

minister in a letter to a contemporary, says that he uses forms of prayer, written prayers, in family worship, and wishes that every family in his church would use a prayer book. He confesses that he had for many years an inveterate prejudice against written prayers. "With entire want of charity," he says, "I had been used to charge those who used them with lacking piety and devotion, and mere using a form of prayer to satisfy an uneasy conscience. I blush to charge myself with these things, but they are true." The neglect of family prayer cannot be excused on account of the timidity or inexperience of the head of the family in offering extempore prayer, as there are many admirable compilations which may be used by those not accustomed to the Book of Common Prayer. To the churchman this treasury of devotion is always at hand, to meet the wants and to voice the aspirations of devout souls, in every season.

THE RATIO OF INCREASE OF METHODISM IN THE UNITED STATES.

In 1787, according to Bangs history of Methodism, there were 25,842 members and 132 ministers of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the United States. The increase of membership for that year was 5,161 members, or a ratio of 39 members per minister for the year. In 1837, there were 705,673 members and 3,332 ministers and an increase for the year of 43,650 members or a ratio of 13 members per minister. In 1887, according to the published reports, there are 2,002,452 members and 12,800 ministers, and the increase of members was 100,047, or a ratio of less than 8 members per minister.

From the above it will be seen that during the first 50 years, the increase was 27½ times. The increase for the last 50 years is less than 3 times.

Another interesting fact is that in 1878, there were 2,460 more local preachers than ministers, but in 1887, there are only 13 local preachers more than ministers.

During the past year, there were 7 conferences with some 800 ministers, (a body nearly as large as the whole of Canadian Methodism) that reported a decrease in membership. Yet the *Christian Guardian* says: "The past year was one of unparalleled prosperity for the M. E. Church of the United States."

If Methodism had increased during the past 50 years in the same ratio as it did, the first 50 years of its history in the United States its membership in that country to-day would be nearly 20,000,000 instead of 2,000,000.—*Com.*

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

We are obliged again to hold over many items of Home Field News.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

COWANSVILLE.—The Annual meeting of Trinity Church, Cowansville, was held on Easter Monday, and the following appointments made: Mr. E. Buzzell, Clergyman's Warden, Mr. G. Loud, Peoples' Warden; both re-elected. Lay delegates to Synod, Dr. J. B. Gibson, and J. Mackinnon. Lay delegate to Dunham Ladies' College, Hon. G. B. Baker. Sidesmen, Mr. A. Brewer, and Dr. J. Laudor. A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered to Miss A. O'Halloran, for her efficient and valuable services as Organist, during the past four years. The Stipend of the Incumbent, Rev. G. Forsey, was increased, and a resolution highly complimentary to him passed.

MONTREAL.—*St. Luke's.*—The Young People's Association of St. Luke's, gave a reception

in the lecture room of the Church on Wednesday evening. The room was tastefully decorated with flowers for the occasion. Among those who took part in the programme was Miss Snardell, Miss Wray, Dr. Burkett, Dr. Kirkpatrick, and Messrs. McAlister and Goldsack. Each person present was presented with a rose, and refreshments were served at the close.

ONSLow.—The Vestry in connection with the Church of St. John the Evangelist, met on Easter Monday, April 11th, 1887, the Rev. A. B. Gibson, presiding.

The financial report showed a balance on hand, after all current expenses being paid.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Church Wardens, Messrs. Wm. Hurison, and Charles Bell. Lay delegates to Synod, Messrs. Edmund H. Botterell and Dr. Charles Cameron. Sidesmen, Messrs. W. H. Meredith, Geo. Amm, W. Dowd, and T. Hodgins. Vestry clerk, Fr. Charles Bell.

BOSCobel AND NORTH ELY.—At the annual Easter Vestry meetings held at Boscobel on Easter Monday, and that of North Ely on Easter Tuesday, the Rev. C. P. Abbott being chairman, the following Churchwardens and lay delegates were elected. For the congregation of St. John the Divine, Boscobel: Mr. L. Hackwell, clergyman's warden, and Mr. Joseph Copping, people's warden; delegates to Synod: Mr. W. Hackwell, sr., and Mr. James Osborne, sr. For All Saints' congregation, North Ely: Mr. W. L. Davidson, clergyman's warden; Mr. John B. Nixon, people's warden, and Mr. John Millette, sidesman; delegates to Synod: Mr. Jos. Davidson and Mr. John Davidson. The attendance at both vestrys was unusually good; especially at North Ely. At Boscobel the main business after the elections was respecting the building of a parsonage, wood-shed, &c., to replace the present one, which has for several years been only of slight benefit. The vestry was all but unanimous to build it, and with as little delay as possible. The chief business of importance after the elections at North Ely was in reference to repairing in a thorough manner, as far as present and future funds would admit, their Church edifice; there was also an evident desire prevailing to erect a spire instead of the curious device which no one has ever commended. The next thing of importance brought up for consideration was in regard to matters in connection with a church horse-shed, which a recent previous meeting had decided to build and complete, if possible, by 1st July, and a goodly subscription was obtained. It is much to be wished that the congregation of Boscobel will not long be behind their brethren in North Ely in also erecting a horse-shed; but the writer thinks it safe to state that the former congregation would have built one several years since if they could only have agreed upon a plan; probably a little yielding on both sides will solve the difficulty.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

