

employed Canon Davidson to aid in the disposition of his generous gifts. To judge from the diversity of names Father Xmas had a heart to embrace the community itself and when his powers and generosity appeared at last exhausted Santa Claus pulled out a document from the depths of his capacious pocket and requested the reading of the same in distinct terms in the ears of the assembly. The tenor thereof proved to be a warm-hearted address from forty-six Parishioners to Mrs. Davidson requesting the acceptance of a beautiful and costly fur cloak with an additional largess thrown in. Mrs. Davidson being duly habited requested Canon Davidson to express his acknowledgement at such an absolute surprise which was done in terms indicating the genuine appreciation of the recipient and the gratification of the speaker. The fact that the Rector had been by one of the Parishioners, Miss Reid's, generous action previously provided for, made this manifestation doubly appropriate and by pleasing coincidence Santa Claus had on his journey picked up the final addition to Miss Reid's previous gift of splendid fur coat and cap, comprising a pair of fine fur mitts and collar for the Rector. Altogether the celebration was of a character inspiring to lofty thoughts and abiding remembrances. Father Santa Claus and his co-workers in every department deserve well of the many who were made happy and their labors will not be forgotten.

MONTREAL.—Christ Church Cathedral.—The Festival of the Circumcision of Our Lord (New Year's Day) was duly observed by special service (shortened form of morning Prayer) with administration of Holy Communion at ten o'clock at which time there was quite a large attendance, the number of communicants also being larger than usual. The Rector, the Rev. J. G. Norton D. D., the Rev. E. A. W. King, and the Rev. Mr. Smith assistant, were present and took part in the services. The Rector himself preached an admirable sermon, appropriate to the commencement of the new year. A pleasing and exceptional feature was the large attendance of boys and men of the choir, and we cannot but congratulate the Rector upon the great improvement which has been made in the conduct of the services at the Cathedral, and upon the reverent and orderly demeanor of the members of the choir both boys and men. The entrance of a properly vested choir, in procession followed by the clergy; all preceded by the verger robed, is a wonderful improvement upon the order of things for some years prevailing in the Cathedral; and we have no doubt that ere long we shall have a service which will be fully *Cathedral* in character and which will be an example to the other churches in the Diocese.

We regret having to notice the presence of ladies in the stalls, but doubtless as soon as the boys voices have been sufficiently trained and they have acquired confidence, the necessity for this irregularity, will have ceased. We look forward to see a choir of several hundred well trained voices taking part in the services in this, the Mother Church of the Diocese; but we feel that both Rector and congregation are to be congratulated upon the improvements already made.

ST. JAMES' BELLS.—It is a well known fact that of all the cities throughout the States and Canada, there is no city that boasts of so many Churches in like proportion to its population as Montreal, and for this reason strangers here christened our city "The City of Churches." Is it not therefore strange that with all its beautiful sacred buildings there is not one amongst them that has a complete chime of bells? indeed for the most part no bells whatever. In England every village Church boasts its chime of bells, and in the quiet Sabbath evening nothing is more beautiful than the music of the

bells sounding o'er the green meadow fields. Here, however, in the heart of the city of bustle and strife, we are, through the munificence of Mrs. Anne Philips, to have a peal of ten bells which will ring out their first joyous peal in the belfry of the Church of St. James the Apostle on Easter Sunday morning next. The stipulation given by the generous Donor was "that the chime was to be the best that money can buy," and consequently tenders from the leading Bell Founders in England and America well sought with the result, that after mature deliberation, the Messrs. Clinton, Meneeley & Co., Bell Founders of Troy, N. Y., were awarded the contract, this celebrated firm being the best in the opinion of the experts who awarded the contract. The *Troy Daily Times* in speaking of this matter, calls attention to the fact that during the past year alone, the Clinton, Meneeley Bell Company have founded no less than eight hundred bells for different churches. The Church of St. James the Apostle having set the example doubtless ere long the Cathedral, St. George's, St. Martin's, and hosts of other churches in this city will follow suit. It is much to be wondered at that the Cathedral has but the one "call bell" when it possesses such a magnificent belfry, it is to be hoped that one of the many of its wealthy members will present the Mother Church of this city with a peal to rival even those of St. James', which we understand will be the finest chime when completed throughout the Dominion.

[Our correspondent has forgotten the chime of bells in St. Stephen's Church; the gift of the late Miles Williams, Esq.—Ed.]

COTE ST. ANTOINE.—St. Matthias'.—On New Year's Eve, at 8 o'clock a most pleasing service was given at the above Church when the combined choirs of the Church of St. James the Apostle and St. Matthias' rendered in a joyful manner the musical part of the service. Impressive addresses were delivered by the Rev. Mr. Smith, Curate of the Cathedral, and the Rev. J. A. Newnam, Rector of the parish, before a large congregation. Mr. Harriess, the Organist of St. James the Apostle and also of St. Matthias' Church, presided at the organ. Mr. Macfarlane very generously entertained the choirs at his house afterwards, when a most enjoyable time was spent.

