

much about her; they simply loved her. She wrote no books; her letters never circulated in a wider circle than that of a few favored friends. Her song of love was too sacred and she was too shy to sing it to the public or to strangers. She was not president of a Dorcas Society, nor the life of the sewing circle, nor a leader in the Woman's Prayer Meeting, nor the teacher of a great Bible class. She had admiration for women with a "gift;" sometimes she was a trifle tempted to envy them; but she had no "gift" herself.—She did not even sing in the choir. Her only singing was a lullaby to her own baby. As to public speaking, she never was on a platform in her life; never lectured—not even her husband; never led in prayer, except when her husband was away from home, and then only by reading in a tremulous voice from a book at family prayers. This was the one occasion of her life when self-consciousness came in to terrify and deprive her of that simple naturalness which was her gift.

Her monument was *her home*. It grew up quietly, as quietly as a flower grows, and no one knew, she did not know herself how much she had done to tend and water and train it. Her husband had absolute trust in her. He earned the money; she expended it. And as she put as much thought in her expenditure as he put in his earning, each dollar was doubled in the expending. She had inherited that mysterious faculty which we call taste; and she cultivated it with fidelity. Every home she visited she studied, though always unconsciously, as though it were a museum or an art gallery; and from every visit she brought away some thought which came out of the alambic of her loving imagination fitted to its appropriate place in her own home. She was too genuine to be an imitator: for imitation is always of kin to falsehoods; and she abhorred falsehood. She was patient with everything but a lie. So she never copied in her own home or on her own person what she had seen elsewhere; yet everything she saw elsewhere entered into and helped complete the perfect picture of life which she was always painting with soft fingers in everything from the honeysuckle which she trained over the door, to the bureau in the guest's room which her designing made a new work of art for every new friend, if it were only by a new nosogay and a change of vases. Putting her own personality into her home, making every room and almost every article of furniture speak of her, she had the gift to draw out from every guest his personality, and make him at home, and so make him his truest and best self. Neither man nor woman of the world could long resist the subtle influence of that home; the warmth of its truth and love thawed out the frozen proprieties from impersonated etiquette; and whatever circle of friends sat on the broad piazza in summer or gathered around the open fire in winter knew for a time the rare joy of liberty—the liberty of perfect truth and perfect love. Her home was hospitable because her heart was large; and any one was her friend to whom she could minister. But her heart was like the old Jewish Temple—strangers only came into the court of the Gentiles; friends into an inner court; her husband and her children found a court yet nearer her heart of hearts; yet even they knew that there was a Holy of Holies which she kept for her God, and they loved and revered her more for it. So strangely was commingled in her the inclusiveness and the exclusiveness of love, its hospitality and its reserve.

Ah! blessed home builder! You have no cause to envy women with a "gift." For there is nothing so sacred on earth as a home; and no priest on earth so divine as the wife and mother who makes it; and no gift so great as the gift which grafts this bud of heaven on the common stock of earth. "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her."—*Christian Union*.

News from the Home Field.

Diocese of Nova Scotia.

HALIFAX.

A large gathering of the congregation of St. George's Church and other friends assembled in the school room, at the invitation of Rev. Canon and Mrs. Partridge, who held a reception on the occasion of their silver wedding. The presents which had been made to them by their various friends were exhibited and much admired. Dr. Partridge came to Halifax in 1882, when he succeeded Rev. J. B. Uniacke as rector of St. George's, and has gained universal respect. The warm regard felt for him and his wife was manifested in the speeches made, and the cordial greetings of those who attended the reception, at which almost every family in the congregation was represented. There have been many vicissitudes in the parochial history, and there are comparatively few families now attached to St. George's who belonged to it eleven years since, yet the parish is strong and quite as united as any large body of people can fairly expect to be. In one thing they appear to be of one mind, namely, in affection for their pastor and his family. Dr. Partridge made a touching speech in welcoming his people, in which he referred to the changes time brings in its train, and the scenes in which it had been his privilege to minister to them; thanking them in the name of his wife as well as of himself for the handsome presents made to him by his people, and heartily reciprocating their good wishes for his future.—*Herald*.

LOCKEPORT.

