

News from the Home Field.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

WALTON.—The church is, as usual, very neatly trimmed in honour of the First Advent of our beloved Lord. Though we have not the usual amount of heavy wreathing overhead, still the effect is very good. The sign of our holy faith is to be seen in its proper place, as well as in other places, on shields about the building. We are expecting in a short time to erect the Memorial Window in the chancel. We have on hand \$75 (cir.) Among presents from his kind Newport friends during the recent joyous festival the Missionary (Rev. H. How) would like to acknowledge the sum of \$5 sent from one of the Guild members now in Bowdoinham, Maine. The offering was sent as a New Year's gift from Mr. Alonzo Teakles, son of Alex. Teakles, Esq., of Whale Creek, Walton. This is the second substantial proof that the Missionary has received as evidence that though absent he is not forgotten, and that the good seed sown is bringing forth fruit. May God bless them, and make them know that His All-seeing eye witnessed the deed, and that His hand restored it more abundantly.

PUUGHASH.—The Christmas decorations here surpass any we have ever had, the principal feature being an arch erected in front of the chancel bearing over the top the text, "Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given." The design was the work of the Incumbent and the lettering which is in old English text that of Messrs. Boyer and Huntsman, and the whole reflects great credit upon those who have performed the work in honour of our Infant King. Loving hands and willing hearts have laboured faithfully in decorating the body of the Church, the windows and pillars being trimmed in the most artistic manner. The services were bright and joyous, and the new choir organized by Rev. C. P. Wilson sang the hymns and carols very creditably, considering the short time they have been practising. At a parish meeting held on the 28th ult. to arrange the financial affairs of the Church, the debt due since Easter was altogether liquidated, so that we commence the new year with a clean sheet. The offertories at Christmas were unusually large, and a subscription list opened for the clergyman's stipend has been handsomely signed. There was an adult baptism on Christmas evening which added much to the impressiveness of the service. The parishioners repaired to the Rectory on Tuesday evening with baskets laden with substantial for the Incumbent, who has been the recipient of quite a large amount in donations since he came amongst us.

SYDNEY, C. B.—The Parish Church of St. George has been much improved lately by the painting of the walls and roof, the former a French grey, with darker shading round the windows. One result of this was that the church did not admit of so much Christmas decorations as in past years; and with the exception of devices in the windows the work was confined to the chancel and the font, there being texts already over the chancel arch and window and the west door. The decoration of the font consisted of wreathing, and a temporary cover of moss, ferns, leaves, everlastings and grain, terminating in a Latin cross. The decorations of the chancel were of a similar character, culminating in the same symbol above the altar. On the 4th Sunday in Advent service was held at 11 a. m. The Christmas services began with the 7 o'clock Evensong. A midnight service and celebration, with short sermon, was a new feature, and was very much enjoyed. At 11 o'clock service was again held, with a second celebration, and was very largely attended. There were also services at St. Mark's, Coxheath, on the afternoons of both days, at which the congregations were very good.

A midnight service was held on Christmas-Eve for the first time in this Church. The service began at 12, by the choir singing *Adeste Fideles*. The incumbent then said a shortened form of morning prayer, consisting of the opening sentence, confession, absolution, lesson (St. Luke ii. to 6, 15) *Te Deum*, collects and closing prayers. The communion service was then proceeded with, and a short but forcible and very earnest address delivered by the incumbent. At the pause, after the prayer for the Church militant, many went out, but a comparatively large number remained to celebrate with joyful Eucharist their Saviour's birth.

On Holy Innocent's Day a children's service was held at 11 a. m. The choir seats were filled with as many Sunday-School scholars as could be crowded into them, who led the chant and hymns with great spirit. They also form the choir at evensong on Wednesdays. In the evening the children had their annual tea and Xmas tree in the school room. Rev. T. F. Draper, Deacon in charge of Louisburg, kindly took part in the service, and in the evening contributed to the children's amusement by reading aloud one of Hans Christian Andersen's humorous tales.

Our decorations are somewhat scanty this year, as the Church Wardens have forbidden the insertion of nails into the newly painted walls, but what is done looks neat, and a large share of the moss, ferns, evergreens, etc., used were collected and preserved by the children of the Church.

