

## News from the Home Field.

## DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

**CHRISTMAS IN ST. JOHN.**—The Churches in St. John, except St. Luke's, Portland, were all handsomely and effectively decorated, and full accounts are given in the daily papers, for which we have no space.

**Trinity Church.**—Services were held at 3, 11, 3, p. m. and 7, p. m. The Rector, Canon Brigstocke officiated, and in the morning he referred to the fact that just ninety years ago that day, when Christmas also fell upon the Lord's Day, the former Trinity Church had been opened by the Loyalists. He extolled their self-sacrifice and devotion in building such an edifice, and said the present magnificent building was due, to a large extent, to the builders of the old church. Several handsome gifts were presented to the Church as Christmas offerings, and consisted of the following: A magnificent carpet of needlework for the pulpit and steps, worked by a lady of the congregation; a mat, of handsome design, to be placed behind the lectern, worked by a lady now in Europe. The white velvet pulpit frontal, with gold monogram, was also presented by a lady, and a set of white velvet alms bags, embroidered with gold and silk monograms, was the gift of a gentleman of the congregation. A full set of white silk book-markers, embroidered in ecclesiastical emblems, were the work and gift of two ladies, and were much admired. The offertory at all the services was in aid of the poor.

**St. John's Church** was prettily decorated, and the services were conducted by Rev. G. M. Armstrong, and by Rev. O. S. Newham.

**St. Mary's Church** was most tastefully trimmed, Mr. Newham preaching in the morning, and Mr. Armstrong in the evening.

**St. Luke's, Portland,** was not trimmed, owing perhaps to the illness of Rev. L. G. Stevens, which resulted from a fall from a ladder, as noticed by us a few weeks since. Services were conducted by Rev. R. Mathers in the morning, and at the children's service in the evening the Rector and Curate of St. Paul's were present, Mr. Sill delivering the address.

**St. John's Carleton,** has lately had the interior much improved, and it was decorated.

**St. James', St. John,** was decorated this year.

**St. George's, Carleton,** was as usual elaborately decorated. All the services were conducted by Rev. T. E. Dowling.

**PORTLAND, ST. JOHN.**—**St. Paul's Church.**—On Sunday, 26th inst., His Lordship the Metropolitan held a confirmation in this Church, at which fifty-eight persons were confirmed, a very large number, considering that there was a confirmation held there only last year. The church was crowded and the beautiful service was conducted with the most perfect order and reverence. On Christmas, the Rector was presented with a purse of over five hundred dollars, as a tribute of affectionate regard, from his congregation; this was not a collection; none were asked to contribute, but many requested to be allowed the privilege of giving this evidence of their regard. At Christmas the knitting class presented the Church with a very beautiful credence table and kneeling stand, both made of black ash, with ends very handsomely carved in the solid wood. On the top of the table, which is a selected piece of American whitewood, a large Gothic cross is carved, ornamented with conventional foliage, and with the monograms of Christ at the four ends; all the sinkings and chamfers of this furniture are colored vermilion, which gives a very rich effect in contrast to the dark wood. The ladies who presented the credence had sent from England a very beautiful centre panel for it, made at one of the London Sisterhoods, an exquisite piece of art needlework, which was put up for the first time. On a cloth of gold is worked the figure of a pelican (the emblem of Divine love) feeding its young, the nest rests on a branch of a tree of natural color, the bird being of white. The material is of floss and silver. On either side of this panel stood a vase of natural flowers, with a calla lily rising in the centre, and surrounded by begonias, azaleas, stephanotis, geraniums, ferns and smilax. The gas standards in the choir gallery were entwined with spruce. Across the front of the church was a Gothic rood screen, and across the top, resting on the apices of the arches, was the text, "Behold I bring you good tidings of great joy." The letters were in evergreen on a white ground. Over the entrance of the arch, between the sections of the screen, was an arch of evergreen, surmounted by a Maltese cross of gilt. The organ and sacristy screens were trimmed with evergreen wreathing. The reading desk and lectern had trimmings of the same material; the side of the reading desk were adorned with three *fleur de lis*. On the front of the lectern was a double triangle, painted by one of the ladies of the congregation. The gas branches and baptistry had also evergreen trimming, and on the base of the baptistry were bouquets of natural flowers. The remaining decorations of the church were of the simplest character. There were four services during the day. Holy Communion at 7 a. m.; Morning Service, with Holy Communion, at 11 a. m., at which services nearly three hundred persons partook of the Holy Sacrament. Rev. Canon DeVeber preached in the morning, and Rev. F. S. Sill in the afternoon. There was service in the evening for the children.

