportunity for acquiring a style of address which is a great power, and it soon-acquisition often a reproach and humiliation. That the union meeting tends to break up the tendency to congregationalism we admit, in so far as that is due, its influence is most happy. A better plan we submit, would be to hold the parish meetings, individually or grouped, then, to convene a joint meeting. In regard to holding the late united gathering and the minor parish meetings, we are disposed to say,—the former ye ought to have done and not to have left the latter undone.

#### BOOK NOTICES.

THE REIGN OF FERDINAND AND ISABELLA, by W. H. Prescott. 2 vols., with illustrations, John B. Alden, New York. Mr. Alden has laid all students of history, who desire to possess standard authorities, under another debt of obligation, by giving us Prescott's great work at a nominal price. To readers we need not commend this work, to those who have not read it, we commend it to their early notice and earnest study. It may seem to some a strong statement, but in making it we shall have all with us, whose reading of history is wide, that no nation's history can be understood until the history of its neighbours has been well regarded. The history of Europe in the 15th century presents a very magnificent panorama of great events, great movements, and their relation to the principal figures in the European drama, furnishes one of the most fascinating fields for studious observation

in the whole range of history. We believe in a man owning books, rather than borrowing. There is an influence in the fact of possession which helps the student to a full mastery of a book, and the very sight of good books on a shelf is a charming mental refreshment and stimulus, often is suggestive and always is sweet to the eye. Mr. Alden must have taught thousands the wondrous power and charm of a private library. Let all who can add Ferdinand and Isabella to their stock, and let them read this history remembering its relation to that of the other nations of Europe in that yeasty era.

GOOD FRIDAY. Addresses on the seven last words, by the Rev. H. S. Holland, M.A., Canon of St. Paul's. Rowell & Hutchison, Toronto, 75 cts. The author of "Logic and Life," has given us a series of thoughtful addresses for use on Good Friday. It is difficult to cull from pages where every sentence is worth quoting as in these Addresses. To those who feel the task of delivering a series of addresses on Good Friday at all equal to the subject, somewhat beyond their powers, we commend Canon Holland's little work. Whether for use on this day or as material for Lenten discourses, they will be found most suggestive and valuable. There is nothing in them savouring of any special school of thought.

OBSCURE CHARACTERS AND MINOR LIGHTS OF SCRIPTURE, by Rev. F. Hastings, M.A., Funk & Wagnalls, New York, general agent in Toronto, William Briggs, 78 King Street, East. This work comprises twenty-eight short, pithy and instructive sketches of scriptural characters usually left without regard. The Word of God has no dress, those who think otherwise lack the power of fusion. Mr. Hastings has brought many golden grains out of passages which a mere surface looker would declare mere words.

MEMOIRS OF REV. DAVID BRAINERD, missionary to Indians of North America, with an essay on missions by Dr. Pierson, W. Briggs, Toronto. This is an old and deeply interesting book re-arranged and enlarged by Dr. Dwight and J. M. Sherwood. The name of Brainerd is surely as well known to the Church as the name of Milton to the world of letters. Those who know not the story of this remarkable missionary, should take the opportunity afforded by this cheap edition to increase their knowledge of the wondrous work done by him amongst the Indians of this continent. Brainerd was employed by a Scotch Society for promoting christian knowledge, when mission work was being resumed after long neglect. In the words of the Introduction to this edition, "Brainerd's Memoirs have been read and wept over for almost one hundred and fifty years by christians of all lands and creeds and conditions, and they are as full of christian life and power to day as when Jonathan Edwards gave them to the press in 1749." The story of this hero of the Cross would furnish good material for mission addresses.

THE CHURCHMAN MAGAZINE. February 1886. Elliott Stock, London. This number contains an excellent article on "Intemperance and the Church of England." The writer gives a valuable sketch of Temperance legislation and of the various efforts made to check excess in drinking. He says very truly, "That education of itself will not cure intemperance we have abundant proofs, both from philosophy and experience. Knowledge is a directing power not a motive force. Now vice has its source in the active powers and susceptibilities of man, and not in the mere element of knowledge or ignorance." In a secular education there is absolutely nothing whatever to suppress vicious tendencies or any moral power whatever. The article by Canon Hoare on "Natural Law in the spiritual world" has some acute criticism of Mr. Drummond's work. An article by Emily C. Orr, on "A Village Bible Class for men," has merit, but it takes for granted a social state which does not exist in Canada and will soon pass away in England.

## Home & Foreign Church News.

From our own Correspondents.

### DOMINION.

#### QUEBEC.

QUEBEC.—The provincial buildings at Quebec, were illuminated Saturday night for the first time by the electric light. There are eight lamps around the buildings.

A number of the congregation of St. Matthew's Church, Quebec, held a meeting Friday night and decided to present their departing pastor, Rev. C. Hamilton, bishop-elect of Niagara, with a pastoral staff.

#### MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—The annual concert of the ladies of St. John's Church was held in Russell Hall last evening. The Rev. Mr. Doudiet, the pastor, presided, and many other clergymen were present. Refreshments were served during the evening, and the entertainment provided was of a fine character. A quartette by students of Bishop's college made an appropriate closing to the programme.

The scholars of the Trinity Church Sunday-school held their annual festival last evening in the basement of the church, there being a large attendance. The affair was most successfully carried out.

The fortnightly meeting of the St. Luke's Church Temperance Society was held last evening, when Rev. Dean Carmichael delivered a powerful address. A programme of vocal and instrumental music was afterwards provided.

DIOCESAN EXECUTIVE.—The quarterly meeting of the executive committee of the diocesan Synod was held on Tuesday, the 10th inst., His Lordship the Bishop in the chair. There were present:—Very Rev. Dean Carmichael, Ven. Archdeacons Lindsay and Evans, Rev. Canons Norman, Robinson and Mills, Rural Deans Mussen, Lindsay and Rollit, Rev. J. G. Norton and Rev. J. S. Stone, Messrs. J. Hutton, treasurer, Strachan Bethune, Q.C., Dr. L. H. Davidson, F. W. Thomas, Walter Drake, Joel C. Baker and A. Gowdey.

The Bishop stated that owing to an affection of the throat, which is to be hoped may be only temporary, Rev. Mr. Acton has resigned the mission of Portage du Fort. This will cause a derangement of the plans made for the Rev. George Johnston's work in Shawville and neighborhood, as he will be required for the present, with the consent of Rural Dean Naylor, to take the services at Portage du Fort.

The treasurer's statements were then read, showing the condition of the Diocesan Mission fund to be in a somewhat better position than it was at the corresponding meeting last year, and that the other funds in his charge are all in a satisfactory condition.

The committee on grants presented a report on an application for an increase in the grant to the mission of Iron Hill. The committee did not recommend the increase. The report was adopted.

An application was received for a grant from the Mission Fund for Rougemont. It was resolved that no action be taken on this application until after the receipt of a report from the special committee, which was appointed at last Synod to consider the question of Abbotsford and Rougemont.

The Chancellor, Dr. Davidson, and Ven. Archdeacon Lindsay, were named a committee to consider the position of Missisquoi High School property, and to report thereon.

A motion of Archdeacon Lindsay, seconded by Rural Dean Mussen, that a grant of \$300 be made to Sabrevois, was referred to the committee on grants.

The meeting closed with the benediction.

WINDSOR MILLS.—The Anglican Church missionary meeting was held in the Town Hall on Saturday evening, the 7th inst. The Rev. Mr. Reed, from Sherbrooke, was present, and made an excellent address.