HALIFAX.—North-West Arm Mission.—The columns of the GUARDIAN have not been trespassed upon for some time past in recording events in this suburban district. This interesting season of the Christian year has been observed as

usual, and some interesting events have transpired. The special Christmas services were held on the Sunday after the festival. At 11 a. m. a fair congregation assembled at the Chapel, many of whom were children, and fifteen communicants knelt at the altar rail and partook of the sacred food provided in the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The congregation remained reverently in their places during the whole service. The Archdeacon was the celebrant and addressed some fatherly words of comfort and advice to the congregation on that the eve of the New Year. A pleasing event in connection with this service was the appearance of a very handsome chalice veil, the work of Miss Alberta E. M. McKiel (daughter of the Rev. Wm. L. B. McKiel, Rector of Kiswick Ridge, N. B.,) who presented it to the Chapel as a Christmas offering. The veil is a beautiful piece of workmanship, and it is needless to say is greatly appreciated and much admired. The evening service was hearty and largely attended. The little building has been neatly decorated for the festival, the members of the congregation working most enthusiastically. On Christmas-Eve the children sang some pretty Christmas carols, and the Lay-Reader was presented by Dr. J. Gordon Bennett, on behalf of the congregation, with a purse containing \$29.00. This is much appreciated by the recipient.

The Bishop, unable to visit the Arm at present for want of time, has not forgotten us, and at our Christmas service an envelope was placed on the offertory plate containing \$10.00, a gift from His Lordship. The teachers of the Sunday School treated the scholars to a Christmas tree on Thursday evening last. Though the evening was cold some fifty children assembled and enjoyed, with some of their older friends, a very pleasant evening. The singing never was better than at present, which adds greatly to the heartiness of the services. Miss Draper performs her duties as organist most faithfully, is never absent, and her interest in the success of the choir is by no means depreciated by the inhabitants of the N. W. Arm.

SPRYFIELD.—A Christmas tree was held at Spryfield in the school-house of the Colonial and Continental Church Society on Tuesday, the 26th. The tree was tastefully decorated with many pretty and useful things, which had been collected by Mr. and Mrs. G. Sutherland, who takes a very active interest in church work there. The former is the Sunday School teacher, a most efficient person for that work. Mr. G. Sutherland got up a kind of lottery for the scholars, and they had a bountiful supply of cake, oranges and apples, as well as their prizes for attendance.

The congregation, by way of showing their esteem for their minister, Rev. J. Spencer, had bought a purse and put \$10 into it, which was found on the tree by him when distributing the prizes. A short address, followed by votes of thanks, and the doxology ended the proceedings.

A Christmas tree was got up at Harrietsfield on Thursday, the 28th, which bore the prizes for the Sunday-school scholars. Many useful articles were distributed among the children, which will be useful during the winter. Mrs. Spencer provided tea for both children and parents, and altogether there were about eighty persons present. The tree was tastefully decorated with lanterns and candles, and looked very pretty. The choir sang a very appropriate hymn, accompanied by an harmonium. The Rev. J. Spencer, in charge of the mission, sang a pretty anthem, accompanied by the harmonium, at which Mrs. Spencer presided. The evening passed away very satisfactorily, and every one seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. Thanks are due to some kind ladies in Halifax, who supplied most of the articles, as well as the cake for the little ones.

JEDDORE.—A large number of new Sunday School books have lately been introduced. They will probably be a source of no small benefit to over 120 young persons who attend. The parishioners have manifested much interest in their efforts to mark the festival day by Christmas decorations. The "Old Church," St. James', has for the first time been submitted to the process, and looks very well. St. John's Chapel has a fair appearance. Festoons and texts greet the eye on every side. Two lovely scrolls from England bear appropriate words. An object of general admiration was a new altar cloth with lovely frontal. This gift from the Church Extension Association was used for the first time on the joyful occasion.

P. E. ISLAND.

CHARLOTTETOWN.—St. Peter's.—The usual Christmas services were held in this Church, which has been very prettily decorated for the season. The first Evensong of the Festival was sung on Christmas Eve at 7, to Tallis's music. After the service the choir left the chancel and in the nave sang some old Christmas carols. At 11.45 the same night there was a celebration of the Holy Communion—a service which tells of the eagerness of the Church to commemorate her Founder's Incarnation, in that great Sacrament in which His Incarnation is brought home to us. Though this service was not choral (two hymns were sung by the congregation alone) it was largely attended. At eight o'clock on Christmas morning there was a plain celebration at which the majority of the communicants were present; and at 11 o'clock there was another celebration. This last service was fully choral, the music, with the exception of the hymns, being chiefly from Schubert and Gounod. The whole number of communicants was 80. On the Sunday after Christmas there was an afternoon service for children at which Christmas carols were sung.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