**DERBY.**—Among the Christmas attractions at Derby this year, we notice a handsome pulpit banner, a reredos, beautifully illuminated with colors and gold, and a new Brussels carpet for the chancel.

**ROTHESAY.**—Rev. Canon Partridge, who is now in England, has telegraphed R. T. Clinch, Esq., that he will accept St. George's Church, Halifax.

**MONCTON.**—Four services were held on Christmas day. The church was, as usual, elaborately and handsomely trimmed, under the direction of Mr. A. A. Rankine, organist. A literary society was organized on the 27th, meeting on Thursday evenings. The Children's Christmas Tree was held in the School House on the 30th, and presents distributed to more than 100 children in the Sunday School, and carols were sung. Mr. G. P. Bliss, Superintendent, was presented by the teachers with a copy of Cowper's Poems. The *Moncton Daily Times* says:—"Rev. Mr. Pentreath, Rector of St. George's Church in this town, made an announcement at his last Sunday morning service, which took the congregation by surprise. It was to the effect that when he had carried out the obligations he had undertaken in connection with the erection of the new Sunday School room, he would resign his pastorate and seek a field of labour elsewhere. This, he intimated, would not be before July next, as he does not expect that the balance due can be raised before that time. Should Mr. Pentreath carry out his intention, the town, as well as the congregation of St. George's, will sincerely regret his departure. During his stay here he has heartily identified himself with the town's progress in every respect, and to his energy and executive ability is largely due the credit for the handsome little church, now free of debt, and the new school room with only a small balance due."

**STANLEY.**—The services of Christmas Day were of the usual hearty character. Many familiar faces were present that had been absent for weeks past. The explanation lies in the fact that three-fourths of our adult male population was absent in the depths of the forest during the winter season, engaged in the laborious and somewhat dangerous occupation of lumbering. Most of these men, however, make a point of spending a few days with their families at Christmas time. The Churches of St. Thomas (Stanley), and St. James (Tay Creek) were tastefully decorated with evergreens, sentences, etc. On Monday afternoon, December 26th, the ladies of the congregation held a sale of useful and fancy articles in the basement of the Temperance Hall. In the evening there was a Christmas-tree for the Sunday-school children, the day's doings being brought to a close by a literary, musical and scientific entertainment, held in the upper portion of the hall. The programme at this last was admirably arranged, and gave the greatest satisfaction to the audience, which was a large one. The receipts will amount to nearly \$100.00, clear of expenses.

## DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

**SEAFORTH.**—A few days ago, as two little boys, aged respectively 10 and 7 years, were skating up the lake back of the village of Seaforth, the younger one fell into a dangerous place called the Narrows, and it is thought he might not have extricated himself from his perilous position but for the pluck of the other, Aubrey Vincent Richey, who immediately, although alone on the ice, and out of sight of any help, kicked off his skates, and went to the rescue of his companion. The plucky little fellow is a son of the Rector of Seaforth.

**RAWDON.**—The Parish Church was neatly decorated for the Christmas festival. The reredos consists of three panels terminating in Gothic arches, the centre one being somewhat wider and higher than the other two, the ground being white with green bordering, the centre panel having a Jerusalem cross in the middle, and the others a Maltese cross. The nave was tastefully festooned with wreaths of evergreen, as was also the front of the gallery. The Service on Christmas morning was semi-choral, the anthem was Isaiah ix., 6, and considering the choir had never seen it until about a fortnight before Christmas, was very well rendered. The same may be said of the Canticles and Kyrie. Since the return of the late efficient organist, Miss Richardson, to Halifax, the duty has devolved upon Miss Annie Ancient, the Rector's eldest daughter, who, although young, is doing good service. There is a small increase in the subscriptions from this Parish to B. H. Missions this year, and with the exception of two or three dollars from outlying districts, it has all been given with the offertory, and presented upon the Holy Table as an offering to God.

