

they are to minister. In 15 English dioceses, there are associations of lay readers, and these have done much to commend the office to church people generally. The Lay Helpers Association of the Diocese of London, which has been in existence for nearly 30 years has done much splendid work. Its object is to organize, stimulate, and expand the lay religious work of the diocese. To it is in a great measure due the development of the scheme for the annual training of lay readers from every diocese in England and Scotland, by a course of instruction and residence for a fortnight within the walls of Keble College, Oxford, or Selwyn College, Cambridge, during the long vacation. From 40 to 50 readers annually avail themselves of this privilege, and many are glad to repeat their visit for a second or third time, appreciating to the full not only the opportunity of hearing able theological lectures, sermons, and addresses, but perhaps still more the advantages of mingling with others engaged in similar work, exchanging ideas, forming new friendships, and breathing for a time a new atmosphere away from the business of ordinary life. An occasional quiet day, with special devotions and addresses, has also been found most helpful. Now why could there not be some such organization in Western Canada? There are certain seasons in the year when many of the class from which our lay readers are drawn could, without hindrance to their daily avocations, come into residence at St. John's for two or three weeks, and, we do not think there should be much difficulty in obtaining a sufficiency of able lecturers from the St. John's College staff and the ranks of the diocesan clergy. The expense of such a course would not be serious, and the advantages to be got from it would surely be such as to induce our laity to come forward with financial aid. We venture also to think that there are many small settlements of churchmen who might be quite unable to maintain a clergyman for themselves, but who would be in a position to aid in the training of a Reader for their own parish; and we feel assured that they would only too gladly give substantial aid were there a prospect of an adequate return.

It will be at once seen that these remarks do not apply to theological students, sent out to take the Sunday services, when no clergyman is available. The reference is entirely to those faithful laymen who, although engaged in business, are glad to give up their spare time to definite church work, purely from love to God and the spiritual welfare of their fellow churchmen. There may be, doubtless there are, local circumstances which have not here been taken into account; still if this evokes discussion from our readers, lay or clerical, or both, it will have served the purpose for which it was written.

WESTERN CHURCH NEWS.

DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND.

Bishop—Most Rev. R. Machray, D.D., D.C.L.
Residence—Bishop's Court, Winnipeg.

ST. MATTHEW'S, BRANDON.

CLERGY: Rev. McAdam Harding, 11th Street; Rev. Edward Archibald, Brandon.

LAY READERS: Mr. George Coleman, Mr. T. F. S. Taylor, Mr. Frederick Wimberley.

CHURCHWARDENS: Richmond Spencer, Esq., M.D.; John Hanbury, Esq.

SERVICES.

SUNDAY: Holy Communion, 8.30 A.M.
H.C.—Choral—Second Sunday in month, 11 a.m.
H.C.—Plain—Fourth Sunday in month, 11 a.m.
Mattins and Sermon, 11 a.m.
School and Bible Classes, 3 p.m.
Men's Bible Class, 3.15 p.m.
Evensong and Sermon, 7 p.m.

SAINTS' DAY: Holy Communion, 8.30 a.m.

WEEK DAYS: Wednesdays—Ladies Aid, 3 p.m.
—Evensong and Sermon, 7.30 p.m.
Friday—Evensong, 5 p.m.
—Meeting of Sunday School Teachers, 7.30 p.m.

On January 21 Brandon and surrounding country was visited by a most terrific and violent blizzard, according to the statement of old inhabitants the most furious ever experienced. The Rector had a hard struggle with it in the outskirts of the city, while Mr. Wimberly was detained in the country a couple of days. The church fared even worse for it is now dismantled of its tower and steeple and minus part of the roof. For the present we can only attempt to provide a temporary covering for the uncovered portion and leave the more permanent restorations until the opening of the spring.

On Sunday, January 24th, the church was with very great difficulty kept warm. Instead of the usual Sunday School in the afternoon a very short service was held and at the evening service after the recital of the office the Rector dismissed the congregation with the Benediction.

Mr. Parker and Mr. Coleman have consented to act as collectors for the "Home Mission Fund."

The Misses Armstrong, Percival and McKinity have just joined our staff of Sunday School teachers.

The Choir boys assemble every Wednesday afternoon at 4.15 in the Rectory for practice.

The Rev. Stewart Macklem, of Toronto, has just written the Rector saying that he has interviewed Messrs. Keith & Fitzsimmons about the iron pulpit now in course of construction for St. Matthew's and