

INTERCESSION.—The Bishop of Rochester has issued a note to the clergy of his Diocese requesting them to invite the intercessions of their flocks for the restoration to health of the German Crown Prince. The Bishop states that the Prince resided for a few weeks last summer in the Diocese, and earned the affectionate respect of all who had the honour of making his acquaintance.

PERE HYACINTHE.—Bishop Jenner states that during his last five years the influence of M. Loyson has materially increased, not in Paris alone, but in every part of the country. He now invariably finds a respectful hearing. He lately visited Lille to give two references, the first of which was attended by 2,000, the second by 3,000. In places especially in the south, where a few years ago he was hooted, he is now received with respectful welcome.

"Philosophy cannot touch the want. It never has answered the questions, which men ask, and it never can answer them. It may amuse the scholar; it may call out the best side of character in the refined and cultivated, but it brings no message to cheer the broken of heart, to heal the wrecked and wretched, and to lead the sinful to peace and safety. It offers to men no hand to grasp, no Saviour to trust, no God to love. The Gospel of Jesus Christ meets me. It tells of a person. He who was before all worlds became the Son of man. He took of the Virgin Mary this very humanity and united it to His Divine nature. As truly as this body and soul make up one man, so truly were the human and Divine nature is the one person of God-man Jesus Christ." — *Bishop Whipple.*

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NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

AMHERST.—The great festival of Christmas was observed with much heartiness and devotion in this parish. The decorations of "Christ Church" are very beautiful, far exceeding anything in the past, all being done under the supervision of our energetic Deacon in charge, Rev. C. le V. Brine, and to add to the completeness of the whole, very handsome and chaste altar hangings and wings, and four banners in white and gold were presented by loving members. Upon the re-table stood the cross and vases filled with choice hot-house flowers. The text in gold letters, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour which is Christ the Lord," stands out in boed relief upon a rood-screen of white, giving the key-note to the Christians joy. Over the font is a canopy in gold and white, surmounted by the cross, and also upon each point of the rood-screen is a cross.

At Matins the Church was filled, and at Evensong it was literally packed. At the close of the service Rev. Mr. Brine read a letter addressed to the congregation from our venerable and respected Rector at present residing in England. Four seasons of Christmas have passed away since Rev. Canon Townshend left this parish, but at each season he has written to the

congregation in words of affectionate remembrance.

The musical portion of the service was very fine, the anthem "Arise Shine," and two grand carols were exceedingly well rendered.

On St. Stephen's Day, Rev. W. C. Wilson, rector of "All Saints," Springhill, celebrated the Holy Eucharist to a goodly number of the faithful.

At three o'clock on "St. John the Evangelist Day," the members of "Acacia Lodge" A. F. A. M., in full regalia attended divine service in "Christ Church." Prayers were said by Revs. W. C. Wilson and C. le V. Brine, and a most able and eloquent sermon was delivered by Rev. J. R. S. Parkinson, rector of Londondery Mines, from Proverbs, iv, 18. The Lodge marched to and from Church preceded by the band playing some of their choicest airs.

KENTVILLE.—It has been the excellent custom for some years past in the parish of Norton, comprising the villages of Walford and Kentville, to present the offertories taken on Easter and Christmas to the Rector.

The offertory yesterday—Christmas Day—amounted to the large sum of ninety dollars, (\$90). Besides this, nice and acceptable gifts, which can but cement the ties of affection binding together pastor and people. A number of the Kentville congregation kindly presented the Rector with an affectionate address accompanied by a splendid fur cap of beaver and a pair of handsome gloves of Persia lamb.

Such acts are worthy of being recorded as an encouragement and inducement to other congregations and clergy.

SHELBURNE.—Our bright Christmas Services have been well attended. The Parish Church looks very festive with its white hangings, its crystal crosses, abundant festooning of green, Chancel arch and banners. Matins and Evensong were fully choral, as was also the celebration. The singing of Carols was, as usual, a characteristic element of our worship. The special course of Advent Sermons had, we hope, something to do with the presence of two new communicants. There was a large number of communicants. Our venerable Rector assisted in the joyous services, to the delight of us all. The offertory, \$10.18, (\$9.14 at Christ Church, and \$1.04 at Church Avon), was for W. and O. Fund.