NEWCASTLE.—The first annual meeting of "The Young Women's Guild of St. Andrew" was held at the Rectory on Thursday, the 4th inst. The Secretary read a fair and favourable report. The Guild was inaugurated on the 20th of February, 1882, since which time regular meetings had been held once a week. There were seventeen members. A sale of work had been held in September, the proceeds of which had been devoted to the debt on the Sunday School House. The Treasurer's report was in every respect very satisfactory, and showed how much had been accomplished by a few earnest workers in so short a time. The following was the financial statement:

Receipts.	
Private contributions.....	\$ 9 00
Sale of work, &c.....	247 17
Offertory, St. Andrew's Day.....	4 08
Articles disposed of by private sale.....	29 59
	\$289 84
Expended.	
Materials bought, &c.....	\$ 76 71
Printer's account.....	5 20
Masonic Hall rent.....	6 00
Towards debt on School House.....	130 00
Deposited in bank.....	50 00
	\$267 91
By balance on hand.....	21 93
	\$289 84

All the members present then signed the Constitution and Rules of the Guild previous to the election of officers, and the following were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. J. H. S. Sweet; Vice-President, Mrs. J. Davidson; Secretary, Mrs. Harley; Treasurer, Miss Sweet. A further sum of \$10 was authorized to be paid into the bank account. It was unanimously decided that a leaflet should be printed for private distribution, soliciting orders for work, &c. The debt upon the School House is at present \$756, and all the proceeds from the Guild work will be devoted to the lessening of this debt.

PETTCODIAC.—The Parish Church here has been improved by the addition of a beautiful reredos, designed and presented by the Rev. F. W. Vroom, the painting, lettering, &c., being the work of his own hands. He also presented a handsome altar frontal to this Church and an altar cloth to St. Peter's Church, Pollet River. Both Churches were handsomely decorated for Christmas.

We regret to say that the Rev. Mr. Vroom has now left the Mission, having accepted the Rectorship of Richmond, Carleton Co. He had endeared himself to everybody in this mission, but although he received a petition numerously signed by the parishioners requesting him to remain, he felt it was his duty to accept the call to Richmond. His place is now filled, the Rector, Rev. C. Willis having procured the services of Rev. C. P. Hanington, lately ordained Deacon.

On New Year's morning the Rector's heart was gladdened by a visit from two of his parishioners, who presented him with an envelope containing the handsome sum of \$57.00, as a New Year present, being the gift of numerous kind friends in his mission, both members of his congregation and others.

BRIGHT, YORK CO., N. B.—The annual Christmas tree and Sunday School festival was held at Upper Keswick on the evening of the "Innocents Day." The children with their parents assembled at an early hour and filled the Hall. After the children had all taken their tea, the older ones were supplied. Tea over, the tables were removed and then followed instrumental and vocal music by the Rector's daughters and Miss Spike. First was sung "Adeste Fideles," then a Christmas carol. Then followed several dialogues and more music. Among the songs were "Gathering up the Shells by the Sea-shore," "Where there is a will there is a way," and "Ring the bell, watchman." The amusing "Cackle" song was sung by Master Cecil McKiel and Fred. Pickard. After the Rector had given his address to the S. S. children Joseph Noble, Esq., again performed the part of Santa Claus and delivered to the children, 68 in number, the gifts which had been provided for them. Each child received some toy or useful article together with a package of candy and a Christmas card. The Sunday School in this Mission is much indebted to the Church people in the town of Lunenburg in Nova Scotia for the Christmas tree this year. Everything on the tree for the S. S. children was given by them to Mrs. McKiel while visiting her friends and relations in Lunenburg last summer. Mrs. McKiel with her customary zeal laboured to make the school feast a success, and was amply rewarded by the manifest pleasure of the children as they gazed upon the two trees loaded down with the various articles. Among the chief contributors to the tree in Lunenburg were Wm. N. Zwicker and family, Mrs. Solomon, Mr. E. Solomon, Mr. Finke, Mr. and Mrs. Hy. Gaetz, Miss E. Gaetz, Mr. Wm. Gaetz, Rev. Mr. Harris, Mrs. Wm. Rudolf, Mr. James Rudolf, Mr. Etter, Mr. Joseph Rudolf, Mr. Andrew Rudolf, Mr. Hy. Rudolf, Mr. D. Owen, Sr., Mr. D. Owen, Jr., Miss Emma Rudolf, Mrs. S. Jacobs, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Rudolf, Edwin Kaulback, M. P., Mrs. Hy. Kaulback, Sr., Mrs. Moyle, and in Halifax Mrs. Shrieve, Miss H. Shrieve and Mr. Se wyn Shrieve. After the delighted children had received their gifts Mr. Noble