

LAKEFIELD.—*St. John's Church.*—The usual Christmas tree was held on the 29th Dec. Prizes were given to many of the pupils.

FRATERNAL VISIT.—In accordance with their usual custom the choir of *St. Matthias' Church* made a visit to one of the country churches on New Years' Day. This time they selected *Streetsville* as the objective point and they contrived to aid the Church there while enjoying themselves. A concert was held in the *Town Hall* at which they assisted on New Years' Eve. On the following day they sang matins in Church when a sermon was preached by the Rev. C. E. Whitcombe, of *St. Luke's Toronto*.

S. S. ASSOCIATION.—The next meeting of this newly formed organization will take place on the 22nd of January at *St. Stephen's school house*. The meeting will be addressed by the Lord Bishop on "Sunday School Rewards, Prizes and Tracts." As the subject is interesting and is certain to be treated in an interesting way, the attendance should be very large.

TEMPERANCE.—Mr. Meser, the active secretary treasurer of the C. E. T. S., has removed his stock of tracts, pamphlets, &c., bearing on the temperance question to the Synod rooms. Visitors will receive due attention daily between 11 o'clock and three.

ST. JAMES' SUNDAY SCHOOLS.—On the 27th of Dec. the pupils of these schools numbering no less than eight hundred, assembled in their class rooms. The children were first treated to a magic lantern exhibition shown by Mr. Potter, after which a number of prizes were presented to the deserving ones by Mrs. Dumoulin. Each child on passing out received a bag of sweetmeats. The little ones were delighted with the evening's pleasure.

DIocese OF ONTARIO.

CLARA.—Our Christmas services in *St. Alban's Church, Mattawa*, afforded a good illustration of what may be effected by the hearty co-operation of an earnest zealous pastor, and a small but loyal flock. The congregation of about a hundred nearly filled the building, and it is not too much to say that the most devout and orderly attention prevailed. The little Church was adorned in full harmony with the season; and the decorations, chaste and becoming, bespoke the joy felt by all hearts at the return of the natal day of the Lord. The wreathing of the Chancel-arch and windows, the altar-banners, and the well-finished mural inscriptions reflect the highest credit on the task as well as the zeal of those "whose hearts stirred them up to the service of the Sanctuary." The musical portion of the service was, considering its pioneer character very creditable to the choir, and although somewhat ambitious lost nothing by the hearty assistance of the congregation. The joyous carrol-strains of "Christians awake" announced the opening of the service and the somewhat lengthy hymn was fairly well sustained to the end. Jackson's *Te Deum* (in F) was rendered aptly, and, although novel to most present, seemed to make itself quite familiar to all. The solo portions were taken with good effect by the Rector's wife, Mrs. Colin Rankin, Miss Rankin, and Mr. S. McMeekin. But the chief musical feature of the service was Nonello's anthem "Sing unto the Lord," a spirited composition characterized by bold melody and skilful effective harmony. The *Andante Quartette*, "For Behold!" was rendered in a faultless manner, and was followed by the fine counterpoint chorus "Sing unto the Lord." A short and earnest address by the Rector, Rev. C. V. Bliss, preceded the celebration (also choral) of the Holy Eucharist. We trust, in conclusion that this Christmas service may be the herald of many such services throughout the Church's Year. We are in no danger of an over-adorned or an uncongregational service. With equal firmness are we determined to oppose that morbid dread of

brightness which has converted the services of so many congregations into a chilly duet between the officiating minister and the parish clerk. The Lord wills that He should be praised with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. That the praises of the lips should be echoed from the heart and understanding also; and shall we so far dare to rebel, as to deny him the one half of His will, and then pretend to execute the other half? The organ and musical part of the services is under the charge of Mr. Thomas R. Stewart recently of *Trinity College, Dublin*, but now a resident of *Mattawa*.

OTTAWA.—"Midnight Services" were held on New Year's Eve at all the City Churches at the close of the year 1883, beginning at a quarter to eleven o'clock. The "Midnight Services" is not *per se*, a Church service, and was therefore a novelty at *Christ Church*, this being the first time it has been held there, the Archdeacon of *Ottawa* having yielded to the request of some members of that congregation in the matter. The proceeds of the offertory were devoted to Mr. J. W. F. Harrison the organist of the Church. Midnight Services have been held at the Churches of *St. John the Evangelist* and *St. Alban the Martyr* for some years past.

THE Very Reverend the Dean of Ontario has appointed the Rev. H. J. Petry, M. A., Incumbent of *Danville, Diocese of Quebec*, to be curate, *pro tem* of *St. George's Cathedral, Kingston*.

THE Rev. R. S. Forneri has brought the subject of the erection of a memorial to the United Empire Loyalists, in the form of a Church before the public. It is proposed to build a church at *Adolphustown* this year. The centenary of the immigration into Canada of that devoted band of Loyalists, who esteemed principle and loyalty before all else. The result of Mr. Forneri's efforts has been the formation, at *Kingston*, of a committee of gentlemen, who are pushing the project forward with vigour. The residents of *Adolphustown* are also taking an active interest in the project and intend holding a public meeting to consider the subject on Thursday the 10th inst. Mr. Forneri is the son of an Italian refugee who was compelled on account of his political opinions to seek an asylum in England, and is peculiarly adapted to the work which he has undertaken. The scheme is one which ought to be cordially supported.