At the close of the Christmas Services, Miss Bell, a faithful precentrix and S. S. Teacher, was presented with a handsome gold brooch, and short address expressing the high sense of regard in which she has ever been held by the choir and congregation.

The Church of the Resurrection looks lovely. The people have taken great pains to adorn this lovely Sanctuary, and the result reflects great credit upon their taste.

A number of Christmas presents showed the Vicar that his labours were appreciated. The kind donors have the hearty thanks of their friends at the Vicarage.

NEW GLASGOW.—Messrs. Drake brothers erected in St. George's Chapel a Chancel screen of three tall arches, handsome enough to be left in position permanently.

The white frontal for the altar and similar hangings for the desks and lectern, given last Christmas by Mr. Patton, were again used; and the *toute ensemble* was admirable.

Mr. Newton Drake and the choir deserve great praise,—and Miss Campbell and Miss McQueen, from the Kirk choir, greatly strengthened the chants and the hymns.

On Monday, Mrs. Calvin Bent was pleased to entertain the Sunday school children at her residence, and they were evidently well pleased with their entertainment; altogether we had a really happy Christmas.

ALBION MINES.—We badly missed our Senior Churchwarden, Mr. Rutherford, who is in Eng-

land—but some of his last year's plans were carried out in decorating the Church—which looks chaste and well. Mrs. Poole presented a reredos of wood—in five arches with a bold Calvary Cross occupying the centre; which is the only *new* thing and a vast improvement.

The services were bright and well attended—the singing (although we had not Miss Rutherford with us), was hearty and did great credit to our organist, Miss Richardson and the Choir.

The following timely article was contributed to the *Halifax Herald*, by the Rev. D. Partridge, and deserves an extended reading:

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND, ITS POSITION AND PROSPECTS IN NOVA SCOTIA.

The Church of England in Nova Scotia occupies a position unique in its character. All the other Colonial Sees in Canada are her daughters, and in a very real sense she is the progenetrix of the whole Colonial Episcopate. After the first bold plunge of the Scottish Bishops who, relying on their inherent powers, consecrated Bishop Seabury to the colony of Connecticut in 1783, the way was opened for a more extended bestowal of the same blessings upon the rapidly increasing foreign possessions of the British empire. And although this policy was met with much opposition, that perhaps did no real harm. The problem set before the infant Church in Nova Scotia, as before most other Colonial Sees, was, how to adapt the principles and methods of an organization coeval with Christianity itself to the new and untried phases of a nascent civilization. In colonies born of circumstances which made commonplace mortals into heroes, slow thinking men into zealots, and the indifferent into ardent patriots, life, thought, and action became intense, throbbing, decided, while they were also adaptive, conscientious and essentially permanent. Nothing was retained simply because it was old, or prescribed. All things must stand the test of usefulness. And he was the wisest statement or ecclesiastical builder who had sagacity enough to see and foresee what was fit to keep, or strong enough to stand. Independence, self government, self-guidance took the place of the Conventional rules of Red-tape; and by degrees the State and the Church each equipped itself with what was necessary and suited to its new conditions. The Church of England while practically self-governed, remained in a state of reliance on home support longer than any of the denominations. The traditions of centuries of endowment are hard to shake off. What has always been given is instinctively looked for, and taken without any feeling of shame. This has been the bane of the Church. Other denominations have learned to walk alone. She still uses the crutch. This long necessary implement has to be cast away. The Church has now attained her majority. A hundred years have passed over her head. She must break her leading strings, and have confidence in herself. The state has done this; so must she. She can command neither the respect of her neighbours nor the best work of her children till she has grown thus far. Dependence on England for sustenance or for rulers is equally a bar to her real progress. It is time for her to rely on herself.

Charles Inglis, first Bishop of Nova Scotia, was a man of good education, wide experience, and large mind. With a foresight, trained in troublous times, and sharpened by adversity, he laid the foundation broad and deep. By the establishment of an Academy which will now soon see its centenary year, and flourishes still in more than its pristine vigour; by the building of a College which has sent forth many distinguished men, as graduates from its walls, he evinced the instincts of a pioneer, and constructed an edifice that will last. But things have altered almost as much as possible since his day. The Church of England in Nova Scotia, then was aristocratic. Her councillors were