

ing many of the country roads impassible, yet the monetary response to the appeals of the Missioners was in advance of last year. In some cases the increase was thirty per cent and in others fully double.

MATTAWA.—The church at Mattawa, the Rev. Charles Bliss, incumbent, recently opened for Divine Service, is a plain Gothic structure, twenty feet by forty feet, with a chancel eighteen feet by twenty feet. It is a small but neat frame building, veneered with brick, with seating accommodation for about one hundred worshippers. It cost \$1,800, but is not yet finished, about \$500 being required. The church is named Holy Trinity Church. The Bishop is expected to visit the Mission before Easter to hold a Confirmation, when it is hoped the church can be consecrated.

PAKENHAM.—Friday, the 5th day of January, was a happy and joyous day for the Mission of Pakenham, when the congregation of Saint Mark's Church enjoyed the great pleasure of having their new church consecrated to the service of God and of witnessing once more the Apostolic Rite of the Laying On of Hands. The services began with the consecration of the church, after which the rite of Confirmation was administered. Thirty-five candidates were presented and received into the full communion of the Church. In the afternoon a number of the congregation assembled at the parsonage to meet the Bishop and to present to the incumbent, the Rev. A. W. Cooke, a phœton from the congregation of Saint John's Church, Antrim, and a cutter from the congregation of Saint Mark's Church, Pakenham, with a joint address from both congregations. The phœton is from the carriage works of Dixon, of Toronto, and cost \$125; the cutter was made by Abbott, of Ottawa, and cost \$65. The Bishop made a few remarks to the effect that it afforded him much pleasure to be present and to see such evidences of the success of the Church at the Mission of Pakenham, and that the labors of Mr. Cooke were so highly esteemed.

CARLETON PLACE.—The annual missionary meeting was held Thursday evening, the 16th inst., when the following addresses were delivered: "Missionary History of Canada," by the Rev. K. L. Jones; "Systematic Offerings," by the Rev. S. McMorine; "Our Opportunities and Obligations," by the Rev. F. W. Kirkpatrick. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese gave an account of the marvellous increase of clergy, churches and parsonages since his consecration, twenty-one years ago, and made a powerful appeal for increased liberality to carry on our lately extended work. The congregation was large, and the offertory \$18. Next morning the church was again well filled, when a hearty Confirmation and Communion Service was celebrated, 58 candidates receiving the Apostolic Rite and about 80 communicants presenting themselves at the altar. All the clergy mentioned above took part in the service besides the Rector, the Rev. G. Low, who is to be congratulated on the prosperous condition of his parish, and the Rev. Sterne Tighe, Rector of Franktown. The Bishop's address was in his usual eloquent and happy manner, and could hardly have failed to make a lasting impression.

THE following graphic description of Christmas in the backwoods by the Rev. A. W. Mackay, the newly ordained Deacon at Rockingham, may not be uninteresting to those of your readers who hail with pleasure the advancement of Church work in our Diocese:—

"Christmas is the highest festival of the year, and many who are indifferent to the other great festivals would scarcely disregard Christmas. Perhaps in our more remote and obscure villages it is observed with a more hearty enjoyment than in our towns. It is the time of the year 'when toil remitting lends its time to pray.' It was our first Christmas in Canada, and while fond memories wafted over the ocean and gave us many a yearning desire to join the happy circles, there was something in the very atmosphere around us whispering of peace and good will. The morning was bright and pleasant,—the merry jingling bells and the joyous faces speak of happiness and love. The Church service, the first ever held at Rockingham on Christmas Day, commenced at 11 o'clock by the choir singing the hymn so well known in England, 'Christians, Awake! Salute the Happy Morn.' There was the usual morning service—bright and hearty—then a Christmas sermon by the missionary, the Rev. A. W. Mackay. The service concluded with three Christmas carols sung remarkably well. The church (an union building) was tastefully decorated with evergreens and illuminated text cards. On Tuesday evening the children's Christmas Tree was held in the school-house. Thanks to Mr. A. J. Cambie, of Ottawa, and Mr. J. S. J. Watson, of Rockingham, this proved a great treat to both the young and old. The children warbled out several merry lays and spent a pleasant evening. Each child received some useful little present, and sweets in coloured muslin bags, made by Mrs. Cambie. Wednesday was another great day. The picturesque hamlet of Combermere was all astir. A concert was held in the evening. The schoolhouse was overcrowded, many having to remain standing during the whole of the performance. Such a large gathering had never assembled before. The Rev. A. W. Mackay was kindly assisted by the Rev. R. D. Mills, who drove thirty-five miles with a party from St. John's, Eganville. The concert was a decided success socially and financially. The local songsters and visitors were loudly applauded. But this was not all. A Christmas tree was promised for the children of Combermere and the surrounding settlements. These children had never heard of a Christmas tree before, and arrived full of curiosity and expectation. Some of them had travelled ten or twelve

miles. When they were admitted and saw all the gay colours and toys, they were breathless with amazement. Several children sang very sweetly, and others gave recitations. A kind-hearted old man acted Santa Claus, and added greatly to the merriment of the afternoon. After the distribution of the gifts the children sang with true loyalty "God Save the Queen," and gave three cheers for "the minister." Thus many a poor little heart was gladdened, and many a home made bright. There is only one sadness, and that is the absence of a Church in Combermere. If any kind heart could help by a donation, it would be gratefully acknowledged."

