

ALGOMA.

ALGOMA CONFERENCE.—Thursday, January 15th.—After morning prayer at 9.30 a.m. in Christ Church, the conference met again in the Music Hall. The Bishop opened the proceedings with prayer, and then examined "Letters of Orders," and gave his "License" to those who had not received it. The subject of Sunday Schools being resumed, the Bishop emphatically laid down the dictum that the clergyman of any mission ought to have absolute control and supervision of every Sunday School in that mission. The clergyman being responsible to the Bishop, the superintendent responsible to the clergyman, and teachers receiving their instructions from the clergyman through the superintendent. Thus all would be "under authority" and more probably work as a harmonious whole, than when "every man did that which was right in his own eyes." The suggestion was made that a series of "Lesson papers" should be arranged which should receive the approval of the Bishop, and in which should be given distinctly Church teaching as to the different Church seasons, and every Sunday; and in this series to be "Lesson papers" on Church history and cognate subjects, written clearly and in simple language, so as to train up our children in such a way that they may in after life, give a reason why they belong to the Church, and why they believe her to be a true branch of the Church of Christ amongst us. These "lessons" to be of no greater length than would fill one page of letter paper, and to be read as a lesson in Sunday School under the careful guidance of the teacher, and when the scholar can read such a lesson clearly to the satisfaction of the clergyman, a clean copy thereof to be given, which the pupil could take home and read to the family circle. There are few family circles who would not gladly sit down and hear the children read the "lesson" they had in Sunday School; and thus an effectual method would be brought to bear upon old and young which would go far to minimise that ignorance of their Church which is too common amongst her members. The idea was strongly endorsed by the whole conference, and at the suggestion of the Bishop, a committee was appointed which should take up the subject of Sunday School instruction, and, if possible, prepare a scheme of lessons on the basis proposed which could be approved by the Bishop, and by him laid before the clergy of the other part of the diocese, and, when agreed upon, to have thus one uniform system of teaching in all the Sunday Schools of Algoma.

A paper on "Clerical stipends with reference to local contributions" was read by the Rev. Mr. Knight, of Port Carling, and in the discussion upon it, every member of the conference took part. It was agreed to without dissension that "there ought to be no payments whatever from the congregations to the clergyman personally, but that all contributions for the support of the clerical staff ought to be sent directly to the treasury, and the stipends all paid therefrom." The difficulty which met the conference was "how could this be managed?" Every one bore testimony to the fact that there was a willingness on the part of the people to contribute to the support of the clergy, if not in money (which at present they have not) in kind or produce. But how can this be made available or properly directed? Giving in "kind" needs great care and supervision, or much might be given which would be of small intrinsic value. The Bishop ought not to be expected to yield his episcopal functions and "serve tables"; and no treasurer, who gives gratuitously valuable time to his branch of diocesan politics, would undertake the task of managing the collecting of "kind" all over the diocese; and the "funds" are at so low an ebb that no means can be forthcoming to furnish a man whose sole occupation it would have to be. We cannot spend at the rate of nine hundred or ten hundred dollars a year in the hope merely of adding two thousand dollars to the treasury. The idea suggested was a good one, but the conference was reluctantly compelled to come to the decision that the plan must be deferred, and "we do not know what to do under the circumstances to make things better." We can only pray that the Lord of the vineyard will guide His Church to the haven where she would be.

The Bishop stated that the proposed Widows and Orphans Fund was moving slowly onward, there being some three thousand dollars in hand, but nothing which could be made available at present. There was absolutely no provision for those left behind should any of the clergy be called away by death. There was a scheme afloat by which it was proposed to insure the lives of clergymen in some cases at the expense of the diocese, but this, like all other schemes, could not be carried out, however good they might be in themselves, without the necessary means at command.

The Rev. Mr. Lloyd, of Huntsville, read a thoughtful and earnest paper on "Missionary work, its methods and requisites," in which he gave the sug-

gestion that the students from the various theological colleges should be urged to come and spend their vacations in the different missions under the superintendence of the clergy, he, himself, being prepared to welcome four good men at any time. This would be a means of giving these students the best possible insight into the work which hereafter would be required of them, and also enable them to test and prove their fitness and unfitness for the work. The discussion or rather the consenting speeches which followed (for not one differed) were warm, hearty and loving: the paper with its practical suggestions being praised on every hand.

The Bishop wound up the conference by remarking that "he had come to it with no small amount of fear and trembling, for which he now felt not a little ashamed. The proposed conference was a new thing, and an experiment in a fresh course by means of old materials, and, what was he that he should dare say, the experiment would be blessed with complete success? But he ought to have had more faith in Him who had put it into his heart to call his clergy together for this, their first conference. He should go away rejoicing that they had thus been brought together, and at his having seen the loving spirit of unanimity which appeared to move them all; divided, they could do nothing, but united, as they seemed to be, there was nothing in reason which they could not do.

His Lordship then went over the subjects which had been discussed, seriatim, and it will be long before those who listened to him will forget his sound advice and encouragement, or his words of wisdom and godly counsel. The churchly tone in which he spoke was cheering and most decided, and at the same time he emphatically stated his determination to give to every man "fair play" so long as he kept within the bounds of the book of common prayer." He urged upon his clergy to see that the Church Catechism was strictly taught in all their Sunday Schools, and, that whatever other subjects was taken up, the teaching should be clear, definite, and keeping the one sole object in view of bringing souls to Christ.

Before separating a unanimous and cordial vote of thanks was accorded to the Rev. Mr. Plante, of Port Sydney, for the admirable arrangements he had made for the accommodation and comfort of the clergy; and with this was coupled an expression of feeling for the general courtesy which had been extended to the members of the conference by the people of Port Sydney.