**SACKVILLE.**—The Christmas decorations at the Parish Church this year were quite equal to any former attempts in this direction. Along the top of the north wall, and directly over the windows, was the text, "Unto us a Child is born," and corresponding to it, on the south side, was "Unto us a Son is given," the lettering being scarlet on a white background. Over the two east windows were two "Alleluia's" blue on a white ground, with golden capitals. Immediately above the altar was the sacred monogram tastefully executed in gold and having a maroon background. Above this, and on a ledge over the altar, was a large Latin cross made of spruce and neatly adorned with American

holly, the ledge itself being tastefully wreathed in spruce. Between the windows were ornamented crosses of *colours de creme*, with centre crosses of scarlet and gold, the whole effect being very simple and beautiful. Garlands of spruce neatly twined circled the lamps, and added to the general effect. The altar rails, lectern and priest's stall were wreathed in spruce and ornamented with American holly. The font was decorated in the same manner. At the west end, facing the altar, the texts "EMANUEL" and "GOD WITH US" were placed on the gallery, each text being on either side of a centre panel, on which was an evergreen star surrounding the figure of a lamb neatly worked in white. Over the east window, and surrounding the texts "Alleluia" were two evergreen stars, with crimson crosses in the centre. The whole effect was very pleasing, and reflected great credit on the few who designed and carried out the decorations. The only persons who worked at them were Mrs. Ellis, the Misses Lawson, Miss Lilly Grove, Master Fred Grove, and Mr. Taylor. On Christmas night a splendid choral service was held at Bedford, the first choral service ever held in this parish. The choir acquitted itself nobly, and rendered Tallis' Evensong with great taste and finish. The Rector intoned the service, and the sermon was preached by his lay assistant. Hymn 61 (A. & M.) was sung as a Processional.

**MAHONE BAY.**—The Sunday Entertainment and Xmas Tree, the notice of which was so kindly copied into THE CHURCH GUARDIAN from our *Parish Church Work*, came off with great success. More than a hundred Sunday School children with their teachers were present, for all of which something was found on the Xmas tree. The small admission fee of ten cents for adults, and five for children was collected at the door from all who were connected with the Sunday School. Yet so well was our entertainment patronized that over twenty-two dollars were taken by the door-keeper. At the close of the literary entertainment, which was listened to with pleasure and attention by all, Mr. John West as father Xmas, kept the whole audience in roars of laughter for a half-hour, while he stripped the tree. Among the presents for all the scholars was found a purse containing a handsome sum of money for the devoted organist of the Parish Church, Miss Hattie Keddy,—neither were the Rector nor Curate forgotten. The success of the entertainment was in a great measure due to Mrs. Dr. Gray, who kindly took charge of the musical part of the programme, by far the most important feature of the whole affair.

**ALBION MINES.**—Keith Lodge (23), A. F. & A. Masons, met on St. John the Evangelist Day and went in procession, by torchlight, to Evening Prayer at Christ Church, where a sermon on 1 St. John i. 7 was preached by the Chaplain of the Lodge, Rev. and R. W. D. C. Moore, G. C.

## BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Received, (Dec. 29) from Rev. Richmond Shreve, Yarmouth, \$27.35, being balance of amount contributed by pupils of Upper Sunday School, Yarmouth, towards the Mission of Sault Ste. Marie, Algoma.

Also, Dec. 31st, from Geo. H. Wilcox, Esq. Windsor, \$5 for Missions, \$2 for Algoma. Also, Dec. 31st, from Rev. H. L. Owen, \$5 for Missions.

WM. GOSSIP, Treas. B. F. M., Dio. N. S.

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

**CHARLOTTETOWN.**—**St. Peter's.**—The Church is very prettily decorated, and the services through Christmas-tide have been bright and joyous. The first of the Christmas services was the midnight celebration of Holy Communion, beginning at a quarter to twelve on Christmas eve, the service was perfectly plain with no address or hymns. It is the rule of the Church always to celebrate the blessed Sacrament between dawn and midday, with the one exception of Christmas eve. It is a beautiful idea which prompts this midnight celebration, the Church has led her faithful flock through the penitential season of Advent, and kept before it the contemplation of Christ's various comings, and now she stands on the threshold of the festival which commemorates His coming to save mankind; the midnight hour has come, and now she cannot wait, but must summon the flock together and offer up the memorial which her Lord has left her, in thanksgiving for His Birth, what better way is there of entering on the first moments of Christmas day. It has mostly been the practice of the larger churches at any rate, of England, to have three celebrations on Christmas Day, the first showing forth particularly the Birth, the second the coming of the shepherds, the third the glory of the Son.

The second celebration was at eight, being quite plain as the first. At eleven there was a choral celebration, with a long procession, to the hymn "Oh, come, all ye faithful." The intonation was an anthem, "While all things were in quiet silence." The Kyrie, Sanctus, Benedictus and Agnus Dei were from the *Missa de Angelis*. The sermon was by the Incumbent, Mr. Hodgson, on the Doctrine of the Incarnation. At seven there was choral Evensong, with a short procession. The same anthem was sung as in the morning; the sermon was on the practical relation of the Incarnation to man, by the Incumbent. After Evensong was over the choir left their stalls in the chancel, and, standing in a semi-circle at the top of the nave, sang several carols—"God rest you, merry gentlemen," "The

first Nowell that the angel did say," "Sleep, Holy Babe," and the favourite one, "Good King Wenceslaus looked out." In this last one the men sang the King's part and the boys the page's, joining in harmony in the chorus. There was a good choir on Christmas Day, and the singing went very well.

