

DISTRICT NEWS.

SANDY BEACH.

The Rev. G. T. Harding writes as follows:—

On the closing day of the Michaelmas Term a very pretty china cup and saucer was presented to me by Miss Mina Suddard on behalf of the pupils of the Model School at Sandy Beach. This altogether unexpected gift was a token of personal good-will and esteem, and I think, also a practical evidence of the influence which a Clergyman may exert in the Day School. And then, after Service on Xmas Day, Mr. Thomas Suddard on behalf of the young men of the Parish, presented Mrs. Harding with a like gift. We appreciate both of these gifts very highly, and I wish to offer our best thanks for them through the medium of the *Diocesan Gazette*, because my report to the Church Society, in which allusion is made to them, will not be seen here for some time.

Christmas Day with us, this year, was truly a Red Letter Day. The Church was very prettily decorated, and the Congregation was almost the largest I have ever seen in the Church. The music was simple, but well and heartily rendered. The number of Communicants—eighty-one—was the largest I have ever had at any single Celebration, and twice what I had at my first Christmas Celebration in this Mission. The non-participant adults were for once in quite a minority, and it was especially pleasing to note the large number of young people who communicated. For all of this I humbly desire to express my thankfulness to Almighty God, hoping for still greater evidences of His Favour.

But we have had sad things too, quite close to our Christmas Festival, which it is profitable to notice. On Sunday, Dec. 29th, two members of the Church died. They were near neighbours in the Barachois district; and they were brought to the Church together for burial on the Feast of the Circumcision. One of these, Miss Asch—over eighty years of age—had lived an exemplary life as a good Christian Churchwoman, and bore with great patience her last sufferings, which for two years past had been very severe. The other Mrs. John Thompson, of middle age—also an excellent Churchwoman—was the mother of a large family, by the members of which she was greatly beloved, and will be much missed. She is spoken of throughout the

community as a woman of great kindness and Christian charity, ever ready to help and sympathize with all in distress.

And now, immediately following this trouble, there seems to be a prospect of an outbreak of Diphtheria in our midst. The disease has already entered one family, causing a death and leaving others in a critical condition. Of this we cannot say what may be the end: but God is merciful, and we may hope that the infliction will not be severe, and that, whatever comes, good will follow to the Church.

FITCH BAY AND GEORGEVILLE.

The Christmas Services in this Mission were very bright and hearty and, considering all circumstances, were well attended. The day began with a Celebration of the Holy Communion at S. Matthias' Church, Fitch Bay, at which almost every Communicant in the Congregation was present. Then over roads in an almost impassable condition, the Service at Georgeville was Matins, Celebration of Holy Communion and Sermon. The attendance was very fair, though the bad roads kept away a great many, who, otherwise, would have been present. The Church was very prettily and tastefully decorated and the beautiful Old Christmas hymns, in which all could join, brightened the Service wonderfully.

In the afternoon, at 3 o'clock, Evening Service was held at S. Matthias' Church, Fitch Bay. The Service was Choral, with a Sermon and after the Offertory the Choir sang four Carols, "The First Nowell," "Good King Wenceslas," "List Our Merry Carol" and "Wake the Loud Anthem" (sung as a duet by Miss Gage and Mrs. Wright).

The Church here also was very prettily decorated with evergreens, etc.

There were several Christmas presents at Fitch Bay, a set of white embroidered book-markers from a lady, a former Hamilton parishioner of the Incumbent, (green markers were given by the same lady in the Summer and violet are promised for Lent), and a pair of beautiful brass Altar Vases from the Rev. E. Wood, Montreal, the Incumbent's former Rector and kind friend. There is a rumour that some day soon there is to be a present of a brass Altar Cross.

The Annual Sunday School Entertainment at Georgeville was held on Christmas Eve, by kind permission, in Mr. Beach's