

News from the Home Field.

Diocese of Quebec.

CATHEDRAL SERVICES.

(From Quebec Diocesan Gazette.)

Many of our readers are aware that there has existed a considerable difference of opinion among the Cathedral worshippers, with regard to what is the best method of conducting their Church Services, and this diversity, which has existed for years, has lately been brought into prominence in the following manner. First of all, our Bishop, while he found earnest hearty services in about all the Churches of the Diocese, felt keenly the coldness of the Services at the Cathedral, which ought, of course, to be a high example to all around. There was a fair congregation on Sunday mornings, but there was very little responding and very little united action on the part of the worshippers. On Sunday evenings the congregation was *very small indeed*, and as to week-day services there was hardly any congregation at all. It was moreover evident, that owing to this coldness and dreariness, many had deserted their Church and many more were proposing to follow, so that, unless some change was made, the outlook was most discouraging. Finding, therefore, that the Cathedral had been committed as a trust to the Bishops of Quebec,—a trust expressly continued, when the Cathedral was lent by Letters Patent to its congregation and became also a Parish Church, and finding that when the Cathedral was opened at the beginning of the Century, there was a Surpliced Choir and proper Cathedral Service, which was maintained for forty years, and finding also that arrangements had been made by the late Bishop and agreed to by the Rector and Church-Wardens in 1888, whereby there was to be "Solomon daily worship of Almighty God according to the use of the Church of England in all her Cathedrals from time immemorial," the present Bishop, without asserting any rights, made last year sundry propositions, first to the Select Vestry and afterwards to the worshippers as a body, leaving it to the Dean to accept the whole or such part of these propositions as might in his judgment seem to be best. The result was that the Dean, while he declined some of the points which were proposed by the Bishop, as being, under all the circumstances, unadvisable, gave his decision in November last to the effect that, in accordance with the expressed wishes of a great majority of the worshippers, the Choir should come down from the west gallery to the body of the Church, that the Pulpit should have a position toward the north side of the Church eastward of the Choir, that the Sunday-Morning Service should be read as hitherto, that the Sunday Evening Service should be Choral, and that a Surpliced Choir should be formed as soon as possible, retaining however the assistance of the ladies of the present Choir and thus maintaining a high standard of efficiency. And at the same time the Dean also decided, that on Week-days, there should be simple Cathedral Services with a Surpliced Choir of boys and an auxiliary Choir of ladies.

Since, at the second meeting of worshippers above referred to there was presented by those who objected to the Bishop's proposals a petition, in which the petitioners said they would gladly accept all, that had been agreed to by the Select-Vestry, and since the Select Vestry had distinctly left the question of a Sunday Evening Choral Service and of a Surpliced Choir to the congregation, which at this meeting voted in favor of those points by a very large majority, it was hoped that what the Dean decided would prove to be an arrangement, to which all parties

in the congregation would gladly agree; and in this case, and especially, if the seats on Sunday evenings could be declared free, the Bishop felt confident that there would soon be a very considerable increase in the Sunday evening congregations, as well as at the Week-day Services. And thus far, in spite of the fact that, most unfortunately, certain families have absented themselves, there has certainly been a most marked increase.

