

Niagara Falls, a resolution of condolence was drafted, to be sent to the widow and family of the Rev. Canon Holland, B.A., rector of St. George's Church, St. Catharines, and Rural Dean for many years of the two counties.

**HAMILTON.**—Although there are seven congregations duly established in this city of the Church of England, numbering 4,000 people at the highest attendance, yet there is a Church population of over 10,000, showing that 6,000 people are unprovided with church accommodation. The increase of church buildings is too slow in Hamilton. We wish it were otherwise.

We are anxiously awaiting for full reports from the several missionary deputations of Niagara diocese. We hear good accounts but have no particulars.

#### HURON.

**STRATHROY.**—Church of St. John the Evangelist.—On Sunday, January 8th, the congregation of St. John's Church reassembled in their church which has been undergoing extensive alterations and improvements during the past three months, and the rector, Rev. L. DesBrisay, who designed the improvements, may be congratulated on their successful completion. The nave, transepts, and chancel are fully complete; the organ placed in its proper position in the side of the chancel, and only a few finishing touches of paint, etc. are required to present one of the neatest and most ecclesiastical buildings in this portion of the diocese. A handsome pulpit and reading desk with stall will be placed in the nave in the course of a week or two. A Young Men's Guild has been organized in connection with the church; one of its primary objects being to provide a building for the Sunday School.

**Happy Recollections.**—A lecture upon the subject of "Happy Recollections," under the auspices of the Young Ladies' Society of St. John's Church, was delivered in the Music Hall on the evening of Wednesday, Feb. 1st, by the Rev. Canon Curran, of St. Thomas' Church, Hamilton. Mr. Curran brings with him not only a happy subject but a happy way of handling it, and we hope to see him heartily welcomed. The Young Ladies' Society of St. John's Church is as yet only in its second year. It has already rendered good service to the "Ladies' Society," and this is its first venture in its own behalf.

**GALT.**—Sunday, Jan. 15th, was a red letter day in the history of this parish. A large number of persons being confirmed by his lordship the bishop in the presence of an immense congregation. There were 58 candidates, the majority being adults, and many of these were married persons, representing "all sorts and conditions of men," coming as they did from four or five different denominations. The rector had previously delivered a course of instructive lectures in the school room, which together with private interviews and personal conversation, led to this large number of persons being presented under such solemn and impressive circumstances. The bishop's address was a masterly one, replete with wholesome advice and sound doctrine. 105 partook of Holy Communion—56 of them being newly confirmed ones. The bishop also preached morning and evening, the latter service taking the place of the annual missionary meeting, and large collections were taken up at all the services in aid of Foreign and Home Missions.

In response to the request of the rector, the bishop has licensed the following gentlemen to act as lay readers, viz.: Mr. James Woods, of Galt, Mr. Robert Jell, of Preston, and Mr. Robert Waterman, of Ayr; the last named gentleman will act as lay reader and catechist and assist the rector every Sunday in Galt, and also supply one of the outlying stations, Preston and Hespeler. The Rev. J. Ridley, who has thus mapped out quite an arduous amount of work, will have under his direction a large staff of willing workers. He has now under control no less than four Sunday Schools, over forty teachers and officers, three lay readers and catechists, and with the Sunday School work, supplies from 8 to 10 separate services every Sunday. One necessary feature of the work which the rector considers necessary to success is this, that in every place where there is Sunday School or divine service, they must give to the cause of missions, missionary work being the life of the Church.

