

the Christian seem too high to live up to? Pray earnestly; your prayer will ascend to Heaven; pray truthfully, and grace will be sent down to supply your need. There is for us a ladder from earth to heaven, on it the angels of God are constantly descending to us as well as ascending to Him, and above it stands the Lord, promising to be with us even to the end. Let us pray this Epiphany season that to each of us may be given a more reverent appreciation of our spiritual privileges, a fuller manifestation of Himself through them and in them!

L. C. W.

THE OFFICE OF LECTOR.

The Bishop of Lichfield has conferred the office and title of Lector on thirty six persons whose names are given in the *Diocesan Magazine*. The office is one of great antiquity, and was held in high esteem in the Christian Church, but it has long fallen into abeyance. In these days, however, when so many lay members of the Church are giving assistance to the clergy in reading the Lessons in Divine service, there is very sufficient reasons for reviving this office, and for assigning a definite place among Church workers to those who discharge this very solemn and important duty. Hooker says that 'the public reading of Holy Writ is a second kind of preaching.' In the ancient Service Books of the Church of England there was an admonition to be addressed to lectors, some portions of which are worthy of reproduction:—

This Order took its origin from the prophets who used to announce to the people the Word of God, as did Ezra and others.

And so they receive authority from the Bishop to recite in the hearing of the people the prophecies and other lections of the sacred Canon. They ought, therefore, to be instructed in the Holy Scriptures, that they may both understand what they read, and accentuate it correctly, and pronounce it distinctly, so as not to hinder either the understanding or the devotion of those who listen. For the voice of a lector ought to be impressed not only on the ear but on the heart, because, as saith St. James, 'we ought to be doers of the Word and not hearers only.'

Lectors were called in former times heralds or proclaimers, and this office our Lord Himself instituted and exercised, when, in the synagogue at Nazareth, He opened the Book of Isaiah and read there 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath anointed Me (and sent Me) to preach the Gospel to the poor.'

From which it is clear that lectors who announce to the people the Word of God should themselves be eminent for spiritual grace.—*Lichfield Diocesan Magazine*.

PAROCHIAL MISSIONS TO THE JEWS FUND.

The Committee of the Parochial Missions to the Jews in their last report just received, acknowledge most gratefully the increased support which has been accorded during the past year.

The aggregate income for the year, from all sources has amounted to £1173 18s. 10d, being an increase of £323 18s. 5d., over that of the previous year.

The Committee acknowledge their deep gratitude to their friends in Canada for their most generous support and co-operation. They have contributed a much larger sum this year than in any previous one, amounting in all to £217 10s. 2d. They especially thank in this connection their indefatigable Honorary Secretary, the Rev. J. D. Cayley, for his successful labors.

They still deplore the lack of interest and sympathy, exhibited by the majority of Churchmen. In the face of the distinct command of

our Lord, it is difficult to account for this strange indifference and apathy. It is needless to remind them of their duty to the Jews, for it is not questioned by any. It is admitted on every hand, that something more than heretofore ought to be done by the Church for her Jewish parishioners, and that both Clergy and Laity should be made to feel the solemn responsibility resting upon them to set before the Jews the unsearchable riches of Christ. However feeble the effort may be, it will surely tend to the glory of God and the honor of our Church, if only carried out in a spirit of faithfulness and loyalty to right principles.

A fair idea of the present work of the society may be gained by the following notice of the parishes, and the names of the Missionary Curates engaged in the work:—

1. The Rev. H. J. Wertheim, formerly Curate at St. Luke's Cheetham, Manchester, has recently been nominated by the Rev. Dr. Talbot, Vicar of Leeds, to a Curacy in that town for Jewish work.

2. The Rev. H. Caplan is Curate at Holy Trinity, Gray's Inn Road.

3. The Rev. A. W. Schapira is stationed at St. Mark's, Whitechapel.

4. The Rev. J. M. Acland is working at St. Augustine's, Kilburn.

5. The Rev. J. H. Lord is stationed at St. John's House, Umrahadi, Bombay.

6. The Rev. John Schor, Organizing Secretary, devotes a portion of his time to working among the Jews at St. Olave's, Mile End New Town.

7. Mr. Dornbusch, while preparing for Holy Orders at King's College, London, is at the same time engaged in active work among the Jews.

8. Mr. A. E. Poch is preparing for Holy Orders at King's College, and is also working as lay-helper at St. Olave's Mile End New Town.

9. Mr. L. Rzendowski is going through a course of preparation for Holy Orders at St. Boniface Missionary College, Warminster, with a view of taking work under the auspices of the Fund.