But, during the winter, those who object to these very moderate proposals, have been holding meetings and conferring together, with the result that, at the Easter Vestry, they were largely in the majority and were able to choose a Select Vestry entirely to their own mind; excluding even a minority of those who hail the choral worship, as being necessary as well as lawful and right. The next step was the moving of a resolution at the Vestry to the effect that the Pew rents in the Cathedral, instead of ranging from \$30 to \$50 per pew, should, in future, be only \$1 per pew. The mover, Mr. R. Turner, said, very properly, that he hoped thus to open the Cathedral to all comers; he was forgetful however of the fact that, if this was the only object, it would be far better to declare all the seats to be perfectly free and to adopt some other plan, such as the well known envelope system, for the maintenance of the Fabric and the support of the Clergy and paid Lay Officers of the Church. It was pointed out by such high authorities as Judge Andrews and Mr. James Dunbar, Q. C., that the motion was one which could not be properly entertained, because it contravened section XII of the Church 'Temporalities' Act, which provides that alterations of scales of pew rents cannot be made without previous notice and a special meeting. But, in spite of this protest, the motion was pressed to a division and carried. A few days later, however, two legal opinions were given, one by the Hon. Mr. Joly de Lotbiniere, and the other by Mr. W. Cook, Q. C., to the effect that the motion carried was "ultra vires," and that it must, therefore, for the present, at any rate, fall to the ground. This is probably fortunate, inasmuch as anything that is done by surprise is hardly likely to afford permanent satisfaction. But it is easy to understand that, owing to all that has occurred, both parties feel somewhat vexed and hurt, and it is sad to hear that some members of both parties seem to be advisably withdrawing their support from the weekly Offertory. Whereas, when it has been made clear by both the Bishop and the Dean that the changes made have been adopted simply as an arrangement for the good of the greatest number, and that by this arrangement the principal Service (*i. e.* the Sunday Morning Service) is to be simply read as hitherto, while only the Evening Service, which was until lately very little attended, is to be given to those who love the beautiful Choral Worship of our Cathedral Churches, with an honorable understanding that these changes are final, surely both parties ought to be able to join hands and agree in a brotherly spirit to support their Church to the full extent of their power. And there certainly need to be no objection, on the ground that it is unjust to thrust upon the congregation the additional expense involved in maintaining Cathedral Services, for whatever expenses are incurred in addition to those, which have already been necessary for the maintenance of the Parish Church Services, will be met, not out of the ordinary funds placed at the disposal of the Wardens, but out of a special fund to be contributed or raised by the Bishop.

Only let all realise how important it is to retain the interest and good-will of all the present worshippers, and indeed to gather in ever more and more; only let all see that division means ruin and that union means strength; only let all consider that the Dean's decision, although it grants what many do not prefer, is yet far from granting all that was originally asked; only let

all realise in fact what a mistake it is to allow the narrow spirit of two or three irreconcilables on either side to prevail against the moderate counsels of the many, and then, surely, all will be ready, for the sake of peace and for the good of the Church, loyally to abide by what has been arranged, walking worthy of the vocation wherewith they are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace, remembering that there is one Body and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our Calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all; to whom be all glory and praise for ever and ever. Amen.

Diocese of Montreal.

APPOINTMENT.—The Lord Bishop of the Diocese has been pleased to appoint the Rev. W. H. Naylor, M. A., for many years Rural Dean of Clarendon, to be Archdeacon of Clarendon, and Rev. F. R. Smith, Rector of Hull, to be Rural Dean, vice Naylor. We extend our hearty congratulations to both. Archdeacon Naylor has for many years done faithful and effective service for the Church in the upper part of the Diocese on the Ottawa, and his advancement to the higher office will, we are sure, be generally acceptable to clergy and laity. Mr. Smith being till in the prime of life ought to make an active and able Rural Dean.

CHAMBLY.

Mr. Butler was very agreeably surprised on his return from a short visit to Toronto and Ottawa, to find a present awaiting him from the Women's Guild of St. Stephen's, of a very handsome ink bottle, with a silver top and set in a heavy stand of silver, and a case containing a pencil case, paper cutter and penholder, all of silver, beautifully carved and with the initials G. H. B. engraved on the top of the ink bottle and on the paper knife. The present was accompanied by a letter from the President of the Guild, expressing on her own behalf and that of sixteen members, whose names are appended, their appreciation of his help and interest in the work of the Guild and their regret at his approaching departure. A meeting of the vestry was held on Monday, 30th ult., in the hope of being able to select names to nominate to the Lord Bishop for election of a Rector, but nothing was effected, except a further adjournment to May 14th, when it is greatly to be desired that the wardens may be in a position to present some names of clergymen, willing to accept the appointment, which may be acceptable to the vestry.

Diocese of Ontario.

NEWBORO.

The Rev. Mr. Grout, son of the Rev. Rural Dean Grout, of Lynn, succeeds the Rev. Mr. Bonsfield, as incumbent of this parish.

GANANOQUE.

The Rural Deanery of Leeds is convened to meet here on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 8th and 9th inst. All the clergy of the Deanery are expected to be present.

Evensong will be said at 7.30 on Tuesday. Rev. T. J. Stiles, Rector of Frankville, and secretary of the Deanery, will preach the sermon.

On Wednesday at 8 a.m. there will be a celebration of the Holy Communion. At 7.30 Evensong special addresses will be given by Rev. Dr. Nimmo, Rev. J. W. Jones and Rev. O. G. Dobbs, of St. Paul's church, Brockville.