DIocese OF NIAGARA.

HAMILTON.—Among all the bright and hearty Services of Xmas-tide, those of *S. Mark's, Hamilton, Ont.*, certainly merit more than a passing notice. Under its able Rector, Rev. R. G. Sutherland, M. A., aided by a willing staff of devoted, faithful, lay-helpers, a most excellent work is being done, both for the city in particular, and in the Diocese in general. A visitor cannot but be greatly impressed with the congregational character of the Services, and the devout, manifest reverence of the congregations. The Holy Communion was celebrated (the "eastward position" being used) at 8 a.m., on all Sundays and Saints' Days; the other Services were, Matins with sermon, at 11 a.m.; Holy Communion (choral) at noon; Litany (choral) at 4 p.m., and Evensong (choral) at 7 p.m. The altar, elevated upon three steps, is properly vested according to the season, at present, of course, in the festal colour; the superfrontal, red, bears the words "Holy, Holy, Holy," in gold letters; while upon the centre of the re-table stands, within a small "tabernaculum," a brass cross, replaced at this season by one of pure white flowers, and a *calla* lily at the base. Behind the altar is a small but neat "reredos," with curtains of the appropriate colour at each side. Finally, the credence table, *sedilia*, &c., are all in their places. The choir, properly vested in cassocks and surplices, and ably conducted by Mr. David Kemp, number some thirty boys and men. A handsome rood-screen, surmounted by a cross,

separates the chancel from the nave. The pulpit, reading desk, &c., have appropriate antependia, which, like the altar vestment, are of the festal colour. The Christmas decorations are few, but chaste. Two coloured texts, "Unto us a child is born," "Unto us a Son is given," some banners bearing the A+O, the "Agnus Dei," &c., and two banners near the rood-screen, in red and blue, respectively, illuminated, and bearing the texts above mentioned; these, together with a festoon of spruce fir around the font, and some ivy twining round the cover of the same, are all that are in the nave. Round the pillars of the rood-screen are wreaths of spruce with, at intervals, mountain-ash berries in clustres; while at the top and along the front is, in white "diamond-dust" letters on a red ground, "The Desire of all nations hath come," with a gilt star at the summit of the screen and gilt crosses at each end. The chancel contains a white banner with the crown and palm branch, and the words "Alleluia"; while in the sanctuary are two fixed shields, in red, bearing, respectively, the texts "Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ," and "Christ is born in Bethlehem," and three moveable banners—the banner of *St. Mark*, the banner of the Holy Cross, and the banner of the Blessed Sacrament. Finally, several pots of palms and callas stood at the foot of the altar, at each side, and, as it should have been stated before, five vases of choice flowers upon the super-altar and re-table. It need hardly be stated that the Christmas services, 8, 11 and 12, respectively, were very attractive, particularly the last. The choir, headed by the banner of the Blessed Sacrament, and followed by the celebrant, the Parish Priest, wearing the stole of the appropriate colour, advanced up the nave, singing the grand old "Adeste Fideles," in which all joined heartily. Marbecke's Service, the one in use here, with the "Pange Lingua," and "Bread of Heaven, on Thee we feed," were sung, and the celebration terminated by the "Nunc Dimittis" in procession, the hymn, "Jesu, meek and lowly," having been sung during the Ablutions. On Sunday last the services were of the same festal character, Rev. R. T. Nichol, B. A., Classical Master, *Trinity College School, Port Hope*, being the celebrant, and Rev. Mr. Lee, *Diocese of Ontario, Deacon*. On the whole, throughout this Diocese, there is an awakening, though a slow one, to Church life. The Missions of *St. Alban, Luther, of Arthur and of Harriston*, can give a good account of themselves, while in many other places the people are becoming leavened with true Church doctrine. Still a great deal yet remains to be done, and each intelligent layman must put forth all zeal and energy to raise the status of Church life both here and elsewhere.

DIocese OF QUEBEC.

THE Fortieth Anniversary of the *St. Frances District Association of the Church Society of Quebec* was held as usual in the City of *Sherbrooke* on the 11th and 12th of December. On these occasions the Bishop of *Quebec* and all the clergy of the district of *St. Francis*, twenty-five in number, assembled there, and spent two days together in conference upon the missionary work of the Church. We always try to obtain the assistance of one of the American Bishops, or leading clergy for these occasions, and we have had in past years the honour and advantage of the aid of the Bishops of *Maine* and *New Hampshire*, of *Dr. Phillips Brooks* and others. This year we were so fortunate as to secure a visit from the Bishop of *Vermont*, and I venture to send you a somewhat extended account of our proceeding.

Sherbrooke is the *chef lieu* of these eastern townships, the section of *Lower Canada* where the bulk of our English speaking people dwell. Three miles south of it lies the charmingly situated village of *Lennoxville*, the seat of *Bishop's College*, our Church of *England University of Lower Canada*. Of this important institution, with its faculties of arts and divinity, and its *Grammar School at Lennoxville*, its *Faculty of Law at Sherbrooke*, and its *Faculty of Medicine in Mon-*