

## NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

## DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

**SPRINGHILL.**—The Church here was prettily decorated for Christmas, and on that festival the largest number of communicants in the parish partook of the Blessed Sacrament. This causes much rejoicing in our midst, from the fact that a few years ago it was almost impossible to get a congregation together on Christmas Day. This year every Protestant place of worship in the town was closed, as usual, and horse racing and a goose supper were the central town attractions. The Church has steadfastly striven to recover the festival from desecration and disuse, and Christmas morning found two places of worship in our parish, ministered to by our clergy, well filled with worshippers, and with the result above noted. A more commodious and comfortable church is growing more and more a necessity here.

**NORTH WEST ARM MISSION.**—A memorial tablet has been erected in St. James' Mission Chapel, North West Arm, by the many friends of late Selwyn H. Shreve. It bears the following inscription:

"This tablet is erected by the congregation and Sunday-school scholars of St. James' Chapel, in grateful and loving memory of Selwyn H. Shreve, who departed this life on the 22nd day of June, in the year of our Lord 1888, aged 31 years, and who, during a period of nearly four years, had charge of this portion of St. John and St. Mark's parish in the capacity of lay reader, and labored earnestly to bring all to the knowledge and love of God."

No monument is required to perpetuate his memory in the minds of those who had the happiness to know and the privilege to hear him, but the congregation and friends of this Chapel feel it a duty to record their sense of the value of his services while living and their grief for their loss by his death.

**ST. LUKE'S.**—At the conclusion of the Christmas Eve service at St. Luke's Cathedral the incumbent, Rev. W. B. King, was presented by the superintendent, teachers and librarians of the Sunday-school, with a purse of money, accompanied by a note expressive of their appreciation of his great zeal in this branch of the Church's work.

**PERSONAL.**—The choir trainers both at St. George's Church and St. Luke's Cathedral were the recipients of handsome presents on Christmas Eve from the respective choirs.

The Rector of St. Mark's, Halifax, received a handsome stole from the ladies of the Church.

The Rev. C. E. Mackenzie, who recently took charge of the parish of Albertin, P.E.I., has accepted the rectorship of Shediac in the Diocese of New Brunswick.

The Rev. G. Maynard recently rector of Falkland, has been appointed rector of Hampton, New Brunswick.

A course of lectures on Christian evidences are to be delivered on Sunday afternoons in St. Paul's, Halifax. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese, who is growing daily more dear to the heart of the diocese, is to open the course with a lecture on "Agnosticism."

**ALBION MINES.**—The S. P. C. K. (always forward to help us in the colonies) has granted £30 sterling towards the proposed new chapel for the Westville part of the parish. The Sunday-school in Westville, which only started a few months since with five or eight, now numbers thirty children. This is chiefly owing to the zeal and energy of a young Englishman, who has rendered similar good service at Wolfville, Mr. Ernest Brown.

**AMHERST.**—A very beautiful, solemn and impressive service was held in Christ's Church

at midnight on New Year's Eve, attended by quite a large number, and all must have felt that it was well to be there; well to turn aside from the busy world and spend the last moments of the old year in prayer, while the bell was solemnly tolled. After twelve o'clock the bell joyfully rang out a welcome to the New Year, and the congregation joined in singing the 166th hymn.

On the morning of Circumcision Day matins was said with sermon, and a celebration of Holy Communion.

On the Epiphany, Rev. W. C. Wilson, Rector of Springhill, officiated morning and evening. Mr. Wilson made an earnest appeal to the congregation on behalf of a new church that he contemplates building in his parish, the congregation having quite outgrown the present one. A liberal response will be given him.

**RAWDON.**—The Christmas services here were of a very quiet character. So many of the young people shift away to the States and elsewhere that it is next to impossible to keep up a choir, and this year "colds" were so prevalent that all singing, with the exception of two hymns, had to be dispensed with. The decorations were simple, several banners forming the principal portion. The prayer desk was trimmed with green and bore upon its panel a Latin cross, the preaching desk having a Maltese one. The text, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem," ran along the wall over the sanctuary. The front was also trimmed with green.

On the evening of Thursday, the 27th, the Sunday-school children were entertained by the rector and family. A tea was provided, after which games and music were the order of the day until 8 o'clock, when the study door was thrown open, revealing a large Christmas tree, well laden with a surprising variety of fruit. After ample time had been given for examination and admiration, the tree was stripped, the fruit distributed, and the children sent home in a state of supreme happiness.

On the evening of New Year's day a large gathering took place at the residence of Henry Canavan, Esq., Hilldale, for the purpose of presenting a purse to Rev. W. J. Ancient, rector of the parish. The ladies had provided an abundance of the choicest refreshments, which were highly enjoyed by those present.