**SOMBRA.**—The vestry of Trinity Church tendered to the Rev. Wm. Stout the following address on the occasion of his removal to the parish of Port Rowan:

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—Finding you were about to sever the social tie which has bound us as parishioners and pastor, by a removal to Port Rowan, we desire to express our deep sorrow and sincere regret that

the necessity for such removal should exist. But whilst we deplore the loss which such a separation will involve, we rejoice to know that circumstances have conspired to place you in that position in which a matured judgment, excellency of speech, and noble qualities of mind and heart, will find a wider and more exalted sphere. Ever foremost in your efforts to promulgate and advance new ideas, and bold and fearless in your denunciation of intolerance and absolutism in any and in every form, we shall sorely miss you as a counsellor and as a wise and discreet friend. Modest and unassuming in all that pertains to an intelligent and wise behaviour in public life; charitable in your estimate of men and actions generally; regardless of the covert sneers of the enemies of good; your zeal in pursuit of right, and your utter detestation of practices ungentlemanly and mean, have secured for you a place in the hearts of your former parishioners in Sombra, which neither time nor distance can either efface or destroy. To Mrs. Stout and family our thanks are due for their untiring courtesy and hospitality, and we trust you and they may find that the new associations by which you will be shortly surrounded may be of the most congenial and happy character. Owing to your untiring zeal and indefatigable energy as well as by your kindly ministrations in time of sickness and death, the congregation, from being one of the smallest in Sombra, now compares more than favorably with any there, whilst the improvements made in the church building have, thanks to your untiring efforts, made it better suited and adapted to the worship of Almighty God.

We trust you may be spared to occupy the pulpit of this Church again; but if that privilege be denied, we hope to meet you and yours in that promised land, where partings like the present are unknown.—Thomas C. Cowan, M.D., Vestry Clerk; A. A. Meyers, Treasurer; Thomas Ruddick, Warden; W. H. Watson, Warden; W. K. Snider, Jacob Young, Sidesman; Charles Young.

Mr. Stout briefly thanked the vestry for their generous appreciation of his labors, and stated that their mutual experience as people and pastor very decidedly exemplified what could be effected by united effort, and dwelt upon the continuous harmony maintained and hearty co-operation realised in every good work, and their unvarying kindness which turned his necessarily arduous labors into a real pleasure; and he could truly say it had never been his privilege to serve a more worthy people than those of Sombra; that whilst such separations are accompanied by regrets, still it was gratifying to reflect that the present one was not the result of any want of confidence on the part of either pastor or people, but from circumstances beyond their control. He and Mrs. Stout would carry with them, and even retain, the most pleasing memories of their association with the good people of the parish, and bidding them an affectionate farewell, would commend them to the Great Head of the Church.

**WARDSVILLE.**—Confirmation classes have been started in this parish, taking the place of the three week day services usually held, at which a series of addresses upon the Apostles' Creed have been given. The Epiphany offertory for Foreign Missions was a very liberal one, the largest ever taken up here.

The half yearly Ruri Decanal meeting for Lambton Co. was held in Christ Church, Forest, on Tuesday last. In the forenoon Rev. H. D. Steele, of Point Edward, preached a sermon on "The Unity of the Church," and Revs. Dean Hyland and Murphy assisted in the service. The business meeting was held in the afternoon, Rev. Dean Hyland in the chair. The clergymen present were Dean Hyland, of Warwick; Dr. Armstrong, of Moore; H. D. Steele, of Point Edward; T. B. Davis, of Sarnia; J. M. Gunne, of Wyoming; C. O'Meara, of Petrolia; G. W. Wye, of Watford; and A. Morphy, of Forest. The laymen present were C. Jenkins, of Petrolia; Mr. Nesbitt, of Wyoming; Churchwardens Morphy and Kent, of Forest, and other members of the Forest congregation. The reports from the various sources were highly satisfactory, and were all received, and other matters were discussed. At the evening meeting Rev. A. Morphy occupied the chair, and addresses were given by Rev. Mr. Steele on "Women's Work in the Church," and by Dean Hyland on the "Prayer Book." On the whole the meeting was one of the most successful ever held in the deanery.

