

that the doctrine of the Incarnation and manhood of Jesus is a loving and abiding reality, than in any other church we have visited.

THE ASCENSION.—The large upper room occupied by this congregation is prettily decorated; and indicates a refined and correct taste in the designer.

NIAGARA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

YORK.—ST. JOHN'S CHURCH.—On the evening of Christmas day the annual festival of the above school was held in the town hall. A. A. Davis, Esq., Superintendent, presiding. There was the usual Christmas tree, containing an abundance of presents for the scholars. Miss Davis ably presided at the organ, and the children sang their pieces in a very pleasing and creditable manner. A special address made by the Rev. H. F. Mellish was listened to with very great attention. The Superintendent stated that about 100 children regularly attend the school, and that he was assisted by a good staff of teachers, who not only freely gave their aid in teaching, but also contributed by far the largest part of the necessary expenses. There was a larger attendance than usual—the sleighing being good would perhaps account for it.

MOUNT FOREST.—The Christmas festival of the Sunday School of St. Paul's Church, Mount Forest, was held in the town hall on the evening of St. Thomas' day. It was largely attended, and passed off very pleasantly. There were readings, dialogues, and humorous tableaux, and the children sang several hymns and carols. One novel feature was a whistling chorus that was really very well performed. Another novelty was the substitution of a "Jacob's ladder" for the customary "tree." It was unanimously voted "very pretty." Altogether the festival was a very agreeable one, and also profitable to the school funds. St. Paul's Church is very well decorated, chiefly with sentences. Over the entrance door is, "The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." The chancel arch is lined with "Thou art the King of Glory, O Christ," with a crown at the apex. On the two sides of the chancel window is "Glory to God in the Highest," and "Alpha and Omega," "Emmanuel," "Prince of Peace," "Wonderful," "Counsellor," occupy the walls of the chancel.

The Christmas morning congregation was unusually large, and there were fifty communicants. Thirty names have been added to the roll of communicants in the year just closed.

On the last Sunday evening of 1876 the Rev. H. L. Yewens preached the annual sermon to young people. The congregation contained a large number of those specially addressed.

WEST FLAMBORO.—The annual Xmas tree and social in aid of Christ Church took place on Thursday last and was a great success, the Rev. F. L. Osler, the Rector, in the chair. The evening began with a processional hymn round the hall, which was full, singing "Onward, Christian Soldiers," by the children of the Sunday School. The dialogues of many of the children came next and were very good, and showed they must have been carefully trained; then there were songs, etc., from several ladies and gentlemen. The Xmas tree was a great delight to the children assembled, the presents being of a very good and useful character. There was also a sale of needlework in aid of a Sunday schoolroom, as the Rector appropriately remarked the church was God's own house, consecrated for prayer and praise, and a Sunday schoolroom is much needed, as West Flamboro E. C. Sunday School under the able teaching of its masters and mistresses is quite large. I need only say the evening closed with the National Anthem after a most sociable and pleasant evening. I hear the Rev. A. B. Chafee, B. A., has been asked to be the Incumbent of West Flamboro, but it is a little uncertain whether he will or not. The rev. gentleman was formerly curate here, and by his Christian conduct and many kind actions won all the hearts of not only the people belonging to the church but of the denominations to himself. The Rector, the Rev. F. L. Osler, M.A., finds he is unable to carry on the services here with his numerous calls as Rector of Dundas, but

he has kindly consented to take service for them until they can get a clergyman for themselves.

ONE WHO WAS THERE.

CALEDONIA.—ST. PAUL'S CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL.—On Thursday evening last the teachers, friends and children of this school held their annual festival in the town hall. The Christmas tree was the first thing that attracted attention, which presented a beautiful appearance, and we think was more heavily laden than in former years. W. Keys, Esq., the superintendent, first addressed the meeting, and was followed by the Rev. H. F. Mellish. The children sang some new carols suited to the occasion, which were much applauded. Miss Cannon, Miss Vincent, Mr. Chapman and Master Willie Jackson sang pieces during the evening, and were each and all well received. Tea and cake were supplied in abundance. The distribution of the presents from the Xmas tree was the event of the entertainment, and which were dispensed by James Old, Esq., Jr. The ladies of the congregation made use of this occasion to present Mrs. Mellish with a most beautiful and valuable writing desk, as a memento of their love and esteem, which was duly acknowledged by the Rev. H. F. Mellish. The school at the present time has fourteen teachers, 154 scholars' names on the rolls, an attendance varying from 70 to 120 each Sunday. Lesson papers and magazines to the number of 3380 were given to the children during the year. The library is large, well chosen, and yearly increased by the proceeds of these festivals. About \$42 is now available for a further increase. Total sum received for past year, \$93.78. Expended, \$92.90.

HURON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

STRATHROY.—The members of the Church of St. John have not yet become weary of well-doing. The ladies of the congregation have presented Rev. James Smythe, rector of the parish, with a purse of \$90.