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

THE BISHOP OF ALGOMA desires to acknowledge with many thanks the receipt of the following contributions for the Steam Yacht Fund: C. D., Nova Scotia, \$40; J. E. Lount, Esq., J. Pratt, Esq., and Dr. Bridgman, all of Bracebridge, \$5 each; R. & G. Strickland, Esqs., Lakefield, \$20. Contributions to any of the Funds addressed to A. H. Campbell, Esq., Treasurer of the Diocese at Toronto will be duly acknowledged.

BAYSVILLE.—Some account of the doings of the Bishop of Algoma during the past week, and matters connected with and illustrative of his work, will, I presume, be as interesting to most of your readers as any communications that can be made. His Lordship arrived in Gravenbury by the early train on Monday, the 15th instant, and as there was some pressing work to be done there, stayed a few hours at the parsonage. He expressed great pleasure at finding Mr. Lloyd's health so much improved by the use of the medicine prescribed. The Bishop in the evening drove over to Bracebridge, twelve miles north, to be the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Bridgland, who are among the oldest and most prominent of the Church workers here. In the morning, according to programme, he drove to Baysville, a village of about 100 population, and some 17 miles east of Bracebridge—in fact, not far from the Bobcageon road, or eastern boundary of the Diocese. In this village there are four general stores, three taverns and a saw mill, but no place set apart for public worship whatsoever. Some four years ago I made my first visit there. I was on foot—I had no horse—but when I talked of putting up a church hall they told me there was no chance of doing anything whatever of the kind. However, I stayed the day, and towards evening resumed the subject of church building. In the course of a couple of hours I had \$150 locally subscribed in work or cash, most of which has since been realized and spent. We soon got enough logs together and sent them to the mill, but for the first time for six years the mill failed to run, causing a year's delay. The next year we got our lumber, and we hauled it to the best site in the village, which we had bought (2.5 acre) for \$40 and deeded to the Bishop. But no sooner was the building partially erected than an exceptional blizzard blew it to the ground, and ere we came to the rebuilding we had lost our lay reader, Mr. Walker, on whose energy and skill in carpentering we depended very much. Mr. Padfield was appointed reader, and worked away also with the hammer and the plane. Still when the fall of '82 arrived no shingling had been done. This was effected in December; a double floor was laid and the place battened, while its completion—that is, so far as to be serviceable—at this visitation is principally due to the arrival of Mrs. Redmond, a most active, skilful and energetic leader in these things, and to the presence of Mr. Slemont, a determined, thoughtful Churchman, who is now the reader there. Mr. Wiman, of the Mercantile Agency, New York, some three years ago presented us with an organ, and the party of his friends who came up here for hunting subscribed \$50, to which they lately most generously added \$25 more at the instance of Mrs. Redmond. Here then the Bishop held a service on the Tuesday evening, and presided at a 'Vestry.' We await the grant now from the S.P.C.K. for the completion of the hall, but before claiming it \$50 more had to be raised and spent. One member present subscribed \$2, another \$5, and then, as the locality had done its best, the Bishop gave a grant of \$25, so that only \$18 are required, we may say, for the completion of the building. The gracious words of the Bishop have left the people in a mood more than ever determined, with God's help, to put the thing through and hold together. This is the seventh church building erected in the mission during the past seven years, and in most cases almost without that outside help which has been so prolific of church building in other places; but they have been erected by infringing upon that attention to Bracebridge which so important a centre undoubtedly demands. Baysville is one of the points to which the Bishop has been petitioned to send a clergyman; the people are prepared to find \$50 a year towards stipend, and \$100 the first year; and there are other stations which would be helpful. But to such applications our present Bishop's universal answer is that which Bishop Fauquier always gave: "I have no one I can send." Surely on this I may be permitted to make a parenthetical remark; the question of ministerial supply is surely never out of season. I do not forget that a brilliant and profound writer in the columns of the *Domestic Churchman* but a short time ago proved most conclusively to all of us that the "whining" clergy are sadly overpaid, nor are we perfectly assured that these two subjects have no intimate connection. When I heard of that article I at once visited the clergyman with whom I am most intimate and dined with him. I looked at his luxurious carpets, undistinguishable from the floor; I scanned his shining, polished habitments (whether the polish was of newness or wear I stopped not to determine); I glanced at