**ARTWOOD.**—A very successful entertainment was held at the school house of this village on Friday last, Jan. 18th, in connection with St. Alban's Sunday School. The pupils instructed by the esteemed wife of the incumbent, Mrs. Edelstein, rendered several appropriate songs, which were received with great satisfaction by the audience. She school choir of the 10th line of Elms, by their beautiful songs, helped

greatly to enhance the entertainment. An interesting essay was read by Mr. Harding, attentively listened to and much appreciated. Readings, recitations, and amusing dialogues made up the remainder of the programme. After a few words of advice by the pastor to the pupils and parents, a beautiful decorated tree was unveiled laden with prizes for the members of the Sunday School, whose beaming faces testified to their delight. The proceedings were closed by the audience singing the National anthem. The attendance was large, and the entertainment was pronounced by all a decided success. The parishioners did not neglect their clergyman at Xmas; they kindly presented him with a large load of oats for his horse, and a variety of provisions for the household.

**Middlesex Deanery.**—The January meeting of the Ruri Decanal Chapter of Middlesex was held in Christ Church, London, on the afternoon of Thursday, the 12th January. There were present, Rural Dean Canon Smith presiding, Revs. Canon Innes, Evans, Davis, C. W. Ball, Principal Powell, Canon Richardson, Charles Miles, G. B. Sage, S. R. Asbury, A. G. Smith, J. Hale, R. D. Freeman, Messrs. J. W. Imlac, W. Robinson, H. Harris, W. Bell, and A. M. McCormick. The reading and confirming of the minutes of the last meeting were followed by the collecting of the statistics according to the prescribed form. A most important subject was brought before the meeting—the extending of the Church's limits into places where no Church service is held, the north-east portion of the city being among the places specified. It was urged that every possible effort be made to place the services within the reach of all, and a resolution was passed that the executive committee of the synod be requested to consider the advisability of having printed the shortened form of service authorized by the Provincial Synod for free distribution at such services. The election of officers of the Sunday School Association was then proceeded with and resulted as follows: clerical president, Rev. Canon Smith; lay vice-president, Mr. J. W. Smith; secretary, Rev. Wm. Lowe; treasurer, Rev. Chas. Miles; executive committee, Revs. R. S. Asbury, L. Deboisay, and J. Hale, Messrs. F. Kains, H. Wilson, and R. Thomas. A discussion on the subject of Sunday School work, and on the best plan of conducting missionary meetings throughout the country, then ensued. It was resolved that the May meeting of the chapter be held at Delaware, and the Rev. S. Asbury and others to read papers on suitable subjects.

**OWEN SOUND.**—The body of dissenters known as Thomasites have had great dissensions among themselves this last year, in consequence of which many of the members have now joined other denominations, and now their chapel is offered for sale. The result of dissent!

**SIMCOE.**—On Christmas day the congregations of Trinity Church were unusually large—especially in the evening. The church was handsomely decorated, which had a very imposing effect. The choir, under the leadership of Mrs. Barnes, sang very nicely. The offertory to the rector was a very generous one indeed. It amounted to \$90.00. The totals, including those to other objects, were over one hundred. The rector was assisted in the evening by the Rev. Mr. Davis. A service for children was held in the afternoon, when a sermon was preached by the rector, and the children catechised on the subject, answering promptly. Mr. Gemley's text on this occasion was Matt. ii, 18. The Christmas tree on Friday evening, the 18th January, and the process of its being dismantled of its adornments, were a great success, even the interested youngsters being well pleased. The presents and prizes were presented by the rector, Rev. J. Gemley, assisted by Councillor Matthews, church warden. Trinity Church school house was crowded with a happy company of children and friends. The ladies who gave much of their time in the preparations were gratified with the result. Mr. and Mrs. Van-Ambergh, with a portion of their band, added considerably, by their excellent music, to the pleasure of the occasion. The Rev. Joel T. Wright, rector of St. James' Church, St. Mary's, preached two able and edifying sermons in Trinity Church, Simcoe, on Sunday last to large congregations. The rector, Rev. Mr. Gemley, preached the annual missionary sermons in Mr. Wright's church on the same Sunday.

#### ALGOMA.

**ALLENSVILLE.**—The church wardens of St. Michael beg to acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the receipt of a box from Mrs. Roper, of Caledon, for the Sunday School, containing useful gifts and books for the Christmas tree.