We much regret that the following items as to the Easter services in Toronto reached us too late for insertion in last number:

All Saints'.—Both services at All Saints' on Easter were fully choral, the choir being strengthened by the addition of an orchestra of both string and reed instruments. The altar, font, and pulpit, were each beautifully decorated with flowers, the Easter lily predominating. The curate, the Rev. J. H. Mackin, B.A., preached in the morning, taking for his text St. Matt. xxviii, v. 10. The church was very much crowded at both services, many having to stand during the whole time they were in progress. The rector, the Rev. A. H. Baldwin, occupied the pulpit in the evening.

The Church of the Redeemer.—The Bishop

of Algoma preached in the morning on the Resurrection, and administered the Communion, assisted by Rev. Principal Sheraton and the rector, Rev. Septimus Jones. The choir sang the anthem, "God Hath Appointed a Day," the quartette being taken by Miss Berryman, Miss Grundy, Mr. W. A. Frost and Mr. E. W. Schuch.

The Church of the Ascension.—Easter sermons were preached at the morning and evening services by Rev. H. G. Baldwin and Rev. R. A. Bilkey respectively. The attendances at the services were very large, the congregation in the evening being the largest that ever attended any church service at the Ascension. The musical portion of the services, under the direction of Mr. E. R. Doward, the organist of the church, was unusually fine. There was a well-trained choir of 45 voices, which showed the great improvement that has marked their efforts during the past few months.

St. George's.—The Easter services were very well attended, especially the celebration of Holy Communion at 8 o'clock, when a large congregation was present, and at the Evening service, when the Church was crowded to the doors, and many were unable to find admittance. The Bishop of Algoma preached a masterly sermon, and the service was fully choral—two anthems being sung. There was a celebration at 7 a.m., and also after Morning Prayer, and a children's service at 3:30. The Easter adornments were extremely beautiful, consisting chiefly of white flowers, relieved by their foliage and by a sprinkling of red blossoms. On the central window above the altar was a mass of green, from which sprang magnificent calla lilies.

St. Paul's.—The Women's Aid Association of this parish have, during the past six months, made and distributed a large amount of warm clothing, quilts, &c., among the poor of the city, besides sending a box to a missionary.

The annual Vestry meetings were held in most of the Churches on Easter Monday, and were for the most part of a satisfactory nature. A summary of the result will be given later.

An Anglican Mission Chapel is to be erected at Windermere, near the nut and bolt works, and will, it is hoped, be ready for Divine service in July next.

DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

HAMILTON.—The Vestry of the Church of the Ascension, at their Easter meeting decided to erect a new church in place of the building recently burned, at an extended cost of \$18,000 which has already been subscribed, with the exception of \$600. Four subscriptions of \$1000 each were received, since Easter. The receipts of the congregation last year amounted to \$8,352. Messrs. Adam Brown and Archdale Wilson were elected Churchwardens, and Dr. Ridley delegate to the Synod.

All Saints.—The Vestry elected Messrs. F. H. Mills, and S. F. Ross, Churchwardens. The receipts during the past year amounted to \$2,605, and the expenditures to \$2,586.

Christ Church Cathedral.—At the Easter meeting Messrs. Geo. H. Bull, and Geo. Roach, were re-elected Churchwardens. The financial statement will be presented at the adjourned meeting. The choir of this church have adopted the use of cassocks as well as surplices, adding much to the decency and order of the services.

St. Mark's Church.—Messrs. J. H. Wilson, and James Linsley, were elected Wardens.

St. Thomas's Church.—Messrs. R. R. Morgan and Richard Fuller, Wardens.

Barton—Holy Trinity.—Messrs. W. A. Duff and Geo. Luxton, Wardens, and W. S. Burn, delegate to Synod.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

PETITE RIVIERE.—*St. Michael's Parish.*—