**CRAPAUD AND SPRINGFIELD.**—The annual services on behalf of the venerable S. P. G. were held in St. Elizabeth's Church, Springfield, and St. John's, Crapaud, on the 11th ult. The Incumbent reports the collections in aid of the Society 50 per cent larger than last year. The subscriptions in support of the D. C. S. are also 50 per cent in excess of the previous year. A Christmas tree, for the scholars of the Victoria Sunday School, laden with good things and useful articles, was a great success. Prayer Books, as rewards, were presented by the Rector. The Christmas tree was the project of one of the young lady teachers. The Rev. Mr. Osborne preached in St. John's Church on the 18th.

## DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

(From our own Correspondents.)

**MAGOG.**—The programme of the Christmas-tree entertainment, held at the Park-House Hall, was very fine and was rendered with great success.

**QUEBEC.**—The church-service in the Cathedral, Tuesday night, (the Festival of St. John the Evangelist) in aid of the Board of Relief of the Masonic fraternity was largely attended. All the Anglican clergy of the city and the Lord Bishop were present.

**MELBOURNE.**—The ladies of St. John's Church, Gallup Hill and vicinity, have decided upon having social gatherings this winter, to be given once a fortnight at different houses throughout the neighborhood. All from far and near will meet with a warm welcome. Provision will be made for stabling horses in the case of those who may be obliged to drive.

**MISSION OF LABRADOR.**—(Continued.)—These Islands form a part of the electoral district of Gaspé. In 1861, the population amounted to 2,651. In 1875, when the present writer spent a fortnight on the Islands, there were 56 Protestant families, numbering 359 souls, all of them belonging to the Church of England, there never having been any other Protestant ministrations there. Our mission was established by Bishop Mountain, in 1851, the Rev. F. Boyle, an alumnus of Bishop's College, pioneer missionary. Three of the Islands are connected by long sandbanks, uncovered at low water, and these at most seasons form a carriage way. As the remaining islands can only be visited by boat, and that frequently not without danger, it is important that the missionary should be something of a sailor. Mr. Boyle, having been brought up at Gaspé, was a good sailor, and so is the present missionary, Mr. Chambers, who was for some time missionary to seamen in the port of Hong Kong. Mr. Boyle remained 14 years on the Islands and won the love of all. Mr. Chambers, who has been there now six years, is admirably adapted to his post, and throws himself with loving energy into everything likely to forward the moral and educational progress of the people, among other labours of love, maintaining a daily evening service in the Church on the island where he resides. The result of God's blessing upon the devoted labours of our clergy for now thirty years, is that the condition of things in this mission as well as in Labrador, resembles in many respects the interesting accounts one has read of the simplicity and goodness of the Pitcairn Islanders. The visits, however, of American fishing craft form a very disturbing element. Here, unlike Labrador, the soil is fertile, in several of the islands extremely so, and immense crops of grains and potatoes are raised and much butter is made. The people, however, are (all, I believe) fishermen as well as farmers, one great attraction to the former being that there is always a ready market for fish, but a very precarious one for farm produce. Lobster fishing has been greatly developed of late. Our missionary resides on Grindstone Island, the central island of the group, where we have a glebe and parsonage, both the gift of Admiral Coffin, the parsonage having been also furnished by him with everything necessary to the missionary's comfort, not only furniture, but beds and bedding, carpets, table and house linen down to two homeopathic medicine chests. Two out of the three churches of the islands have also been built and furnished by Admiral Coffin. The people have (mistakenly, I think) not been required hitherto to do anything for the support of religion among them, at least, not the Protestants; the Roman Catholics of course support their Church and are by far the better for it. For the first time, the Synod of Quebec held last June, required a small assessment to be laid upon the church people of the islands. The Bishop of Quebec visits the Magdalen Islands once in three years and spends a fortnight there. The route was formerly by a sailing packet from Gaspé; latterly it has been by steamer from Pictou, a much worse route in every way, the steamer being a miserable tub, and the advance in expenditure of time and money much increased. The Bishop could at less expense of time and money visit England. The whole fortnight of the Bishop's stay is spent in incessant ministrations, with what valuable results I need not say. There are five islands to be visited, the sixth being ex-