10. Rev. A. Weinstein, who has completed his studies at King's College, London, was accepted by the Committee as a candidate for mission work among the Jews, and was ordained by the Bishop of London to work under the Bishop of Bedford in East London, and has been appointed for the present to work in St. John's, St. George's-in-the-East.

The Committee add how to reach the Jew-esses is a question greatly exercising the minds of all engaged in the work of the Fund. It is an undoubted fact that male agencies have hitherto failed in influencing them in any way, thus distinctly implying that if the Church is to do something for their spiritual welfare, it must be done in the first instance by women. Much of Mr. Lord's success among the women of St. Olave's Parish, was due to the devoted labors of his sister Miss Lord. Will any ladies volunteer to undertake this special work? The necessary qualifications are—love to Christ, loyalty to His Church—and a yearning desire that "Israel might be saved."

The report concludes with the hope that a special effort will be made during the coming year to increase considerably the amount remitted to the Fund, so as to enable the Committee to extend this most important work.

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIocese OF NOVA SCOTIA.

SPRING HILL.—The Amherst Deanery met at Spring Hill on January 23th. There were present Rev. D. C. Moore, R.D.; Revs. V. E. Harris, S. Gibbons, H. A. Harley, H. H. Pittman, and J. Warner besides the Rector of the parish. Evensong was said by Rev. H. H. Pit-

man. Sermon was preached by the Rector of Parrsboro, on 'Practical Religion.' It was a very practical discourse. After the sermon an address was given by Deacon Warner upon 'giving ourselves to Jesus.'

On 29th, Holy Communion was celebrated by Rural Dean Moore, assisted by Deacon Pittman as Gospeller, and Deacon Warren as Epistoler. The sermon by Rev. H. A. Harley was a masterly one on Zech. iv. 10.—'Who hath despised the day of small things.' It always is a great pleasure to listen to the chaste language, the well-rounded sentences, the suggestive ideas of Pitou's scholarly Rector.

The Rural Deanery meeting was called to order at 3 p.m. by the Rural Dean. The Bishop's recommendations about Confirmations were written down by each member of the chapter, and an itinerary was roughly prepared for his Lordship's visit in May. Notice of a resolution to be discussed at the next meeting at Slewiacke, on Whit Tuesday, River John permitting, that the present deanery be divided was given. The discussion of such an important subject will doubtless draw a full deanery together.

At Evensong, Litany was taken by the Rural Dean; addresses upon Mission work and life were given by Rev. H. H. Pittman, on 'Maccan Mission;' by Rev. H. A. Harley, on 'Foreign Missions;' by Rev. S. Gibbons, on 'Missionary Experiences in Cape Breton.' The latter took up so much time that the Rural Dean was prevented from giving his address. The collection was given to S. P. G.

The gratitude of the several members of the Rural Deanery is due to Messrs. R. H. Cooper, R. W. Leonard, Dr. Byer, T. H. Howard, C. Loasley and Mrs. McNutt for the previous hospitality enjoyed by their several guests.

The different services were splendidly attended—but we cannot but mention especially the number of communicants at the week day celebration, viz, 40 besides the clergy. This fact shows the unflagging zeal, the plucky upholding of the Church's ways and the indomitable perseverance of the eloquent rector of Spring Hill, to whom the deanery is indebted for a most pleasant visit.

HALIFAX.—The interests of the Board of Home Missions have been much advanced during the past three months, by the visits to the principal parishes of the Ven. Archdeacon Kaulbach, and the Rev. Canon Partridge. The former, whose gentlemanly courtesy always renders him a welcome visitor in his Archdeaconry, took the lion's share of the work; and advocated the cause of the clergy in the parishes on the lines of railway; and the latter, who is Secretary of the Diocese, by his thorough knowledge of the needs of the different parishes, and his vigorous and pointed address, stirred up strong feeling of sympathy for our overworked and underpaid country missionaries. The special appeal made by the Bishop for the Thanksgiving offertories resulted in a return of about \$1,000, while many parishes after the visits above alluded to, have doubled their last year's collections.

St. George's.—A special ordination was held by the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia in this Church on the Conversion of St. Paul, when the Rev. C. E. Willets, M. A., D. C. L., President of King's College, was admitted to the Holy Order of Priesthood. Dr. Willets was ordained to the Diaconate in 1872, by the late Bishop Selwyn, of Lichfield. A thoughtful sermon was preached by Dr. Partridge, the Rector, on the essentials of the Priesthood and its requirements in modern days, and closed with a touching address to the candidate, who is his warm personal friend. The clergy taking part in the ordination were the Very Rev. Dean Gilpin, Rev. Foster H. Almon, Rector of Trinity Church, Rev. Dr. Maury, in charge of St. Paul's Church, and Rev. J. O. Ruggles, who acted as Bishop's Chaplain.