

was invited by the Rev. Mother Superior to act temporarily as Chaplain under the Warden to the Mother House at Ditchingham. Those were to me somewhat like days of luxury in religion, especially as regarded the Sunday Services, with the music so carefully selected and prepared, the Psalms and Canticles rendered antiphonally between the officiant and the congregation, in the comely solemn Chapel so well appointed.

In due course of time the little band came forth from the Mother House to face the rugged experience of Pioneers of the Religious Life of the English Church in the Far West, and in the Sisters' little Oratory, before the tiny altar, were reproduced to the extent of our feeble powers the Psalm tones and Marbeck's unperishing Communion music, brought out from Home.

In time there joined in the ten or twelve girls who formed the first nucleus of the School, and last week I was taking my part, in the present Chapel filled with a congregation of 60 children, representing the pupils of both the Indian and Canadian School assembled for Choral Mattins on St. Mark's Day. The Psalms for the day were sung from Helmore's Psalter noted, the Venite and Benedictus from his supplementary Canticle book, the Benedictus being Marbeck and Dyce's arrangement of the 5th. Tone. The Te Deum was from Dyke's Morning Service in F, which in my opinion does not receive justice when sung by treble voices only. The Office Hymn for St. Mark's Day "From out the cloud of amber light" was set to a M. S. tune. The Responses were sung to Tallis' Festal form, entailing, as is so frequently the case, a complete ignoring of the Plain Song

in the people's part. [This I was assured would be remedied in future.] The precision of the singing throughout the service indicated the pains that had been taken in the instructing and practising of the pupils, a mark which characterises all the work done at the All Hallows' School. After Mattins the Indian School remained and gave me a rendering of the Advent Melody, *Veni Veni Emmanuel*, and the Easter Melody *O filii et filiae*, which were exceptionally good.

It is a satisfaction to find a spot in the Diocese where Plainsong is retained and in use. This music with the rest that is used in the Chapel and in the Church at Yale is evidently taught with thoroughness and energy, though as a devotee one could desire one step further, that of loving familiarity. When the ear and mind have become thoroughly familiarised with the ancient Church Tones and Melodies freed from the restrictions of organ accompaniment and time beats, the utterances of the Psalms and Hymns will take upon them the Tones and Melodies as readily as the body assumes its every day clothing. To my mind it is only the Church's Plain Song that answers the challenge of the Psalter "Sing us one of the Songs of Zion" or better still the bidding of the Psalmist "O sing unto God with the voice of melody."

R. S.

SS. Phillip and James' Day, 1899.

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### School Register.

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### Michaelmas Term. 1899.

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Winifred Armstrong,	-	Golden.
Marjorie Armstrong,	-	"
Edith Yates,	-	New Denver.