

PARISH NOTES.

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PARISH NOTES.

THE meeting of the Synod and Diocesan Church Society, our annual Picnic, and the performance of the Oratorio Society in our church, are the events of the past month demanding their record in our columns. The response to the rector's circular was most encouraging, and he was enabled to announce that the full sum of \$500 for the General Purposes Fund, at which our parish had been assessed by the Board of Home Missions, had been subscribed, in addition to the sum of \$100 for the "Incapacitated Clergy Fund," and nearly \$50 for the "Widows and Orphans' Fund." It is right to admit that certain extraneous helps enabled us to attain these most satisfactory figures, among which donations of \$50 and \$40 respectively by Mr. F. Scovil and Mr. Fellows must be mentioned. However, it is a great encouragement for next year, when we trust that the old "Stone Church" will not fall behind this position.

THE meeting of the Synod may be described as quiet and uneventful. The great question of amalgamation, it was understood, would not be pressed; and our own local committee had passed a resolution of non-commitment, reserving action for a later date. It will be well for members of our congregation to make themselves acquainted with the conditions which, sooner or later, will have to be dealt with, so that, before the meeting of the next Synod, or when the time for decided action has come, our delegates may bear with them the united voice of our community. The debates turned mainly on business questions, and were singularly free from any personal character. Indeed, a captious critic might have been inclined to ascribe some measure of dullness to them, but for a redeeming incident on the Wednesday night, when Mr. Raymond, followed by Canon Brigstocke, in a very effective speech, spoke of the urgent need of bringing men into the diocese and especially of inducing the denizens of this province to offer their sons for the ministry of the Gospel. The annual sermon was preached by Mr. Raymond, a distinction which our congregation will appreciate. It is no light ordeal to speak at once *ad Verbum* and

ad populum; but the Rector of St. Mary's, in a brief but remarkably able discourse, very signally justified his selection. When the large body of clergy returned to the vestry, they were addressed by the venerable Metropolitan in a few touching words, which will not readily be forgotten by those privileged to hear them.

THE annual Picnic of the Sunday School will be found described in another column by those representatives of the Y. M. A. who had the sole responsibility of management, and who therefore merit the entire credit of success. But one who was present only as a spectator may be allowed to supplement by a few remarks what the modesty of his younger colleagues may leave unsaid. First, it may be stated without fear of contradiction, that the affair was a great success, and in spite of one *contretemps*, unforeseen and unpreventable, which delayed the arrival of a considerable portion of the materials of amusement and commissariat. The loss of the cricketing implements deprived spectators of what has been a popular feature of the last three picnics, a match between eleven Seniors and fifteen Juniors. But with this exception, all other shortcomings were cheerfully accepted. 'Fine weather is nine points for a picnic,' it was observed by one who was there; and given fine weather, Lepreaux cannot be surpassed as a place for this purpose. An excellent ground, with all needful appliances, beautiful scenery, a journey not too long, and robbed now, we are thankful to say, of the terrors for which the Shore Line were once famous,—even those who hesitated at the selection for a time, were converted at last. We are sure that those members of the Y. M. A. to whose incessant labour the success of the undertaking was mainly due, (we leave to them the pleasant task of acknowledging the help they received from our ladies) made notes of one or two points where, next year, some little amendment is possible.

Firstly, they will doubtless invent some new methods of amusement for the girls, whose share in the prize list was disproportionately small. The flower prizes given by Mrs. deSoyres and Mrs. Keator, excited so considerable a competition that the judges (Mrs. T. Adams, Mrs. Manning and Miss Hunt) needed long confabulation, before arriving at a decision, and many beautiful *bouquets* remained unrewarded. The archery contest suffered from the lack of practice on the part of the competitors, though no victory was better deserved nor more popular among her companions than that of Miss Annie Murray. Races, except for little girls, did not seem popular, nor is this to be wondered at. Might we suggest that prizes might be offered for such objects as—1, a sketch taken on the spot; 2, a geological collection, concerning which latter competition, we boast an excellent judge in our superintendent, Mr. Wilson. The other remark of a critical nature will be forgiven by those whom it concerns, the boys of our Sunday School. It seemed to many spectators that there was a lack of animation in many of the competitions, few seeming to enter except with the certainty or probability of a prize. This robbed the contests of great part of their interest, and was a poor return to the Committee for their zeal in arranging so attractive a prize list. We doubt not that