LACHINE.—The Guilds of this parish held a Bazaar at the Town Hall on the 12th inst., and cleared \$150, after paying all expenses; the result of six weeks work only. The object is to raise sufficient funds to justify the commencement of a Sunday-school Hall in the spring. With such energy as is being now displayed in every part of the parish in doing Church work, success is guaranteed.

St. Stephen's has lately been much improved by the introduction of handsome lamp standards of ecclesiastical design in the chancel, and a carona in the nave, so that the sacred edifice is now brilliantly lighted.

On Christmas Day the House of God received two gifts in the shape of rich bannerets for the pulpit and lectern. The former, the present of Mrs. Johnson, and worked by her, bears the text, "We preach it." On the following Sunday evening the church was packed, when the choir and a number of the Sunday-school children rendered a service of sacred music, entitled "The Child Jesus," published by Rev. W. Hutchins, of Medford, Mass. This beautiful service consists of passages of Holy Scripture descriptive of the birth and early years of our Lord, illustrated in each instance by a carol or hymn.

Our able organist, Mrs. W. Thornloe, deserves great credit for her careful and painstaking training of the choir and children, as the way in which the service was rendered bore witness.

On New Year's Eve St. Stephen's was again filled to take part in the solemn and appropriate Watch night service, when all appeared to be greatly impressed. *Lays Deo.*

DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

BROMPTON AND WINDSOR.—Brightening and making cheerful the life of children has ever been connected with the joyous season of the nativity of our Blessed Lord until Christmas-tide has become almost the distinctive property of the young. Rightly or wrongly they claim a place in all the arrangements and festivities of this glad season. Throughout this Mission distinct opportunities have been afforded for promoting their happiness and instructing their minds. On the evening of December 21st an entertainment with Christmas tree was given in the schoolhouse at Brompton Church. All the children in the neighborhood were present and went away delighted. Christmas eve a tea-party was held in the schoolhouse at Hardwood Hill for the benefit of the Sunday-school, (a union one), in which the Church and dissenting bodies took part. On December 26th, the evening of St. Stephen's Day, a children's service in St. George's Church, Windsor Mills, with Christmas tree. As this was not sufficiently mirthful, Mr. Briggs, lay reader, then kindly invited all the children of the congregation with the Sunday-school teachers and others to his house on New Year's Eve, when a magic lantern exhibition was given with a feast of good things for the body as well, and heartily enjoyed by all present. On the evening of the 28th, there was a school exhibition at Brampton Falls, in which the teacher and others took part. The children showed very careful training both in singing and recitations.

Among other valuable gifts was a very pretty hanging lamp from the congregation at Brampton to the Rev. T. L. Ball, and a jewel case and card receiver from the Sunday-school at Windsor to Mrs. Ball, who was also again kindly remembered by her Sunday-school in dear old Megantic with very seasonable gifts. A purse of \$6.50 to Miss McHardy, organist at Windsor, and one of \$8.10 to Miss Monroe, of Brampton Church also.

BARNSTON.—A day unusual interest was St. Andrew's day this year to the Township of Barnston, and indeed to the whole diocese of Quebec, for on that day were opened for divine service two new churches in Barnston, where twelve months before the Church had scarcely begun her first missionary work; and the same day witnessed the Missionary and his family settled in a new parsonage built for him by the people of the place by their own exertions within the same year; and all free from debt. Some account of this unique example of church extension will be acceptable to the readers of the GUARDIAN.

Two years last June, an earnest appeal was made by the clergy of the District of St. Francis to the Bishop, the Diocesan Board, and the Synod (the Board and the Synod being just then in session on consecutive days) to provide at least three more missionaries for as many new centres in the district as presenting most hopeful fields for the Church's work. The appeal was met in the most encouraging spirit, and a special fund was provided by private subscription, amounting to \$1,500 a year for three years to open these new missions; \$1,000 being raised in Quebec, and \$500 in the district itself. The first of the three Missions was opened in ground prepared by the arduous labours of the Rev. A. H. Judge in "parts adjacent" to the parish of Eaton. The second Missionary, as soon as one was found a year ago, was given to Barnston. The third has just now been planted in Fitch Bay in the Township of Stanstead.

There was something unusual and romantic about the opening of this Mission in Barnston. The Township of Barnston, lying between the Townships of Stanstead and Bedford on the American frontier, is one of the most fertile and wealthy of our townships, and yet the Church had never gained a footing in it. This