After tea Mr. D. W. McVicar was called to the chair, and opened the proceedings in a short and neat speech. He then called upon Mr. B. O'Brien to present the purse. Mr. Ancient, in acknowledging the gift, spoke of the continued good will of the people shown so frequently and in such a substantial way, and expressed the hope that much spiritual good would be the result of his labors among them.

The amount given by these presents was \$34.65. This was supplemented by \$16.26, raised on the previous evening at Ardoise, making a total of \$50.91 as a *bona fide* donation, and not, as is too often the case in the country, a mere instalment of over-due stipend.

**SHELburne.**—A charity concert recently held for a fisherman's widow was a grand success. She was presented with \$31.50. The young men gave her a quarter of beef and her wood is being hauled, and a store bill, \$6.40, was gratuitously receipted. The special Advent sermons on "Prodigal Son" were much appreciated. We had two new communicants on Christmas Day, when the services were as usual bright and hearty. The building is very tastefully decorated, the usual festooning of green is abundant. The whole chancel is in white and gold, the panels of reredos are all gilt and appropriate texts are over the altar, east window, chancel and sanctuary arches. The arch is wreathed, and a series of handsome oleographs, mounted on white, set forth six objects of the Incarnation. The pulpit, font, desks,

lamp stands, &c., have received due attention. Great praise is due to Miss Ambrose and Miss DeMohtor, who respectively had charge of chancel and nave. The services consisted of Matins and choral celebration. The anthem Goss, "Behold I bring you good tidings," was effectively rendered by the choir. The collection, \$4, was for W. & O. Fund. On Christmas night a carol service was held at 8 p. m., several carols and an anthem were sung. The cheery service in the well lit church was attended by a large congregation. This service consisted of choral evensong and was supplemented by the following readings, and the inspired and apocryphal accounts of nativity; 2. Bethlehem; 3. Grotto and Church Nativity; 4. Actual service on Christmas Eve at above Church; 5. Poem on sympathy of the God man. The service was much enjoyed, and closed with "All Hail the power of Jesus' Name." The venerable Rector, Dr. Whit, celebrated, much to the delight of all his parishioners. He also preached on New Year's Day, when he entered upon the 54th year of his ministry in his native town. He then mentioned that he had baptized some 3 000, married over 700 couples, and buried over 900—quite a village in itself, added to "the city of the silent."

Another Charity concert is being prepared for a widow who was one of four with twenty children to mourn the consequences of a recent storm, when besides two Rachels mourn for promising lads. The pall of gloom has settled on Jordan Ferry, where so many neighbour's chairs are for ever vacant.

Tea meetings were recently held in Shelburne, Birchtown, and another comes off on 16th inst. at Sandy Point, where a handsome west window has recently been put in St. Peter's by the Sea.

The Vicar, Rev. H. How, was most kindly remembered by his parishioners, who sent a goodly number of valued presents to the vicarage at Christmastide.

## CAPE BRETON.

**SYDNEY.**—The services on Christmas day in this parish were as follows:

11 a. m. Matins, Holy Communion and sermon in the Parish Church; 2 p. m. Evensong and sermon at Coxheath; 7 p. m. Evensong and sermon at Victoria Mines; 2 30 p. m. Evensong and sermon at the North West Arm, the last named service being conducted by Mr. W. E. Earle, of North Sydney, who kindly gives his valuable assistance as lay reader in this part of the Parish of St. George. The joyousness of the mery service was subdued and chastened by a deep and general sorrow, Miss Bessie Publicover, for many years a scholar in Sydney school, and then a diligent member of the choir, having on the previous Sunday evening after a brief but violent struggle, fell a victim to a malignant attack of scarlet fever.

The usual children's festival was celebrated on Innocent's day. There was service with a short address in the morning; in the afternoon, tea in the school room, and in the evening the Christmas tree was uncovered and the gifts distributed.

Shortly before Christmas the Misses Lorway and Chaldoner called at the Rectory, and in the name of the ladies of St. Georges' congregation presented Mrs. Smith with a handsome fur-lined cloak.

St. George's Church has been much improved by the insertion a new chancel window, which is a beautiful work of art, supplied by Mr. J. C. Spence & Sons of Montreal. The subject is the Ascension, the window consists of three lights. In the central light below the figure of the Ascending Saviour, are the most favored apostles, in each side light is a group of four apostles. In the lower part of the central light is the Episcopal Coat of Arms, and across the bottom of the window the following inscription: To the Glory of God, and in loving memory of Hibbert Binney, D.D., Lord Bishop of Nova