

solve to give more time to private prayer, especially to intercessory prayer; and for this purpose use freely the prayers of your Prayer-book, which serve equally for private as for public devotions. Your hymn-book may also serve as an excellent help to prayer; for many of our most familiar hymns can be used as private prayer, and very impressive and truly devotional prayers they are. Resolve also to give more time to religious reading, especially a systematic reading of the Holy Scriptures. Don't read Scripture at random, but according to some fixed method. Read a portion of the Old Testament with a portion of the New. Read some of the Psalms for the day, or the Scripture lesson for the day, which you will find plainly marked out in a Church almanack.

### 3. *I am resolved to show piety at home.*

This, you will remember, in St. Paul's practical advice to the Christian women of his day; and it undoubtedly applies equally to men. Home is the centre of our affections, comforts, and joys; and home should be the centre of our piety. Home should be the starting-point from which our religion radiates. Think of some good resolution that you can make, which would benefit the wife, the husband, the children, the servants of your home, which would tend to brighten your home, and let it appear that there is no place like home.

### 4. *I am resolved to make a fresh stand against the besetting sins of my life.*

These besetting sins can never be checked, to say nothing of mastered, without earnest resolutions. Let one say "I am resolved to keep under my temper more." "I am resolved," let another say, "to govern my temper better." "I am resolved," let a third say, "to strive hard against my natural selfishness." "I am resolved," let another say, "to guard against murmuring so much, against covetousness, against harsh judging." Every good resolution against a besetting sin made in earnest acts as a blow to weaken the force of that sin, if not to destroy it altogether.

### 5. *I am resolved to conduct my business with stricter honesty.*

I will be strict in my accounts, strict in all matters of weight and measurement, strict in keeping all my business engagements. I resolve to set my face against all unscrupulous tricks of trade, against grinding bargains, against exorbitant profits, against taking ungenerous advantage in business transactions. I resolve to conduct my business on those principles of commercial morality which the religion of Jesus Christ sanctions and commands.

### 6. *I am resolved that I will live to do more good.*

The life of Jesus Christ was spent in going about doing good. This is how our lives should be spent, not contenting ourselves with merely going about doing no harm. I resolve to watch more for opportunities of doing good, to regard more kindly and conscientiously all appeals for doing good. I am resolved to do more good with my money, with my influence, with my time, more good with those abilities with which I may be endowed and in that position in which I am placed. I will be content to do good on a small scale, not waiting till I can play the hero, and in the meantime despising all good doing, because it seems so obscure, insignificant, and beneath my dignity to notice.

Remember in conclusion two important truths about your good resolutions:—

### 1. *That their success depends upon the spirit in which they are made.*

In our English law-courts, after a man had resolved to speak the truth, he concludes by saying, "So help me, God." These words bear a noble witness to the spirit in which all resolutions should be made. When we make our resolutions, let the feeling and prayer of our

heart be, "So help me, God"; for without God's help their failure will soon be apparent.

### 2. *That we are not to be discouraged because we may soon break them.*

What is to be done when our most serious resolutions are broken? The most sensible course is to do as Wellington once told a young officer to do who had taken one set of colours from the enemy and inquired what he should do next; "Go and take another." So when you have broken one resolution, as soon as possible, in a humble and prayerful spirit, go and make another. Renew your resolutions when broken, and don't waste time and strength in whining over them. Let your new year be begun with some such resolution as those suggested; do your honest best, in God's strength, to carry them out; and it may prove to you a new year of much real happiness, which God grant to you.

## News from the Home Field.

### Diocese of Nova Scotia.

TRURO.—On Sunday, Dec. 23rd, the Rev. E. Underwood, curate of the Parish, was ordained Priest in the pro Cathedral, Halifax. Mr. Underwood commenced his work in Truro some sixteen months ago.

*Christmas Day.*—The Christmas services began with a celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 a.m. At 11 a.m. there was Matins with sermon and a second celebration of the Holy Communion. Both services were well attended. The music was bright, hearty and well rendered. In the afternoon Prayers were said at 4 o'clock. The decorations were very artistic and arranged in the best and most attractive manner possible. The reredos was elaborately and most tastefully ornamented with evergreen, amid which, running to irregular points, was a background of sparkling decoration in gilt. Amid the deep green this had a very pretty effect. The chancel was also a mass of evergreen wreathing. The pulpit was wreathed with spruce, and each panel filled in with white everlasting. The lectern was also a mass of green with everlastings banked up at the foot. From the chancel on both sides of the church ran great wreaths of green, looped up over each window, and passing through the hammer beams to the large window in the west end of the building. The window sills were filled with white bordered with evergreens, each sill with an artistic cross of vinted maple leaves. The font was covered with a rich mass of green. Besides the decorations of evergreen, there were richly worked banners with sacred inscriptions, "Lord of Lords," "King of Kings," and others with monograms, I.H.S., etc.

