

offertory at the close was \$6.78 for the general fund of the diocese.

At 2 p.m. the 27th we left for what is known as the

HARRIS' SETTLEMENT

township of King, some 16 miles north by east of Huntsville. The sleighing was magnificently good, but the air was piercingly cold. Shortly after 4 o'clock we reached the homestead of Mr. Harris from whom we received a most kindly welcome, and with whom we lodged.

Several of the candidates came in the evening to be catechised by Mr. Llwyd, they having been trained by the Lay Reader, Mr. Large, who for several years past has with praiseworthy zeal and a good deal of self-denial, kept the flock together here, and at a settlement three miles south, hoping that some day, in the providence of God, they might get a clergyman.

At 10 a.m. the 28th we were all assembled in the little log church built in the bush, and apart from the extreme cold, had a most enjoyable and a hearty service. After matins seven candidates were added to the full roll of the church in confirmation, and 20 communicants knelt at the Lord's table, and the offertory to the widow's and orphan's fund, was \$1.80. An earnest appeal was made by the Lay Reader in behalf of the people for a Sunday service, if only occasionally, from a clergyman. The Bishop promised to use his best endeavours to persuade, and enable the Rev. Messrs. Llwyd and Magnan to give each one service per quarter, which would give them a clergyman's visit once in every six weeks.

This completing Mr. Llwyd's programme, that gentleman handed the Bishop over to the Rev. W. B. Magnan incumbent of the Burk's Falls Mission, who accompanied by Mr. L. drove the Bishop to Cyprus, six miles distant, where dinner was prepared for us. After which the visitation of the Burk's Falls Mission was entered upon, and Mr. L. returned to Huntsville.

CLERICAL CONFERENCE.

AN important step has been taken in connection with our Missionary Diocese in that the present energetic Bishop has called a portion of his clergy together for the purpose of conferring one with another, discussing the affairs of the Diocese, and suggesting modes by which the work might be done with more efficacy.

The Bishop and clergy met at Holy Communion at 9.30 a.m. in Christ Church, Port Sydney, on the morning of Wednesday, Jan. 14th. All the clergy of the Muskoka and Parry Sound District, eight in number, were present. At 10 o'clock a.m. the conference met in the Music Hall, which had kindly been placed at the disposal of the Bishop by A. S. Smith Esqr., during the sitting. After prayers had been read by the Rev. W. Crompton of Aspdin, the Bishop briefly but clearly explained the objects he had in view by calling the conference, and why he thought such conference of his clergy requisite for their mutual edification and official advantage.

A clear and incisive paper was then read by the

Rev. Mr. Osborne of Gravenhurst, on "our clerical staff, how best to secure well qualified workers for the Mission Field," in which he advocated the training of what may be called a native ministry, that is, young men selected from amongst the settlers, who should go through a course of appointed study under the direction of the clergy for one year at their own cost, and without any promise whatever of ordination. At the end of such probation, if the young man should offer himself for the ministry, and has shown the necessary natural abilities, let a testimonial be signed by the minister and church wardens where he has officiated, stating these facts, and let such testimonial be forwarded to the Bishop, who will notify his examining Chaplain to make strict and personal enquiries by interview and otherwise respecting the morals and educational standing of the candidate and report. This also being satisfactory, the Bishop can send the candidate to some Divinity School, or have him trained in the Diocese. The paper was freely discussed, and, to a great extent, its suggestions were approved, but it was pointed out that, however well some such scheme might be carried out in towns or cities and older settled countries, it would be found utterly impracticable in such a diocese as Algoma, where the struggle for bare existence effectually precludes any of the young men, however much they might be disposed to do so, offering themselves as candidates. The want of means, and, what is alas! apparently to become chronic in the diocese, *the continued want of means*, is a decided bar to any attempt of the Bishop's either sending young men, if he could get them, to a Divinity School outside, or commencing such a school inside his diocese.

An almost exhaustive paper was read by the Rev. Mr. Chowne of Rosseau upon "*The Algoma Missionary News*, how to increase its efficiency as a medium of communication with the church outside the Diocese both in Canada and in England."

In the discussion which followed, from the Bishop downward, every one agreed that some such medium was an absolute requisite if the Diocese is to be properly and effectually brought before the world at large. A proposal was made to publish the paper in Muskoka, should the clergy in other parts of the Diocese approve, and the Bishop was asked to communicate with the Rev. Mr. Wilson, the present editor, on the subject.

Sunday schools was the subject next on the list, and a paper was to have been read by the Rev. Mr. Stubbs of Bracebridge. But that gentleman has been compelled by the state of his health and urgent medical advice to seek a more genial climate, and consequently his paper was not forthcoming. The conference unanimously expressed the general sorrow and regret at the absence of Mr. Stubbs for the cause assigned, and requested his Lordship to convey to that gentleman this expression of their minds and at the same time to forward to Mrs. Stubbs their warm sympathy with her in this hour of her trial.

A warm and earnest discussion followed upon "Sunday Schools," the management, conductors, teachers and lessons. But the subject was too important a one to be fully discussed so late in the day and therefore an adjournment had to take place.