

to come in after Church, and talk together for a few minutes in a friendly way.

The Metropolitan then closed the meeting and the Conference with a few words, telling all to "Go home and work," and the Church could be well sustained, to have love for the work, and intercede for God's help, and the Church would soon be blessed and prosperous. Rev. Mr. Murray recommended the appointment of a body of young men who should get the names of strangers attending Church, and bring them to the Vestry to the clergyman next day.

The doxology was then sung, and the Benediction given by the Metropolitan.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

[From our own correspondent.]

SAD DEATH.—The Rev. H. C. Avant, one of our youngest and most active clergy, died after a very brief illness at the parsonage, Bobcaygeon, on Sunday night the 24th of December at 11 p. m. His remains were laid to rest on the following Wednesday in the cemetery at Verulam in the mission he loved so well and to which he had given four years' steady and faithful work as a "steward of the mysteries of God." He was ordained in St. Luke's, Toronto, by the Bishop of Algoma, acting for the Bishop of Toronto, on Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 1878. It will be noticed that he died on the fourth anniversary of his ordination. He was very much beloved by his people who testified their respect for his memory by joining the funeral procession in large numbers and by many expressions of sorrow and grief at his somewhat untimely end. *Requiescat in pace.*

ORDINATION.—The Bishop of Toronto held an ordination at St. James' Cathedral on Sunday the 17th Dec. The Rev. James Roy, M.A., formerly of the Wesley Congregational Church, Montreal, was ordained deacon and the Revs. Dr. McCarroll, Curate of Grace Church, and G. B. Morley, Incumbent of West Mono, were advanced to the priesthood. The candidates were presented by the Rev. Canon Stennett, chaplain; and the Ven. Archdeacon Boldy, the provost of Trinity College, and Rev. Dr. Scadding took part in the impressive and interesting service. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Canon Dumoulin from Acts xvi. 17, and was an eloquent and deeply instructive one. He showed the importance of the priesthood and the need of manly independence in the exercise of all sacred functions. He said the consciousness that they were Christ's servants should secure to them an immunity from the harassing cares and feverish anxieties which too often beset and cloud the days of His servants. Every duty faithfully performed, every sermon honestly preached, every visit made to the sorrowing and sick and dying, every step whereby the manifold ills of suffering humanity were assuaged would surely return upon their heads in a compensating and blessed return.

PERSONAL.—Rev. W. S. Rainsford leaves for his new church in New York city on January the 9th. Rev. Mr. Sanson, rector of Trinity East, is now able to resume his duties. The Rev. J. Roy whose ordination to the diaconate is referred to above, has entered upon his duties as Curate of Coburg. It is somewhat singular that this rather erratic gentleman was so quickly received into the Church. His probation was something less than three months. "Lay hands suddenly on no man" is a most wise maxim. A case in Ontario should warn the Episcopal bench to beware of receiving too hastily converts from the sects.

INDUCTION.—Rev. J. F. Sweeney was inducted by the Bishop on the 17th ult. His Lordship preached from 1 Thess. v. 12, 13, explaining the nature and office of the Christian ministry. St. Philip's Church was crowded on the occasion.

BAZAARS.—A sale of fancy and useful articles took place at Grace Church on the 20th and 21st of December. The articles displayed for sale were of a very fine description and found a ready market.—The Cathedral Ladies' Aid Association had a bazaar on the 19th which was very well attended

and very successful. The following ladies were interested in the sale:—Mrs. Baldwin, Duggan, Gilmour, Langlin, Bull and Ross and Misses Beard, Kingsman, Baldwin and Gilmour.

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

[From our own Correspondent.]

OTTAWA.—Not long since the Bishop issued a Pastoral reminding the laity of the Diocese, of the Canon of the Synod, which specially sets apart the offerings in the Churches on Christmas day for the Clergymen. The pastoral was well timed, for the care and anxiety of looking after many of the Parishes and Missions, are but poorly recompensed by the stipends of the Incumbents, and at this season of kindly remembrances, I think it is well that the clergy, who minister to us in spiritual things, should share the material generosity of the laity. Christmas, the first and greatest of the festivals of the Church was celebrated at the Capital with the usual joyous and hearty services. To the joy of all the day proved bright and pleasant and as a consequence was much enjoyed out of doors, but owing to the absence of the Governor-General and the Princess Louise, it was the most quiet Christmas experienced in this city for a long time. The churches were handsomely and tastefully decorated for the festival and were well filled, and the number of communicants was very large. Christ Church, the mother of all the Churches in this part of the Diocese, looked its best the ladies and gentlemen who undertook the decorations having surpassed, if possible, their efforts of former years. The bannerets, shields and other decorations were very artistically arranged and the *tout ensemble* presented a beautiful *coup d'œil*. The Bishop and the Rev. B. B. Smith, M. A. Assistant Minister, officiated. The Bishop delivered a very impressive discourse. Mr. J. W. F. Harrison presided at the organ. The choir and its master deserve great credit for the way in which the musical portions of the services were rendered. The accompaniments were well played, and the solos and chorusses were very beautiful. The offerings which amounted to about \$143 were presented by the Church-wardens to the Rev. Mr. Smith. I am exceedingly happy to chronicle so generous a Christmas gift. Considerable amusement was afforded Church people by an announcement, owing to a typographical error in an evening paper, that the "Bishop" of the so-called Reformed Episcopal Church, at Ottawa, would preach the sermon at Christ Church, on Christmas day, a statement which I notice has since been stupidly telegraphed to the *Montreal Gazette*.

