

main your well wishers and ever affectionate pupils, J. C. Loughhead, J. G. Vickers, W. Thompson, D. Curry, E. Boyd, On behalf of the choir.

Mr. Wood replied heartily, thanking the choir for their present, and expressing his astonishment at such an unexpected event. One of the choir then read an address to the esteemed organist, Miss Evans, who has taken great pains, and put herself to much inconvenience to aid the choir of St. James' Church in their musical service which has become hearty and spirited. The following is the address which was accompanied by a beautiful gold watch guard.

To Miss Minnie E. Evans, Organist of St. James Church, Euphrasia.

DEAR MISS EVANS,—We the members of the choir of St. James' Church, Euphrasia, have for some time been desirous of showing our appreciation of your services to them, given so willingly and with so much energy, and have chosen the present time as the most fitting in which to present you with a small token of our regard. We consider the praises of God to be of great importance, and therefore we the more find the benefit of your assistance in enabling us to offer our praise in Spirit and in Truth. We earnestly hope that your connection with us will not cease so long as you feel able to undertake such a good work. Wishing you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, with God's blessing, we remain your very affectionate brothers and sisters, the choir of St. James' Church. Signed on behalf of the choir, J. C. Loughhead, J. G. Vickers, William Thompson, D. Curry, E. Boyd.

Miss Evans deputed one of the gentlemen present to thank the choir on her behalf, after which the meeting closed with prayers. This choir now numbers seventy, with an average attendance of fifty.

WARDSVILLE.—*St. James'.*—On the evening of the 27th ult., the annual Christmas tree festival for the Sunday School was held in the basement of this church. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the weather the building was crowded. The entertainment commenced with readings, recitations and carols by the scholars; the choir assisting with several choice pieces of music. This part of the programme being ended, the Rev. Mr. Hinde, presented the prizes to the children, consisting of handsome books, and packages of nuts, candies and oranges. The entertainment was very enjoyable and one of the most successful ever held in the Village.

CHATHAM.—*Christ Church.*—The Christmas tree festival of this Church was held in the Music Hall, on Friday Evening. The carols by the children were very interesting; and the recitations were well rendered. The tree was tastefully adorned, and, with the handsome presents and lighted tapers, presented a brilliant appearance.

Holy Trinity.—The decorations in this Church for Christmas day evidenced great care being paid by the committee to the style of architecture in this ecclesiastical and pretty Church. Out of the baptismal font rises an octagonal pyramid of red and white, bordered with evergreen, and terminating with an evergreen cross. Erected especially for the auspicious occasion, is a white reredos with an evergreen border, on which are the words, "On earth peace, good-will toward men." Over the chancel arch, in blue and crimson, is the text, "Glory to God in the Highest," with a silver star beneath. A cross is suspended over the arch on the south side; and a Maltese cross, in white, crimson and gold, is placed on the north-side of the chancel. There is a star over the organ, and a lovely white silk banner in front of the pulpit, on which are the words, "Behold, I bring you glad tidings." These, and other texts, show that loving hands worked very faithfully in commemoration of the great 'Nativity.' While we are on this subject we would remark, that of all the Christian symbols the Cross is at once the most beautiful and universal; but at Christmas it should not be the prominent and distinctive feature of decorations. At Easter, as many crosses as you please. At Christmas, the distinctive points of decorations should be stars, crowns, escutcheons, texts and illuminations, &c., &c., but in no case should a Latin cross be used for the birth of Christ.

BLENHHEIM.—*Trinity Church.*—A bazaar was held on the 19th ult., according to announcement, and was very successful, especially when we remember that the ladies of Trinity Church were only about a month preparing for it. The proceeds for the evening were \$103, and there are about \$25 worth of goods yet to be disposed of.

The Sunday School held its annual Christmas tree festival, on Christmas Eve, in the Music Hall. The two trees, at either end of the platform, were very tastefully decorated. The recitations by the scholars, were well rendered, evidencing that they had been very carefully taught. The fairy scene was very good, and when Santa Claus rode in on his fleet-footed deer laden with toys, the excitement was intense. Though very cold and stormy the hall was well filled.

On Christmas day Divine service was held at 11 a.m. The Church was decorated with evergreens, illuminated texts and symbolical escutcheons. The service was very heartily rendered, and the Carols—especially the one, "Carol sweetly carol, a Saviours born to-day," sang by Miss Biggar, and the chorus by the choir, were very pleasing. The Incumbent preached a very impressive sermon from St. Luke ii. 7. The offertory to the Rev. gentleman was a very liberal one.

LONDON.—*Christmas Day.*—The Feast of the Nativity was duly observed in our churches. The regular Christmas services were held and the sacred edifices themselves bore all the insignia of rejoicing on the sacred festival. Our old St. Paul's, at all times beautiful, never appeared to greater advantage than now. There were two celebrations of the Holy Communion—one at 8.50 a.m., and one at 11 a.m., the regular morning service. At the 11 o'clock the service was very well attended—there was a very large congregation. The Rev. Canon Innes preached a very appropriate Christmas sermon from the text: "For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people." Having spoken of the prophet Simeon, and his joy on beholding the long-expected, Desire of all nations, he referred to the happiness that was brought to us by Christ, and the joyful, happy spirit in which the day ought to be celebrated. Referring to the arrival in our midst of the Princess Louise, he said that the daughter of our earthly sovereign was welcomed to this land as her presence tended to cement the bonds of union which so happily exist between us and our beloved Queen, and how much more should our souls be prepared for the advent of our King the Son of God who came to visit this earth as a humble sojourner!