Mr. E. D. Vernon designed these handsome decorations, and among many others who kindly assisted in making or in arranging them were Mrs. W. S. Muir, Mrs. O. C. Cummings, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Kaulbach and Mrs. Vernon.

*St. Andrew's Brotherhood.*—The St. John's Chapter of the Brotherhood have been doing a quiet but very effective work in and around Truro during the past two or three years. The members have now taken a room on Inglis street. It is situated immediately over Blanchard and Bentley's dry goods store. This they are converting into a Reading-Room for the free use of men willing to use it. Here also they will hold their weekly Bible Class on Friday evenings at half-past seven. It is hoped that this venture of the Brotherhood members will be blessed and will aid them in their work for souls. Any gifts suitable for a reading-

room will be thankfully received and gratefully acknowledged by the Hon. Sec., Mr. W. Roebuck, Truro, N.S.

If this catches the eye of any Brotherhood man, or, indeed, of any man, will he kindly accept it as an invitation to use the room whenever he may be in Truro.

HALIFAX.—The grand organ for St. Luke's Cathedral will be shipped from England early in the New Year. Mr. Benson, of the firm of Norman Bros. and Beard, Norwich, England, will superintend the building. While here he will be prepared to estimate and undertake organ work in any part of Canada. Mr. Benson superintended the erection of Norman's Grand Organ at the South African Exhibition of 1892. The present organ at St. Luke's is for sale.

AMHERST.—Unusually bright Christmas services have been held in this parish this year. For the exceptionally good music in Christ Church we are indebted to the valued services of Mr. Harry Hillcoat, the choir master, who has for many years spared no pains in endeavouring to maintain the choir in an efficient state. For the past 11 years Amherst Churchmen have on Christmas Day listened with much pleasure to the annual letter of their aged Rector, the Rev. Canon Townshend, who for 50 years laboured in this parish; but who, since his retirement from active work here in 1883, has spent much of his time in England, and is now enjoying in Montreal a well-earned rest from all parochial cares. Next to the venerable Dr. White, of Shelburne, Canon Townshend is the most aged priest on the clergy list of the Diocese of Nova Scotia. Made a Deacon at Annapolis Royal in 1834, he shortly afterwards came to this parish, and was in 1835 ordained Priest in Christ Church, Amherst, by the Right Rev. John Inglis. We in this age can scarcely realize that at that time there were, besides Bishop Inglis, only four Colonial Bishops of the English Church, one of these being at Quebec, two in the West Indies, and the other in Calcutta. For the first 11 years of Mr. Townshend's ministry he was the sole clergyman of the Church of England in the large County of Cumberland. The parish of Westmoreland, to the north, in New Brunswick, (then a part of the Diocese of Nova Scotia), was also placed by Bishop Inglis in charge of Mr. Townshend. This meant a drive to Baie Verte, 18 miles distant, and occasionally even to Cape Tormentine, 20 miles further. During the earlier years of his ministry he also visited regularly River Philip, Wyndham Hill, Pugwash, and Wallace; then a drive of 40 miles from his home to the east. His labours also extend to the south of Amherst to Maccan, where he built a church, and to Joggins, 20 miles away. The very few old people remaining who remember those early days of his ministry tell many wonderful stories of his long drives over fields and by sled-roads through blinding snow-storms. Five or six clergymen in charge of 13 consecrated churches and a large number of mission stations now work the same districts which do not include the Parish of Parrsboro' (with its numerous churches), to which Mr. Townshend's labours at no time extended.

The parish church of Amherst, now in charge of the Rev. V. E. Harris, vicar of the parish, was also re-built by Canon Townshend.

You

Should

HAVE A GOOD CHURCH PAPER for the family, and **The Church Guardian**, Montreal is the one to have. ONE YEAR to new Subscribers for \$1.00.