LADY MACDONALD intends giving an "At Home" to the choir of the Church of Saint Alban the Martyr on Wednesday the 3rd January.

THE REV. WILLIAM SHANNON formerly Incumbent of Frankville, but now absent on leave for a considerable time past on account of severe personal affliction, has arrived at the Kingston General Hospital, where he is well cared for. He is very low and suffering greatly from cancer of the tongue.

DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

[From our own correspondents.]

GEORGEVILLE.—At a Christmas gathering the people of the village took occasion to render Miss Eva Tuck a mark of their appreciation of her long and efficient services as organist in the Episcopal Church and director of the school classes, by presenting her a purse containing nearly \$50. It was an agreeable surprise, and Miss Tuck returned her warm thanks.

THREE RIVERS.—Among the presents on the Christmas tree of the St. James Episcopal Church were a purse of \$85 for the Rector, Rev. J. H. Jenkins, and a valuable fur cloak for Mrs. Jenkins.

CHAMBLY.—The Christmas and New Year's eve service at St. Stephen's church, Chambly, were well attended, and the collection taken up on Christmas morning in response to the bishop's circular amounted to \$60. The decorations were carried out with great taste, especially in the chancel portion of the

church.....The Ladies' Church Aid Association have contributed \$120 towards procuring new windows for the church. The glass is to be frosted with colored borders. The present windows are to be retained, and to answer the purpose of double windows. This new arrangement will add much, both to the comfort and appearance of the church.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

[From our own Correspondents.]

MONTREAL.—A very interesting and hearty musical service was rendered in Christ Church Cathedral on Christmas Eve. It was specially a service however for the Sunday Schools. Sunday Schools of all denominations were invited we understand; but we fancy the invitation was only accepted by some of the Church Sunday Schools. Four or five hundred of these assembled. The service was entirely musical, and rendered under the direction of Mr. W. F. Mills. The Litany was rendered chorally as well as the evening service itself. Christmas carols and anthems were rendered with great effect. A sermon was preached in a plain, simple and effective manner to the children by the Reverend the Rector of Trinity Church. The whole service was very impressive, and what has been noted by the press is that both in it and the evening service the responding was quite congregational; much more so than when rendered in the colloquial style that has been customary. Evidently we shall see choral services in the Cathedral regarded before long as they are elsewhere, not only the "correct thing," but the most practical manner of bringing around "congregational worship."

The services in St. John the Evangelist, the pioneer in the matter of choral services and which for so long stood the odium attached to such things in the mind of most Protestants, was not alone in specializing the Christmas Feast by choral services and extra and early celebrations. The music was on this occasion of a very ornate character, and the choir was reinforced by the addition of special tenors, basses and sopranos. The decorations were of that tasteful kind ever characteristic of this church. The special feature in the observance of Christmas which distinguished this church from others was a midnight service and celebration. Not indeed a novelty for this congregation, for they have had such for three or more years back. And this service is ever being more largely attended.

Trinity Church witnessed a full church, fine music of a very special character, chaste decorations, and the congregation listened to an eloquent sermon by the Rector.

The same may be said about St. Martin's and St. James the Apostle's. Decorations are now so generally of an ornate character, and repeat themselves necessarily, that detailed mention is not required. The chief thing of note is the advancement of opinion as to the acceptability, on the score of reasonableness and usefulness, of a musically rendered service. The next step is to see a surpliced choir in the Cathedral at least, and next in St. George's and St. Martin's. And that step will be taken before many years shall pass. It must come.

"Fifty years ago," says Bishop Huntingdon, "the question was asked 'why keep Christmas?' in a tone that implied that such a step among New Englanders would be a decided step towards Popish error, now the keeping of that day is general throughout the land. And the Bishop's remarks are borne out as regards even Canada. Here in this city of Montreal we see Presbyterians, Independent, marking the day by special services and special music. The minister of one of these Presbyterian Churches has not now to apologize or explain as he did a few years ago that the meeting on Christmas Day was not because of that day, but that the day happened to coincide with his weekly prayer meeting. There is a decided "levelling up" going on in religious bodies that claim any history beyond the present century.