The offertory, which is always given to the Assistant Minister, was very liberal.

BURFORD.—On Christmas Eve, the Sunday School had their Christmas tree with all its accompanying pleasures. Presents were given to all the scholars, and there were appropriate addresses and music, and Miss McCaffry, the organist, was presented with an elegant set of gold ear-rings.

ALGOMA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

The Superintendent and teachers of St. James S. S. Gravenhurst, desire to acknowledge with many thanks the kindness of those ladies of the Domestic Mission, who have so liberally provided the many useful and beautiful articles which furnished the Christmas Tree. The children also desire a 'host of thanks.'

The missionary Bishop of Algoma acknowledges with thanks, the following donations, and for mission work in his diocese, received since 30th November last:—St. Paul's, Toronto, offertory per Rev. W. Checkley, \$40.00; St. Peter's, Toronto, offertory per J. H. Mason, church warden, \$15.50; J. May, St. Catharines, \$1.00; Church of Redeemer, Rosseau, offertory per Rev. W. Crompton \$2.30; St. John's Church, Prince Arthur Landing, offertory per Rev. J. K. McMorine, \$8.00; Per Miss Westmacott, Sec., C. W. A. S., \$2.86; Per Rev. F. Kirkpatrick, Sec. Treas., A. D. A., diocese of Ont., \$68.92; Special for Christ's Church Ilfracombe, Muskoka, W. A. Baldwin, \$100.00.

British and Foreign.

ENGLAND.

As a mark of progress it is noted that full choral service is now adopted each Sunday afternoon in Waterford Cathedral. It recommenced on the first Sunday in December, after having been laid aside for half a century.

Surprise is expressed that the Bishop of Gloucester and Bristol should have selected the *Princeton Review*, a Presbyterian organ, for the honor of giving his lucubrations to the world. The fact shows that the Bishop's Churchmanship reaches no higher standard than his literary attainments. The amount of remuneration is understood to have influenced the selection.

The English papers comment on the fact that the Queen took a drive on the day she heard of the death of the Princess Alice.

The list of Roman perverts given in the *Whitehall Review* was prepared *ab initio* by two Roman Catholic converts, Fathers Christie and Coleridge, now Jesuit Priests at Farn Street Chapel—another illustration of the way in which the Puritan element works in conjunction with the Roman, for the attainment of the same object—opposition to sound Churchmanship.

BELGIUM.—The people of Belgium fret daily more and more under the galling yoke of Ultramontanism. The last utterances of the hierarchy as to keeping to the educational course prescribed by the Syllabus, have produced a thoroughly irritating effect, and phlegmatic as the average Flamand may be, he has not intelligence enough to see and to understand the difference between the children brought up under the more liberal systems existing elsewhere, and that which is in vogue under the prevailing *Régime*. The *Independence Belge*, the organ of the Liberal party, and the mouthpiece of those who would fain inaugurate a new educational departure, states in reference to the deterioration of the primary schools, which is now one of the great questions of the day in Belgium, that there are in some towns primary schools where it has been proved that the pupils do not know that there exist books called the Bible and the New Testament, but where they could explain at full length the sin of impurity and the obligation of obeying in everything and under all circumstances the priest, "even when he is of bad morals." That journal demands that this wretched demoralizing teaching of the clergy shall be replaced by the sounder teachings of the State.

UNITED STATES.

CHRIST CHURCH, BOSTON.—This ancient building on Salem street, at the north end of the city, is the oldest house of public worship in Boston. It was opened for Divine Service on the Sunday after Christmas Day, December 29th, 1723, and is one hundred and fifty-five years old. Its massive tower walls, three and a half feet thick, support a spire that rises to the height of one hundred and seventy-five feet from the ground. It bears so strong a resemblance to the churches built by Sir Christopher Wren that it is supposed to have been modelled after one of his designs. Large sums of money have been raised from time to time to keep this beautiful edifice in repair, and Dean Stanley, when he visited the church in September last, expressed his great pleasure in finding that no alterations had been made, and said that few old churches in England are as well cared for as this.

The magnificent "Baskett" Oxford Bible, the folio prayer books, and the communion plate, given by George the Second, are in constant use; and among the historical treasures are four figures of cherubim on the front of the organ gallery and two chandeliers, taken from a French vessel by the ship "Queen of Hungary," and presented to Christ Church in 1746.

The chime of bells is the oldest in America. The inscriptions on them tell their story so fully that we will let them speak for themselves. The tenor, first, says, this peal of eight bells is the gift of a number of generous persons to Christ Church in Boston, New England, Anno 1744, A.R." The second, "This Church was founded in the year 1723. Timothy Cutler, Doctor in Divinity, the first rector, A.R. 1744." The third says "We are the first ring of bells cast for the British Empire in North America, A.R. 1744." The fourth exclaims, "God preserve the Church of England, 1744." The fifth commemorates "Wm. Shirley, Esq., Governor of the Massachusetts Bay in N. E., Anno 1744." The sixth tells us "The subscription for these bells was begun by John Hammock and Robt. Temple, Church Wardens, Anno 1743, completed by Robt. Jenkins and Ino. Gould, Church Wardens, 1744." The seventh adds, "Since generosity has opened our mouths, our tongues shall ring aloud its praise, 1744," and the eighth concludes "Abel Rudhall of Gloucester cast us all, Anno 1744."

On the 18th of April, 1775, being Easter Tuesday, the resignation of the rector, Dr. Mather Byles, Jr.,