

It is quite true that the colour of a stole is a small matter, but to the minds of many people it shows the direction. A candid Ritualist has told me that the only ritual he values is that of the Eucharistic vestment, and a coloured stole by itself is an absurdity, except as a first step upwards. If the Bishop does not intend this, it would be well for him to reassure us on the point.

EVANGELICAL.

\* \* Our correspondent fails to see that, in the note appended to the Bishop's letter in our issue of last month, the logical discrepancy between an Episcopal direction on the one side, and an appeal to a recent usage on the other, was very clearly although very courteously indicated. But we differ from him in considering the matter of any urgent gravity. The clergymen in question acted sensibly in leaving their stoles at home, and being present at the service unrobed. Their respectful appeal will doubtless bear fruit in the future absence of any direction about an ornament which the Bishop has admitted to be unauthorized by law. Probably at the next Synod the clergy will be requested *not* to bring any stoles to the Cathedral.

ED. CH. RECORD.

### PARISH NOTES.

Christmas Day was worthily commemorated in our parish. Willing workers had devoted many days to the decoration of the Church, with a success which only the very elaborate work of 1889 ever surpassed. The motto for the year was inscribed upon the front of the south gallery, and the text of the Christmas morning's discourse upon the east and west sides. The pulpit and reading desk were beautifully decorated with pressed ferns, and an entirely new feature, a series of arches in the centre aisle, was suggested and executed by Mr. A. O. Skinner, who also had charge of the side galleries.

The music was in every respect worthy of our traditions, and the choir did not fall short of the standard set in former days, when our numbers were somewhat larger. We are greatly indebted to the aid of Messrs. Mayes and Ewing, while our regular members one and all entered *con amore* into the work. It would be difficult to select one piece rather than other as deserving of special praise for execution; but perhaps the morning anthem, *Tel Deum*, Mr. Ford's new hymn tune to Luther's words ("Give heed my heart, lift up thine eyes,"<sup>2</sup>) and the evening Carols, gave the most general pleasure. The exceeding length of the evening psalms, with the brevity of the lessons, placed the choir at a great disadvantage in the early part of the service, against which they contended bravely.

We have also to mention most thankfully, in respect to higher and still more important matters of the service, that the results showed progress as compared with last year. The number of communicants at the two administrations was larger, and the offertory for the poor amounted to no less than \$154. It will be remembered that the parish of St. Mary's receives a share of our offertories. As no help was obtainable from the Swinney Charity this winter, this liberal offertory is doubly gratifying.

The Rector makes two earnest requests to all whom it may concern: Firstly, to send him information as soon as possible of any case of illness in the parish: Secondly, *not* to send him contributions intended for any of our funds. Such offerings, in the case of the donor being unable to place his contribution personally in the alms-plate, should be forwarded to Mr. F. O. Allison, if a matter of Church funds; to Mr. G. E. Fairweather, if for the Sunday School; to Mr. H. Wardroper, if for a Missionary object; or to Mr. W. K. Crawford, if an offering for the poor.

A most important subject was discussed at the last Deanery meeting held at Trinity Schoolhouse; so important that it was much to be regretted that the volume of mere routine business left but scanty time for its consideration. The subject was that of Funerals, and it was introduced by Canon Brigstocke with some brief but weighty observations. The points under discussion related to Sunday funerals, which the clergy of all denominations strongly deprecate, except under circumstances of urgent necessity; to services held in the house, which should be devoted to the consolation of the family, and therefore never conducted in a passage with persons entering and passing; and finally to the modification of the rule of reading no prayers in the Church, but only at the graveside. Canon DeVeber stated that it was his custom in the winter season, to read all prayers except that of committal in the church, where a large congregation could participate in them, and not merely the comparatively small number who accompanied the coffin to the cemetery. The Rector (we may add) has decided to follow this rule in future, and intends always to request a bereaved family to permit of a service being held in the house in the morning of the funeral, when all is quiet, to be followed if possible by the service in the Church in the afternoon. We may add that our own Church suffers under the very serious disadvantage of the centre aisle being too narrow for the convenient passage of pall-bearers. We hope that at the next Easter meeting, this matter will occupy the attention of the congregation, who may empower the Vestry to deal with it.

As we go to press, we are enabled to record that the Christmas Party has been an unqualified success. The credit of the work is solely due to the Junior Girls' Association, and their helpers Mrs. Harrison, Mrs. Robinson, Miss Hunter and Miss See, but all their efforts might have been spoiled by an unfortunate mistake about the ordering the Christmas Tree. Hamlet without the pince of Denmark would have been a success compared to a Christmas party without a tree. We owe to the prompt kindness of Mr. Mathers, who at once gave up his own, and helped in its erection, an expression of gratitude he will not value less because it comes from a great number of children.

Exigences of the printing press, and conditions of delivery make it often uncertain as to the exact time when our numbers reach the reader. But even if retarded a little our reader will not deem the utterance less earnest and heartfelt with which the Editor wishes one and all a 'Happy New Year,' and prays that the people may "go forward" in faith, courage, and charity, with the grace of God, and the possession of His blessings.