Special Mission services were held during Passion and Holy Week, in St. Peter's Church, Green Harbor, and the Church of the "Holy Cross," Lockeport, conducted by the rector, Rural Dean Johnston. Addresses were delivered on "Faith," "Free-Will," "The Gospel," "Conversion," "The Sacraments," "Redemption," &c., &c. "Prayer meetings" were held in St. Peter's church in the afternoon. House to house visiting with prayer and Bible readings filled up the other hours of the day. As the services progressed, greater interest was aroused, larger numbers attended, and a deeper spirit of devotion was manifested by all. Holy Communion was celebrated on Palm and Easter Sunday, when several made their First Communion. The "Story of the Cross" was sang at the Good Friday Services, with many other suitable hymns, such as "Rock of Ages," "Jesus Refuge," &c. And the Simple Gospel Message, was earnestly and lovingly brought home to the hearers. Many acknowledged the good done to themselves and others, and the zeal and spiritual energies of many were quickened. *Laus Deo*.

The Easter Services, (3) were all well attended. The singing was particularly bright and cheering, and the hearty devotions of the worshippers very gratifying. The Easter Offertory at Lockeport was fairly good. At Green Harbour, it was larger than in any previous year. The congregation of St. Peter's Church have succeeded in freeing their church and hall of all debts for painting and sundry repairs, leaving only a small balance due on the bell, which, it is hoped, will be cleared off this year.

A very healthy church feeling exists in the parish, generally, and the church people, though comparatively few in numbers, and poor, as far as this world's goods is concerned, are alive to their duties and privileges.

ANNAPOLIS.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese administered Confirmation to over 50 candidates in St. Luke's church here on the 25th ult.

THE AVON RURAL DEANERY.

The 62nd Session of Avon Rural Decanal Chapter was held in the parish of Aylesford, on the eve and festival of St. Mark's Day.

The following clergy were present, the Rev. Rural Dean Axford, the Ven. Archdeacon Jones, the Rev. K. C. Hind, M.A., Jas. Spencer and J. M. C. Wade, M.A.

There were three public services held, viz.: 1st. In Christ's Church, Berwick, on the 24th, at 3 P.M., when after evensong said by Rev. R. C. Hind, the Ven. Archdeacon Jones gave an address on "The special need in this country for churchmen to understand the principles of the Church and to know why they are churchmen."

2nd. In St. Mary's Church, Aylesford on the same evening at 7.30 p.m. At this service Archdeacon Jones sang evensong, after which Rev. Mr. Spencer, rector of Rawdon, gave an admirable address on "Domestic and Foreign Missionary work the outcome of a living Church" followed by the Rural Dean on "The Continuity of the Church of England."

3rd. In St. Mary's Church, on the 25th, at 8.30 a.m., a celebration of the Holy Communion; the Dean being celebrant, Archdeacon Jones, server. Mr. Jones gave an address on "Holy Communion." The music at all three services was bright and hearty.

The clergy assembled at the Rectory at 11 o'clock, for the disposing of the business of the Session. After opening office said by the Dean, Archdeacon Jones moved that the usual order of business be suspended in order to move a congratulatory resolution to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese upon his arriving at this the 5th anniversary of his consecration, which was passed, and the following resolution was presented to his Lordship on the same day as he was passing through on the train.

"We, the members of Avon Rural Deanery, in Chapter assembled, beg to extend to our beloved Father in God, our heartfelt congratulations upon this the 5th anniversary of your consecration, and desire to express our thankfulness to Almighty God, that you have been spared to us and the Diocese, through the serious illness and trials which you have experienced since your consecration to the sacred office of a Bishop of the Church. We also pray that you may long be permitted to continue to advise and govern us in the arduous task of the cure of souls to which God has called us."

The minutes of the previous meeting were then read, and being correct, were approved.

The office for the "Form and manner of ordering priests" was read.

It was agreed upon that the next session of the chapter be held at Walton, Newport parish, on St. James' Day, when the following services should be celebrated, viz., Holy Communion 7.30 a.m., Mattins 10.30 a.m., Evensong 7.30 p.m. The business to be disposed being light, the session should be out-doors on the Walton shore.

A communication from Amherst Deanery respecting candidates for Holy Orders was read, discussed and finally disposed of by the following resolutions:

Moved by Rev. Jas. Spencer, and passed.

That this Deanery endorses the sentiment contained in the communication from the Amherst Rural Deanery, and that the Secretary be instructed to inform the said Deanery of this expression of opinion.

The Chapter then adjourned.

The offerings at the various services were given to the W. & O. C. F.