the wondrous courses of the meats, the soup, the fish upon the table—most conspicuous were they by their absence; I saw the plate, the china and the glass, and I could but inwardly exclaim such luxury is unsuited altogether to any minister of Christ's Holy Gospel. We are overpaid, and hence the supply is scanty. We want a new theory of political economy from the learned writer upon clerical pay. The first axiom must be that "where the supply is scanty you must lower the price." These questions have, and we cannot hide it, a Scriptural, politico-economic side, and for the simple reason that he who provideth not for his own household is worse even than the mere infidel, any kind of faith whatever to the contrary notwithstanding; yet the command thus to provide is the one that the clergy, unhappily, are sometimes the least able to obey. This side may be by far the least important on this question. There are other considerations, and we can only hope the subject may come to the front at the Hamilton Congress in May. In Algoma, of course, we have been exceptionally placed owing to the uncertainty in former days whether we should receive stipend in full or not, which uncertainty, commercialists will tell you, lessened the value of the sum expected. The present dearth of clergy will, we have every hope, be remedied ere long.

STONELEIGH.—Let us drive on to Stoneleigh with the Bishop. Here, Dr. Sullivan met one who was formerly his parishioner at Lucan a quarter of a century ago, a Mr. Piper; as also the family of Murdock, who sat under his ministrations in St. George's, Montreal, for some considerable time. Indeed, it seems the Bishop, go where he will, not only makes new friends, but is constantly met with that heartiest of all welcomes that of his old parishioners. The congregation here is poor; the Church hall, till now, in miserable plight for winter; but we laid a second floor ready for the visitation, and put up a large portion of the ceiling. We are in debt between \$30 and \$40; but when our members have paid up \$12 they have promised, his Lordship will send from \$25 to \$37, and the building can be made complete. It has always been a matter unaccountable to us all, why such stations in this Mission are so entirely passed by, by those who act so generously to places requiring help far less.

BRACEBRIDGE.—Here the Bishop honored us by being the guest of some of the clergy of Muskoka at dinner, at the British Lion. This house has been the resting place, not only of the Duke of Manchester, Lord Dufferin and other notables, but of our late Bishop and the present Bishop of Toronto, so that we felt no hesitation in appointing that as trysting place. After dinner, an address was read, signed by J. S. Cole, Alf. Chowne, Thomas Sloyd, and A. Sweet, in a word by those present. The Bishop, in reply, among other important things, reminded us that all our thought and prudence were needed specially in this Diocese, because the future well-being, when organized, will depend so largely on the substratum being now laid. On Thursday morning, at eight o'clock, the Bishop held a celebration in St. Thomas, and at eleven o'clock a reception in the S. S. house; some of the officers and principal members of the Church were present, but specially the members of St. Thomas' Churchwoman's Committee. When I came into this Mission in '74, I saw at once that the first thing necessary, the Gravenhurst Mission, not being then set off, was to divide the Mission, and then to organize, and communicated my impressions to my Bishop, while it seemed to me that the first to be formed of the committees ought to be that of our Church Women. They responded to my call; the committee organized, but melted as it left the meeting, taking no action. After waiting two years, a powerful committee was formed under the leadership of Mrs. Cole, energetically backed by the late Mrs. James Browning, Mrs. Bridgland, and many others. Much work was done, but that committee was broken up; and but for the timely aid of Mrs. Muntz, who held the presidency for two years, all parish work must have become but a dead letter. Since that time we have had a good committee—Mrs. Ewart Lounds has just gone out of office with the thanks of all; and Mrs. Topp is now a very active president. The value of such committees I supposed any would see by intuition, yet there has always been on the part of some a sort of faltering that has retarded things, a fear that there is something uncanonical or irregular about such action. The notion is, I presume, removed from the minds of all by the Bishop's able address on Thursday morning, so he reminded us of the noble women of our Lord's and Apostolic times. I said able—the proof of the address lies in the result; that evening hardly a lady in the congregation but was ready to help, and offered to help by all the means they had, the present president. That which is right and expedient in '83 was equally so in '74, but as a rule we do not trouble to think whether the thing proposed is right, but we ask who proposed it; most of us demand an authoritative utterance; the influence of authority in matters of opinion is enormous, but that is not the only reason for the somewhat changed views here on this important question; it is due also to the impressive manner in which the bishop put it. All will it is believed now recognize that such a committee should receive all the courtesy and consideration which its construction as well as its noble labors so fully demand, and be supported by all our efforts. At 7.30 p. m., the bishop met the congregation at a conversation in the Dufferin Hall when an address was presented by the laity. The one presented by the clergy was beautifully engrossed in Bracebridge by Mr. Boyer upon vellum, and the lay address on parchment by Messrs. Rowse. J. S. COLE.