

## News from the Home Field.

### DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

**BRIDGETOWN AND BELLEISLE.**—The Lord Bishop of the Diocese, on his recent Confirmation tour, reached this parish September 16th. He was met at the station by the Rector and driven to the Rectory, where he rested for the night. The Sunday services commenced at 10.30 a.m., when a large congregation assembled in the parish church and were addressed by His Lordship in his usual forcible and impressive manner, after which eleven persons—4 male and 7 female—received the "Laying On of Hands," all of whom, with one exception, remained to Holy Communion. After dinner the Bishop drove to Belleisle, seven miles distant, and delivered another lengthy address to the people of the district church and confirmed five others. The Bishop's remarks in this part of the parish have already produced a good effect in the formation of a society by the ladies for the purpose of raising funds to improve the interior arrangements of the church.

The annual Harvest Thanksgiving Services were held in this parish on 8th Oct. The morning service was at Belleisle, where the neat church was carefully and tastefully decorated with a combination of flowers, fruit and grain. The altar especially, with its floral altar-cross, had a most striking effect, and the general appearance of the church was very good. The service in the evening was in Bridgetown, where a large congregation attended and manifested their interest by hearty singing and responding. Here also the church was beautifully decorated with flowers, grain and fruit, the western gallery being hung with white banners containing appropriate mottoes and sentences, the central sentence being "Who giveth food to all flesh." On each side of the door were placed baskets of handsome fruit. The font was surrounded with a profusion of flowers, mosses and ferns, and crowned with a white floral cross. The pulpit and desk were panelled in white and green and vested with white silk banners. The effect of the whole, especially when lighted up at night, was exceedingly good. An appropriate sermon was preached by the Rector from the petition in the Litany: "That it may please Thee to give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so as in due time we may enjoy them." Beautiful harvest hymns were sung by an excellent choir, and the service closed with the singing of Dykes' beautiful *Te Deum* as a Hymn of Thanksgiving.

The ladies of the parish held a fancy sale and tea on 18th inst. for the purpose of raising funds to pay off the remaining debt, at which the sum of \$87 was raised. The anxious desire of all now seems to be to free the parish from the debts by which it has been so long hampered in order that a fund may be started for the building of a new church so greatly needed.

**WEYMOUTH.**—On Monday afternoon, the 9th ult., the Bishop of the Diocese arrived at the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Barton, accompanied by the Rector of Digby. Divine service commenced at 3.30; the Rev. J. Ambrose said the prayers. The Bishop then addressed the large congregation upon topics of local interest, commended improvements made since his last visit, and imparting, as his Lordship ever does, wise counsel and advice. There being but one candidate for Confirmation, the Bishop lamented this, and said that the Confirmation service was framed on the principle of plurality. And this led him to speak with much faithfulness to the parents and all concerned on the great importance of having their children early catechised, and by their own example to train them early in godliness and in the principles of their Church. His address to the single candidate was extremely touching, such indeed as those, who know the Bishop, can form some idea of what his words would be on such an occasion. On the other hand, the decision and piety of the candidate, and the admirable deportment of one of tender years, had an evident effect on all present, evincing how strong was the desire on her part for obtaining in this dedication of her young life to God an increase of grace and spiritual

strength to enable her to go on faithfully in the path of Divine life which she had so happily begun. Before proceeding to Weymouth the Bishop entered the residence of Mr. W. M. Bond, and paid a visit of condolence to the widow of the late Dr. J. B. Bond, who has recently entered into his rest. The following morning the service commenced at 10.30; a congregation filled the Church to overflowing. The Rector bore the emblem of the Bishop's office, and the Rev. John Ambrose occupied the desk and read, as at St. Mary's the previous day, the preface to the Confirmation service. The Bishop then addressed the people, and expressed much gratification at observing several improvements since the day of consecration in November, 1880. He again referred to the beauty of the Church, which his Lord remarked was "unique" in the Diocese, its windows being all filled with stained glass; but he could not but mournfully reflect that the three windows in the chancel, "in memorium of families, had now become memorials of the deceased donors themselves." It had, however, given him pleasure to learn that the debt (\$500) which hung over the Church had recently been cleared off. While commending their liberality he felt in duty bound to set before the members of the Church, the present altered financial condition of the Diocese, the withdrawal of aid from England now amounting to several thousand dollars, and was increasing year by year. He felt persuaded, however, that the members of the Church here would greatly augment their efforts in behalf of Diocesan objects; and firmly believed that those who succeeded the lamented departed ones, would emulate their good deeds, and would in connection with all their fellow Churchmen go on with fresh zeal and liberality in the good work of Church progress. The Bishop's address to the 23 candidates was, as usual, very thorough, and couched in such words as could not only make a most solemn and lasting impression on the minds of the candidates themselves, but also tend to revive and quicken thoughts on the minds of those who, in former years, had received from him their Chief Pastor, the rite of "laying on of hands." He conclusively showed the origin of Confirmation,—that it was not a mere appointment of the Church, but an ordinance which had come down from the days of the Apostles, along the track of ages, to the present time. His Lordship showed the invalidity of the objections frequently urged against it,—that the extraordinary manifestations of the Holy Spirit were not now seen to accompany Confirmation—since these were bestowed for a specific purpose now no longer required. Indeed, his Lordship added, such reasoning proved too much, and could, in the same way, be brought to bear against other means of grace. The extraordinary manifestations which, in apostolic days accompanied "the laying on of hands" as well as other ordinances, have, doubtless, ceased; but will any one venture to affirm that the ordinary gifts have ceased in the Church to which the Great Head promised His presence to the end of the world? After a discourse having reference to the blessed feast which was to follow, between 50 and 60 communicants remained to feed on Him, who is the 'Bread of Life.'

