

St. John's Church Record, And Parish Notes.

EDITED BY THE RECTOR, ASSISTED BY MEMBERS OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

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PARISH NOTES.

Sickness and death have been again the common topic, and in one sad week (Feb., 7-14) no less than four funerals followed one another. In Mrs. Hatheway our church lost a faithful friend and generous helper. Mr. Hanford's long illness and consequent retirement had not weakened the memory of his former prominent and respected citizenship. And Mr. Ruddock was not only a striking specimen of pre-eminence in his own special work, but had attached to himself many friends whose sympathy must have lightened the sorrow of the mourners.

As a natural consequence of illness, the congregations have been somewhat less numerous of late at our Sunday services, and the attendance at Sunday School has been also diminished. But while noting the facts, there is every sign of healthy life and activity in our church, and every hope of future prosperity. This was sufficiently proved by the good attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Ladies' Association of Church Workers. No less than twenty-six names were proposed for the Managing Committee, the elected candidates together with a synopsis of the Secretary's report will be found in another column. The Young Men's Association suffered most from the causes of depression already alluded to. Not only was Dr. Alward's excellent lecture delivered to an audience inadequate in all but heartiness of appreciation, but the debates were sparsely attended, although the speeches (especially on the last occasion), were of remarkable ability.

The Boys' Association enjoyed their usual weekly meeting, with a few unavoidable interruptions. Mr. Tilley has gradually trained the "Company" into creditable drilling form, and we look forward to the time when our boys will be able to form a Guard of Honor, and ultimately to join the Boys' Brigade of the city. The winter gymnastic competitions were kept up with great interest, a very close struggle between H. Allison, H. McLeod, and A. Berton being the result. A report of the public athletic entertainment held by the S. M. B. A. last Tuesday will be found elsewhere.

Our readers will see that we have at length adopted a title more appropriate to the present form of our periodical. A correspondent pointed out to the Editor, not long ago, the curious omission to state *what* parish furnished the "Notes." We trust that the neglect will be attributed to its proper cause. It will not be needful to remind our readers that, in order to prevent mistakes, copies of the 'CHURCH RECORD' will only

be sent to subscribers. Those members of the congregation and others who desire to receive it, must therefore send their names to our publisher, Mr. G. A. Knodell, who has kindly undertaken the sole management of the financial department.

TWO GREAT POETS.

As one contemplates the increase of wealth of the great English speaking nations on both sides of the Atlantic, together with the corresponding selfish indulgence in luxury of every kind and degree, one can scarcely be accused of merely falling in with the pessimism of the last decade in quoting the words of another prophet as applicable to those we are about to consider, "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words but they will not do them; for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness."

Robert Browning, who so lately passed away into the unknown country, may with reverence be called the high-priest of our literature leading the hearts of men straight up to God.

We are beginning to see that we had to *grow* up to him, he had made such immeasurable strides beyond us. Though it must be admitted his form of expression is somewhat involved at times, yet he himself declared he had not been wilfully obscure, unconscientiously careless, or perversely harsh. "It has surely been Browning's brave endeavor to reach out after truth and spread it abroad in the land; his is the gospel of love, no lower motive avails in 'this present evil world.'" He exemplifies this with wonderful power and beauty in the story of Lazarus, living a dual life on earth after his resurrection, the normal type of a christian according to the teaching of the N. T. who "risen with the Christ seeks those things which are above," yet stoops to the lowliest earthly cares and duties joyfully as in the path of God's will; to quote from "an Epistle,"—

Heaven opened to a soul while yet on earth,
Earth forced on a soul's use while seeing heaven.

He holds on firmly to some thread of life—
(It is the life to lead perforce),
Which runs across some vast distracting orb
Of glory on either side that meagre thread,
Which, conscious of, he must not enter yet
The spiritual life around the earthly life:
The law of that is known to him as this,
His heart and brain move there, his feet stay here.

Indeed the especial marking of the man
Is from submission to the heavenly will—
Seeing it, what it is, and why it is.

One of the offices of the priest under the old dispensation, next to his attendance in the tabernacle or temple to offer sacrifice and burn incense, was the instruction of the people; also, the discovery in the house or person of an Israelite, of leprosy, that remarkable type of sin, the more so, that we