

previous year, the Rector was unable to secure the assistance of many helpers in the pulpit. But the sermons of the Bishops of Iowa and North Dakota will not be soon forgotten. And, of nearer neighbours, we welcomed the presence, and profited by the excellent sermons of Rev. G. Lloyd of Rothesay, and of a former assistant minister of our Church, Rev. W. H. Sampson, now once more labouring in our city.

The results of missionary offertories have not been equal to that of former years. For this the special efforts needed for our Sunday School must be considered to account. It was a disappointment to many that the sum of \$500, raised for the Diocesan Society in the year 1888-89, was not equalled last summer. With an enlarged congregation, we are sure that this sum should be the minimum of our efforts. The deficit was due to oversights easy to remedy in the future; for we are convinced that the surest way of prospering as a congregation will be found in the proportion of our unselfish energy on behalf of our Church in other districts. We might well take example from our brethren of the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches, who feel the strongest *esprit de corps*, and never suffer a country congregation to be deprived of ministerial help, until every effort has failed. Even though the ministrations in the country parishes may not, in all respects, be congenial to our personal opinions, yet the surest means of influencing them for the better is not by frigid abstention, but generous help. There could be no better object in the future, than the establishment of a mission from St. John's Church, in some neglected country district. We might obtain the appointment of a minister faithful to the old teaching of the Church of England, whose work would be the expression of our love for souls, passing beyond the frontier of a parish.

In another department of Missionary intents we have to record a more satisfactory result. There had been an informal engagement, on the part of the parish, to subscribe sufficiently to the Shingwauk Indian Home to defray the education of one Indian child. These payments were not completely made in the period previous to the appointment of the present Rector, and an appeal was made to us last year to clear off these arrears. This involved practically a double payment, of \$150 instead of \$75; but thanks to the energy of one who is still the ablest and best of our parish workers, the money was duly collected and forwarded. The usual collections for the Church Missionary Society and the Diocese of Algoma, were taken up on Advent Sunday.

Naturally, a retrospect of the year dwells with somewhat of a sense of satisfaction upon the completion of the Sunday School. But we must not claim for last year's efforts more than their due share. The germ of success had been placed already, not only in the considerable sum of money earned by the sewing circle, but in the fixed purpose of our Congregation. It remains now to prove that all these labours shall be fitly rewarded. We may claim for our Sunday School that it aims at the highest standard, and that teachers and scholars alike realise the earnestness and consecration of their work. Already the zeal of the Girls' Association has placed a handsome pipe organ in the gallery, and each room

in the building has found its usefulness, as well as the recognition of architectural beauty. We trust that those social uses, of which our Lieutenant-Governor spoke so forcibly at the opening, may find fullest scope for exercise; that our Congregation may be welded together in sympathy and joint energy, and that the house which we dedicated to God so recently may be used to His service, and receive His perpetual blessing.

J. de S,

Easter, 1891.

THE PARLIAMENT OF OUR PARISH.

There are but few Parishes we think as well endowed as ours with all those aids so conducive to the welfare of a Church. We have associations of all kinds, from the Junior Boys' to that most valuable association, the Ladies' Society of Church Workers; we have presidents, secretaries, treasurers, committees and councils, almost, we might say, without number, and although, as must necessarily be the case in every society, a few members are compelled to bear a greater share of the work than others, and some will do almost no work at all, yet we know that in their various departments and societies, the members of our congregation are workers, and willing workers, for the good of our church.

Individually, too, our parishioners are most responsive when their aid is solicited, whether it be by way of contributions toward a needed fund, or by special work in any particular direction; and that bane of many churches, the carelessness or indifference of members as to their attendance at the regular services, has no place whatever in the Parish of St. Mark.

But, for in spite of all this there is a "but," there is one serious defect, easily remedied it is true, but serious while it exists, our congregation as a whole does not sufficiently interest itself in the affairs of the Parish. As we have said, individually, and in their various departments, our members display most commendable zeal, but when the attention of the whole congregation is required, or united action is called for, indifference, and even most astonishing apathy, is very apparent. Take, for example, those special congregational meetings called to consider that important question, the erection of the Sunday School, how many attended those meetings, and how many of our congregation were there who actually did not know until after the Sunday School was completed just what kind of a building it was going to be?

This is not as it should be. Just as a speaker cannot create a lasting impression who has not the sympathy of his hearers, so a church, unsupported by the intelligent appreciation of all its actions by all its members, must fall far short of that lofty ideal which it is possible to attain in the field of Christian endeavor. In a recent article by Dr. Cuyler, the same idea is excellently expressed, "It is the united movement of the whole regiment which carries the redoubt; it is the united pull of the whole church that sends it forward 'with the living spirit within its wheels!'"

It is our present object in writing to lay particular stress on one defect, our general Parish Meetings on Easter Monday and