The sermon at St. Mary's on "entering into the heavenly rest" was also very impressive and edifying. The handsome altar-cloth at this church was recently presented by Mrs. Boyd, of St. John, N. B., wife of the Hon. John Boyd, and eldest daughter of the late Cereno P. Jones, Esq. This gentleman takes much interest in the Parish of Weymouth, having not only contributed handsomely to its erection, but he has also lately sent us a donation of \$100 to aid in liquidating the debt, which is now accomplished. The Bishop's visit to us was, much to his own regret and ours, from causes which could not be controlled, short, his Lordship leaving for Yarmouth by the train that afternoon. While waiting for its arrival he inspected the font recently placed in the Church of St. Thomas, Weymouth Bridge, and indicated a suitable spot for placing it. The floors of the church are now covered throughout with cocoanut matting, and a new bell from Meneely's, of 500 lbs. weight, will soon be in position, the former having become defective. The good people of this neighborhood have other improvements in hand.

**AMHERST RURAL DEANERY.**—The next meeting of the Chapter of this Deanery will be held at Parrsborough on Thursday, November 30th.

J. A. KAULBACH, Secy.

**NEW GLASGOW.**—On Sunday, 29th inst., the Rev. Fred. J. J. Smith, successor to the Rev. D. C. Moore during his absence in England, held Divine Service in Stellarton and New Glasgow churches. The attendance was larger than usual, and the members of both churches seemed highly pleased with their new pastor.

### DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

**DERBY.**—The Ruri-decanal Chapter of Clatham met in this parish on Tuesday, 17th, and two following days of October ult. 2 Tim. iii. was read in the original with much profit. Rev. Wm. Wilkinson read a paper on Lay Baptism, shewing that it was not valid either according to the rule of God's Word or the *consensus* of the Church Catholic. A long and animated discussion ensued, in which both sides of the subject were quite fully presented and much information elicited of a very satisfactory character. It was resolved that a portion of the time at future meetings be given to the study of Hebrew, and accordingly the Psalms were selected to form the first course of reading in the sacred tongue. The next meeting was appointed to be held in Baie du Vin on Tuesday, January 30th. The Rector of the parish took advantage of the presence of so many of his brethren to hold harvest thanksgivings in his churches both at Derby and Blackville. The former was held Tuesday evening, and the sermon was by Rev. J. H. S. Sweet, from Ps. cxxxvi. 5, 6, and the latter on the following evening, the preacher being Rev. Wm. J. Wilkinson and the text Ps. lxxv. 1. The usual Deanery service was held on Tuesday evening in St. Peter's, Derby, with sermon by Rev. D. Forsythe from Jeremiah xxiii. 28, 29.

**SAINT DAVID'S.**—An interesting service was held in the parish church on S.S. Simon and Jude's Day. The church has been thoroughly repaired, reshingled and painted inside and out. A super-altar and reredos surmounted by a cross have been added to the sanctuary, the pulpit has been lowered, the font moved to the west end of the church, and new matting laid down in the aisles. The improvement in the church is very great, and much praise is due to the hardworking Rector and the Ladies' Sewing Society. The day was kept by a service of re-opening after the work of beautifying God's House. The service commenced with Matins by the Rector followed after the second lesson by the baptism of two children, the daughter and nephew of the Rector. The sacred rite of admittance into the Church was performed by the Rev. J. Rushton, of St. Stephen. Then came Holy Communion, the celebrant and preacher being the Rev. A. D. Merkel, Rector of Calais, Maine. The preacher took for his text the words of the Master, "I am the Door," and pointed out the importance of Baptism as admitting the Christian, through Christ, into the fold. He also took occasion to allude to the position of the font, at the door of the church, as symbolical of the meaning and purpose of the Holy Sacrament of Baptism. The service throughout was very hearty. The Rev. J. Rushton presided at the organ; and the offertory for the repair fund amounted to \$5.45. Such services encourage the parish priest in his difficult and arduous duties.

### DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

(From our own correspondents.)

**MONTREAL.**—The "Coffee House" scheme that was broached and discussed in connection with the Cathedral Band of Hope is now a fact. It has been made a joint stock enterprise, in which the Cathedral Band of Hope is but one shareholder—though a large and deeply interested one. The compliment has been given the Dean of naming it. He has called it the "Hope Coffee House."

The Roman Diocese of Montreal has been laboring under an immense debt (\$800,000), incurred during the active episcopate of Ignace Bourget, now