

case in connection with the Provincial Synod committee to direct the Sunday school lesson.

Friday.—The synod spent the most of the forenoon in a discussion of the various phases of the temperance question.

The following resolution was carried: "That a committee be appointed to consider what changes are required in the constitution and canons of the synod, and to report thereon at the next annual session."

The following committee was appointed: Archdeacon Dixon, Canon Belt, Canon Curran, Canon Sutherland, Revs. R. Ker, C. E. Whitcombe, R. W. Clark, E. M. Bland, T. Geoghegan, W. J. Armitage and Messrs. A. Gaviller, W. F. Burton, J. J. Mason, A. Bruce, F. E. Kilvert, E. Kenrick, W. Bell, K. Martin, and E. Martin, Q.C.

A lengthy report on the subject of prison reform was then read by Rev. Thomas Geoghegan, chairman, detailing the investigations which had been made into systems of treatment of prisoners, expenditure, statistics of committees, etc.

The discussion which followed the reading of this report yesterday afternoon lasted pretty well through the evening session.

The report was adopted and the committee reappointed for another year. It is constituted as follows: Revs. Thomas Geoghegan (chairman), Canon Worrell, F. E. Howitt, Henry McLaren, J. R. Mead and Dr. Gaviller.

Reports from the committees on church house, mission fund and treasury of the house of God were read and adopted.

The following motion was carried:

Moved by J. J. Mason, seconded by Rev. Mr. Clark, "That the Legislature of Ontario be asked to amend clause 10 of the Act of incorporation by striking out the words 'only' and 'or' in the third line of said clause, and by inserting after the word 'debentures' in the said clause the words 'mortgages, and such securities as the High Court of Justice shall from time to time publicly approve for trust funds.'"

The committee on local endowments reported this morning that a quorum assembled last evening, but in the absence of the chancellor of the diocese they were unable to obtain information upon some legal points, and asked to be reappointed in order that they may report more fully at the next session of synod.

A number of the notices of motion which were on the programme were dropped altogether. An attempt was made to introduce some others, but those opposed threatened to count out the house if they were pressed.

A motion by C. Donaldson to change the name Church of England to Church of Canada was withdrawn. At 5.30 the synod finally adjourned.

GUELPH.—*St. George's.*—The Ven. Archdeacon Dixon has been chosen by the joint vote of clergy and laity, at the late diocesan synod, as clerical delegate to attend the conference at Winnipeg on the 15th of August. Mr. J. J. Mason has been elected to accompany him as lay delegate.

Sewing Class.—Some three or four years since a few of the kind ladies of this church determined to establish a sewing class in order to interest young children in the mysteries of cutting and making various indispensable garments. Each Saturday afternoon was devoted to this good work, in the small school-room of the church, and numbers of little ones crowded in to avail themselves of the instruction given, which was open to all, irrespective of membership in St. George's congregation. On the afternoon of the 17th ult., there was a pleasant gathering of the little ones, about fifty being present, when rewards were given to those who had distinguished themselves during the season by regular attendance and progress made. A number of specimens of handiwork were shown, being creditable to the nimble fingers of the juvenile "workwomen." The materials are supplied by the lady managers, and when the work is well done, becomes the property of the worker. There was a large number of prizes distributed in the shape of handsome and well draped dolls, nicely bound books, silver thimbles, and china cups and saucers, and toys. These were presented by the Archdeacon, with appropriate remarks, and last of all a package of choice candy was presented to every child, and a few to "the children of larger growth." Among the ladies present were Mrs. Dixon and Mrs. Lett, Mrs. Reynolds, Mrs. Ridgeway, and Mrs. Osborne, Miss Kernihan, who had succeeded Mrs. E. Morris as chief manager, and the Misses Alice Hall, Dixon, Hall, Nelles, etc. The class will re-commence operations in the latter part of September. It well deserves the support of all charitable people in the excellent work it is engaged in.

The service for the Queen's accession was held on the evening of the 3rd Sunday after Trinity, when an appropriate sermon was preached by the Archdeacon from 1 Samuel xii. 2nd & 3rd verses. The

hymns and other musical services were adopted to the commemoration.

HURON.

LAMBETH.—Trinity church, in this village, having been thoroughly repaired, was reopened for divine service, last Sunday, by the Bishop of Huron, who was assisted by the rector, the Rev. S. E. G. Edelstein, and the Rev. S. R. Ashbury, of Delaware. Two services were held, 11 a.m., and 3.30 p.m. The Bishop preached, both in the morning and the afternoon, very earnest, stirring, and eloquent sermons. The church was filled to its utmost capacity. A large number of people being unable to get in, stood outside and listened at the open windows. The collections taken up at both services amounted to \$65.

QU'APPELLE.

The following canon on the appointments to cures of souls was also adopted by the Synod:—

Canon on Appointments to Cures of Souls.—On the vacancy of any rectory, incumbency, or mission within the diocese, with the exception of parishes or missions sustained wholly by grants from without the diocese (the mode of appointment to which shall remain as heretofore), the appointment to the vacancy shall rest with the Lord Bishop of the diocese, it being, however, provided that, before making such appointment, the Bishop shall consult with and obtain the sanction of the churchwardens and lay delegates of such parish or mission; provided also that the parish or mission may leave the Bishop to make such appointment without consultation.

British and Foreign.

