

## MONTHLY NOTES

Nor can we omit echoing the note of sadness, among the older people as they reflected that this was (in all human probability) the last picnic to be held under the direction of our Priest-Vicar, who has resigned his present charge to take up work in a field that urgently requires vigorous work and discreet judgement to convert it into a fruitful vineyard of our Lord.

Thus the short hours of this day sped on all too quickly for most of the young people, until the unwelcome news was spread abroad that they must all prepare to return home as the cars were ready for them, and then the day dream of youthful pleasure gave way to a sense of stern duty, and all came back safely to the parental roof; and many doubtless held during the night an adjourned picnic, at which perhaps two hideous looking men, catching a countless number of balls in all kinds of ways were jumbled up with a scene in which a lot of knives were pitching a couple of men about while setting fire to their boots, and with a picture St. Alban's Cathedral as a great building all completed, and other extraordinary things that only the childish fancy, during the blissful hours of sleep, could conjure up.

### LOOKING BACKWARD

In the midst of our sadness at losing the services of our esteemed Priest-vicar it would perhaps be well to glance over the six or seven years that have elapsed since he was placed in charge of St. Alban's congregation, to see what progress has been made during that period.

Most of us remember the time when the Rev. Mr. Lutz directed our affairs—a time of anxiety on the part of those who had the interests of St. Alban's at heart—a time when most of the active members of the congregation and the Sunday School had been drawn away to the new parish church of St. Cyprian's and it appeared doubtful to many whether another congregation could be brought together that would be capable of sustaining the services of such a church as St. Alban's cathedral was intended to be.

The trend of affairs while the Rev. Mr. Lutz was with us did not present a prospect of ultimate success and it was a great relief to the anxieties of those who still clung to St. Alban's that after a brief period the Rev. A. U. de Pencier was appointed Priest-vicar.

The condition of affairs at this time would have almost appalled any ordinary clergyman, as the following figures will show.

For the two months of March and April, 1893, the two months previous to Mr. de Pencier's arrival the average attendance (including the choir) at morning service was 110, at evening service 80.

The average collection at each \$16.34 (about half the needed sum)

Easter attendance in the morning 175  
" " " evening 120  
Collection \$66.00

The celebration of the Holy Communion held but once a month; No cohesion among the members of the congregation; Supporters of St. Alban's crippled by the depression in real estate; and no immediate prospect of new houses being built in the neighborhood to bring other Church of England families to the vicinity; all these discouraging facts would be enough to make the bravest man hesitate to assume such a responsibility as that of trying to build up a congregation that would afford a hope of the ultimate success of St. Alban's Cathedral.

Over six years have now passed and this is a brief outline of our present position;

1899

Average attendance for March and April.  
Morning 211—Evening 185  
Average collection \$32.70  
Easter morning 315—Evening 220  
Collection \$127.74

Showing that the average morning congregation has almost doubled, the evening attendance more than doubled, and the collections are over twice the amount compared with 1893.

To these we add, that, instead of Holy Communion being held once a month, it is now administered every week either at eight o'clock or at eleven with a greatly increased number of communicants; that, whereas in 1893 hardly any one took much interest in church matters, there is now one of the largest and most flourishing chapters of St. Andrews Brotherhood to be found in Canada, whose members strengthen the hands of their priest-vicar both in local church matters and in general church work outside of our cathedral limits; that there has been for some years a branch of the Woman's Auxiliary doing effective work and making its influence felt among us; that our Sunday School attendance has grown in the same proportion as the adult; that we have now a flourishing day school for boys well conducted and advancing rapidly in public favor; and, finally, that we have, through the generosity of our priest-vicar, become possessors of a chapel that has made the boys' school possible and while admirably serving its main purpose is of the greatest use to us in many other ways.

So that from this brief summary of conditions at St. Alban's in 1893 before the Rev. A. U. de Pencier took charge placed in contrast with those of 1899 we feel quite justified in asserting that the years he has spent amongst us have, in the face of the general business depression and of the fact that the congregation who sustained the services have almost no voice in its affairs, been years of undoubted and solid progress and that he is justly entitled to a large share of the credit for such progress. It is therefore with the most sincere regret that we speak of his departure and assure him of the good wishes of those who have been privileged to be under his charge.