His Lordship's earnest and feelingly pronounced blessing brought to an end the first conference of clergy ever held in the diocese of Algoma, a conference which, from the fact of its being the first, will be for ever memorable in the annals of the diocese, and everyone as he left the room most emphatically endorsed Bishop Sullivan's words when he said "he felt it had been good to have been there."

The Rev. Alfred W. H. Chowne begs to acknowledge the gift of a new surplice from the Rev. W. Crompton.

The Rev. R. W. Plante acknowledges the following contributions towards the parsonage Building Fund: The Bishop, \$5; the clergy of the district assembled in conference, \$6; Mrs. John Roper, Caledonia, Ontario, \$5; St Peter's C. M. A., Toronto, per Mrs. Boddy, \$50. Also, for the fitting up of the church at Ufford, a cheque from the Mission Fund, through the Bishop, of \$25.

PORT SYDNEY, MUSKOKA.—On the 13th ult., the Bishop and the Rev. William Crompton arrived here, where most of the clergy of the district met his Lordship in conference the two following days. The proceedings of the conference will be found elsewhere. A vestry meeting in connection with Christ Church, Port Sydney, was held on the 14th ult., the Bishop in the chair. An important result of the meeting was the settlement of the question regarding the site for the new parsonage, which gives fresh impetus to this work. Service was held on the 16th in one of the settlers houses on the town line and holy communion administered. This was the first episcopal visit to this settlement, and was indeed a red letter day for the people of this isolated locality. After dinner a drive of nine miles and a walk of two more over rough roads brought us to the residence of Mrs. Farr, at Primel, where we enjoyed tea and a rest before service. A good congregation met the Bishop. After service a meeting was held, when permission was given the congregation to repair to the church, and they had pointed out to them the necessity of securing a suitable burying ground for the station. With the aid of a lantern, we reached Port Sydney about eleven o'clock, with no greater mishap than a frozen ear.

On the 17th, a start was made for Beatrice, in spite of the storm still raging, which station was reached

in time for church, where a most hearty service was held. After service the need of a larger building was made known to the Bishop. Although the present one has ceased to accommodate the congregation, as it should, yet no encouragement could be given as to the building of a suitable church, as the necessary funds were not on hand. The Bishop ordered that a separate "parish register" be procured for this station, in response to a request for one from the congregation. Nothing of interest occurred on the return trip, except our precipitation into a snow-bank, on one occasion the Bishop leading the way. Next day, Sunday, broke clear and cold, and proved a memorable day in the annals of the church in Port Sydney. Divine service was held at 11 a.m., and at 7 p.m., the Bishop preaching at both services. During morning service the rite of confirmation was administered, and upwards of thirty received the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Large congregations assembled at both services. A most striking feature of the day, was the united Sunday School service of the schools of Brunel, Beatrice, and Port Sydney. This was the first attempt at such a service, and proved successful beyond expectation. Apart from the opportunity thus given the Bishop of meeting the "little ones" of the different congregations and speaking to them specially, such gatherings tend to foster the spirit of sympathy and unity among the various schools, and so break up the too prevalent spirit of congregationalism, and supplant in its stead the true teaching of "The holy Catholic Church." Special mention deserves to be made of the splendid turnout from Beatrice to this service, which is a very practical way of showing their interest in Sunday School work. The address from the Bishop was listened to with wrapt attention throughout. An offertory was given for the Mission Fund.

On Monday morning the Bishop left for Allanville, where he was met by the Rev. Mr. Lloyd, of Huntsville.

RUPERTS LAND.

CLEARWATER.—His Lordship the Bishop of Rupert's Land, held a confirmation at this point lately, when candidates to the number of thirteen were presented by the Missionary in charge, the Rev. C. N. Jeffrey, who is vigorously working up the parish under considerable difficulties.

MANITOU.—A conference of the Clerical and Lay Delegates of the Rural Deanery of Dufferin, was held at this place on the 13th January, and was largely attended by members of both orders from all parts. Several important matters were discussed and papers read. Among the latter was one by the Rev. John May, of Winnipeg, on the best method of securing the Religious training of the young in the absence of Sunday schools, which was ordered to be printed for circulation in the district. The ladies of Manitou made ample provision for the bodily comfort of their visitors in the shape of elegant dinners, teas, &c. At the evening meeting the hall was packed; an admirable discourse being delivered by the Rev. E. S. W. Pentreath, Rector of Christ Church, Winnipeg. Altogether this was a field day for the church here, which is exhibiting fresh signs of vigour under the energetic management of the Rev. H. E. Jephson. Three new churches are needed in the mission—the present accommodation being utterly inadequate to the ever increasing congregations.

At a parlor entertainment on the 20th, given by the ladies of St. John the Baptist Church, between \$80 and \$40 were realised.

Christ Church.—The members of the two highest classes of the Sunday school, both boys and girls, met at the Rectory, on Thursday, and formed themselves into a band called the "Willing Workers," which is to meet once a week in the evening at the Rectory or elsewhere, bringing their work with them; the articles thus produced to be offered finally for sale, in order to raise the balance still required to pay for a new lectern, which will shortly be ordered, and will arrive about Easter, to cost \$75. They will also prepare for, and provide a public entertainment, to be given at the close of the Lenten season. The idea of commingling the sexes in a society of this kind may seem somewhat novel; but there can be little doubt that, with proper supervision and restraint, the results will be good. It is not separation of the sexes that is needed; but the intermingling which Nature dictates, under proper moral regulation. On the boys the effect ought to be refining and humanising at that very inhuman age between boyhood and manhood; and no harm can accrue to the manners or morals of the girls; whilst it is hoped that the meetings will be much more attractive than they would otherwise be. But the principal thing is this