GODERICH.—ST. GEORGE'S.—Messrs. R. Radcliffe and A. Wiley, on behalf of the congregation, presented the Misses Maud and Bertha Trainer each with a purse as an expression of the appreciation of their services in the choir. The festival of Christmas was duly observed in St. George's, as the other churches of the Diocese. The church was very handsomely decorated, and the members of the church on that northern shore joined in the service first sung on the plains of Bethlehem.

BRANTFORD.—We are happy to note the continued prosperity of Grace Church, Brantford. The new organ lately purchased at the cost of \$3,500, is said to be one of the most effective on the continent. The lately erected extension of the gallery, first opened on Christmas day, reaches the entire length of the building. It is of a semi-elliptical form, very neat and substantial, and having pannelled front. It is intended to accommodate a large choir, and has seats at either extreme for the further accommodation of the congregation. The Rector, Rev. R. H. Starr, we see is doing good service in Brantford.

SIMCOE.—Church matters seem going on well here. The Rector on Thursday preached an excellent sermon, and also a stranger here, the Rev. Mr. Finlay, preached an eloquent Catholic sermon to a congregation who appeared deeply interested in all he said. The church itself for the most part is strong and substantial, being of brick, with two beautiful crosses on it, about five feet high; the chancel is frame. The church people of Simcoe should build a new one, so as to have all in unison. Their good Rector, Rev. Mr. Grassett, seems much esteemed by his parishioners. I have always heard Huron diocese is what is called Low Church, but I can assure my friends that both Toronto and Niagara can learn things from the Huron diocese as regards neatness and order.

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH.—The town of St. Thomas, county Elgin, has promise of soon having a church worthy of her growing importance. The new church is expected to be finished by the first of February. The plastering of the chancel only

is unfinished. The church will, it is said, seat eight hundred worshippers, though there will be no side galleries; if need be, one thousand persons can worship beneath its roof. The building is 128x55 feet. It is a handsome ecclesiastical structure. The contract price for its erection was \$17,000, but it will probably have cost \$20,000 by the time the work is completed. The Church of England has not, till of late, made such headway in the neighborhood of St. Thomas as in other parts of the Diocese, the place having been colonized by Scotch emigrants. The new church now built bears testimony to its present progress.

LONDON.—REV. DEAN BOOMER'S RETURN.—CONGRATULATORY ADDRESS FROM HIS CONGREGATION ON HIS RETURN FROM HIS EUROPEAN TRIP.—To the Very Rev. Dean Boomer:—We, the members of the congregation of the Chapter House of the Holy Trinity, hasten to bid you a cordial welcome on your return amongst us. We trust that the visit from which you have just returned has been in every way beneficial to you, and that our Heavenly Father has so blessed it to your health and energy that you may be long spared to lead us both by precept and example, as hitherto, in all Godly virtues. While welcoming you as one ministering amongst us in spiritual things, we desire at the same time to convey to you personally the sincere and affectionate regard of every member of your flock. And that the Great Head of the Church may enable us all to profit by your faithful ministrations, is our sincere and earnest prayer. Signed, on behalf of the congregation,

JAMES JOHNSON.

Rev. Dean Boomer, in reply, said:—
MY DEAR CHRISTIAN FRIENDS,—I assure you it is to me most gratifying to receive on my return this very kind, and, I may say, unexpected address; for when I consider the short period of time in which I have been absent, and the fact that my intercourse amongst you, especially of late, has been of necessity much more limited than I could have wished, I feel I had no reason to expect such an expression of kindness on your part, and such a hearty welcome as you have just now been pleased to convey to me. I need not conceal the truth that when I left for England I was so depressed, both in body and mind, that I felt most sensibly the absolute need of a change, and it is no small comfort to me to learn from the whole tone of this friendly greeting, that I must have had your sympathy in the distressing circumstances in which I had been placed. Whilst it is no less a pleasure to be able now to inform you that the hope you have expressed as to the benefit of my visit has, with the blessing of God, been fully realized, and that in His gracious providence I have been permitted to return thoroughly invigorated for the discharge of those pleasing duties which necessarily devolve upon me in connection with the Diocese, and especially with the congregation of the Chapter House. I hail therefore this address as an omen of the continuance of those happy relations that have hitherto existed between us—for when such relations do not exist there can be little prospect for good—and I consider that your prayer, that my ministration amongst you may be blessed by the Great Head of the Church is the very best earnest that it shall be heard and answered. And whilst in that prayer I most earnestly unite, I would also express the hope that when all earthly ministrations, as regards ourselves, have closed forever, it may be the privilege of each and all of us, in the light of eternity, to see how the services in this Chapter have been promotive of our highest, because our spiritual, interests.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY NOTES.

JAPAN.—We have been favoured by Major Shaw with the following communication from his Son, addressed to a brother:

AUSTRALIA AND INDIA.—BISHOPS OF MELBOURNE AND CALCUTTA.—The Rev. James Moorhouse was consecrated Bishop for the Diocese of Melbourne, Australia, on Sunday, October 22nd. Mr. Moorhouse was "Hulsean Lecturer" at Cambridge in 1865, and has, frequently, at other times, preached before that University; he also preached in Westminster Abbey on the occasion of the last anniversary