THE PASSION PLAY AT OBERAMMERGAU.—Those who feel any interest in the Passion Play at Oberammergau, will be glad to hear something of the manner in which it was first made known to English people. The following letter to *The Times* of June 2nd, written by the present Dean of Durham, will tell how he and the late Professor Henry Smith, lighted upon it in 1870. Dr. Stanley, then Professor at Oxford, afterwards Dean of Westminster, visited the place in 1860. Mr. Malcolm McColl saw the play in 1870 and described it at length in *The Times*. The representation, having been interrupted by the war in 1870, was resumed in 1871; and from that time the whole world has seen it. Here is Dean Lake's letter:—

Sir,—In the very interesting account which your Vienna correspondent gave last week of the Passion Play at Ammergau, he observes that until 1860 it was very little known in England. A short account of the manner in which it was first brought to the notice of the Oxford, and afterwards of the English, public may, perhaps, interest some of those who have since then enjoyed and profited by the touching representation of the last days and death of the Saviour, which has retained its solemnity under circumstances of no little difficulty.

Two Oxford Fellows, then both young—the remembrance of one of whom, the late Professor Henry Smith, is still dear to the last generation of Oxford—were staying together in the September of 1850 at Bad Gastein, when a passing traveller walking with them in the Wandelbahn startled them by a vivid description of a scene to which, as he said, he had never seen anything similar, in a then very out of the way part of the Bavarian Alps. They had themselves heard some rumours of the existence of the Passion Play, and at once determined to be present at what was to be the last representation of that year. In these railroad days this would be a journey of about a day from Gastein; but it was then three long days' work of *cetturino* travelling, not without some amusing incidents owing to the crowded state of the small inns as they neared the scene of the play; for, though almost utterly unknown in England, it was even then widely popular among the Catholics of Southern Germany. It is needless to say they were both deeply struck by the beauty, power, and simplicity of the exhibition, which had not materially altered its character in 1871, 20 years afterwards; and they lost no time in describing it to their friends at Oxford, to whom it was then entirely unknown. Perhaps the person most excited by it was Dean Stanley, then also an Oxford tutor, who at once exclaimed, "Well, if I am alive ten years hence, I shall be at Ammergau," and by a curious coincidence the friend who described it to him met him in Paris on his return in 1860, when his first words were, "I have been to Ammergau, and it exceeds all your description." Both its historical and its poetical and religious beauty he was sure to appreciate; and he at once wrote one of the most striking descriptions which we possess of the representation.

I have written this account mainly because it is

curious to recall how utterly unknown a scene, which has since gained a world-wide reputation, was to the whole of England 40 years ago. I will only add that when I saw it again in 1871—I have not seen it since—it was in all its principal features substantially unchanged: it had lost something, perhaps, of the simplicity of its surroundings, and the audience had suffered, and must inevitably, I fear, suffer, from the crowds of spectators; but the beauty and devoutness of the acting, the striking character of the chief actors, and the intense reality with which the whole village flung themselves into the representation of the tableaux were as great in 1871 as they were in 1850. It struck us both that, putting aside the religious character, its artistic conception was a remarkable resemblance to the ideal of a Greek tragedy. It is but fair to add that I always understood that the beauty and devoutness of this character, which had been much increased in this century, was due to the excellent religious influence of the priest of the parish, a monk from the neighbouring convent of Ettal. That it should retain this religious character in spite of all the temptations of immense popularity is surely no small tribute at once to the simple and excellent people themselves and to their religious guides.

I am, sir, yours obediently,

Deanery, Durham.

W. C. LAKE.

London "Times," June 2nd, 1890.

ULM CATHEDRAL.—ULM, May 31.—The ceremony of laying the last stone of the spire of Ulm Cathedral took place at 6 o'clock this evening amid the ringing of bells and general rejoicing. The official celebration of the event will take place on June 28 and the three following days.

The Cathedral is now the highest in the world, having an altitude of 530 ft.—*Times*.

Correspondence.

All Letters containing personal allusions will appear over the signature of the writer. We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions of our correspondents.

A Short Prayer for Children.

SIR,—Do you know of any short, simple prayer, easily committed to memory, suitable for children to use before taking their seats in the church? Perhaps the Sunday School Teachers' Institute has authorized prayers for this purpose. As it is a matter of importance, it is probable there do exist prayers generally recognized as appropriate for this occasion. Can you suggest any? It is very irreverent for any of our Sunday school children to come into the church and sit down as if in a concert room, and equally so to kneel as a matter of form, or because their elders do so. Then it is sometimes noticeable that those who are in fault in this respect cannot find the places in their prayer books.

The general behaviour of children during service necessarily reflects creditably or otherwise upon the teaching of the Sunday school to which they belong. It may be said that parents should attend to these matters. While granting this, we all know that in the sure and certain progress of the Church, we frequently have children in our classes whose parents are not of us, and these require special instruction. To be faithful in all things we should look beyond the prescribed lessons for the day, and strive to make the little ones committed to our care intelligent members of our Church. Then, and then only, shall we teach them reverent worship.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER.

The Advancement of the Anglican Church.

SIR,—I have read, with satisfaction, your record of Major Mayne's movement in the matter of the "Advancement of the Anglican Church." There exists, indeed, much room for improvement in this particular, and it is to be hoped that your editorial remarks upon the subject may produce an interest therein commensurate with the importance thereof, which shall result in action on the lines suggested by you, whereby the Church, her claims, her history, and her teaching may be more generally and perfectly known among the people. And it occurs to me that some advance could be made in the direction indicated, were Churchmen, in their individual capacity, and their intercourse with their fellows, impressed as they ought to be with a desire to extend the knowledge and influence of Church principles, to strive to overcome an inherent supineness which seems to attack too many of us, to broach the subject of Church or religion, and advocate her cause whenever an opportunity may occur.

I charitably presume we are all satisfied of the solidity of her claim to our reverence and obedience,