

PARISH NOTES.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., JULY 1, 1891.

The month of June has been a month of asking and giving, —work, we are sure, more pleasant for the givers than for those whose duty it has been, on so many recent occasions, to appeal to the well-trying liberality of the congregation. It seems that a plan of organization might well be attempted, by which the periods of appeal and collection should be equally distributed over the year. This would clearly be a convenience to all alike. We may assume that a sum of about \$1,000 can be raised from our congregation for the various missionary objects, in this proportion:—

D. C. S.	\$500 00
C. M. S.	200 00
Bible Society	150 00
Shingwauk	75 00
Algoma Diocese.....	75 00

\$1,000 00

This amount is collected in various ways, and with no regularity of method. The most effectual means, it is well known, is that of personal appeal; for an offertory is subject to various extraneous influences, of which the weather is by no means unimportant. Yet the public recognition in our Church Service by means of an offertory there taken up and placed upon the Holy Table is an incident of great value, even if the amount received requires to be largely supplemented by other appeals. Although the multiplication of committees is not a thing desirable, it may be well that a strong and representative committee on Mission Work should be appointed, and should formulate a plan by which the objects described might be best attained.

We are glad to report that the offerings for the Diocesan Church Society have considerably increased, and that, in all probability, the amount of \$500 for the "General Purposes" fund, at which our parish was assessed by the Board of Home Missions, will be reached. In addition to this, a considerable sum has been raised for the two special funds, that of "Incapacitated Clergy," and "Widows and Orphans."

More and more it is being understood that to stand aside from any work, because it is not carried out according to what, in our opinion, are the most satisfactory methods and principles, is a suicidal policy. It simply plays into the hands of those with whom we differ, and provides them with an unanswerable argument in their favor, viz: that they alone are interested and active in the work. Indeed, the fact that one party in the Church is so strongly represented in the diocese at present, may be attributed almost entirely to this unwise abstention, now, we trust, a thing of the past. Our object should be, not to substitute one set of extreme party men for another, but to fill up present and prospective vacancies by ministers, faithful to the ancient lines of the Church of England, for whose work, we are sure, the laity of our province are eagerly desirous. Now this cannot be hoped for unless we co-operate heartily and effectively with existing diocesan machinery. The writer well remembers how emphatically this principle, applied indeed under different circumstances, was laid down by Bishop Ryle of Liverpool. It was at the time when Church Congresses were being established in England, and many of the straiter Evangelicals held back from any meeting on public platforms with Ritualists. But Bishop Ryle's sterling common sense and vigorous Saxon English were exerted forcibly and successfully, and he saved the Protestant party from the colossal blunder of abandoning the "Church Congress," and repeating the sad error which lost Baptist Noel and Capel Moyleux in past time. Fortunately, the so-called "Reformed Episcopal Church" has met with the failure it deserved, and more and more the conviction is becoming universal that the old vessel of the Anglican Church is seaworthy still, that the few needed repairs can wait their time yet, and that the crew must work and fight under the old flag until the last haven is reached.

The chief event of the past month was the special service commemorating the Accession, held on Sunday the 21st. It was necessary to modify some details of the service, so as to fit it for the evening; but all its essential features were preserved. The church had been decorated with flags, and the service was largely attended. The special canticle, "*O Lord our Governor*," was sung in place of the Magnificat, and Handel's famous anthem, "*Zadok the Priest*," the music of which had been kindly lent to us by Canon Brigstocke, was performed in a manner with which our organist and choir have every reason to feel satisfaction. The National Anthem was sung after the offertory, and Mr. Ford played the beautiful variations upon the same melody composed by Rink. Our choir has received another valuable recruit in Miss Patton, and boasts now a completeness which will be able, in the future, to render good account of the most difficult anthems. Why should not one of Bach's magnificent Motetts be attempted some day?

Particulars as to the annual Sunday-school picnic will be found in another column. A vote of the teachers and others concerned was taken to decide the place to be chosen, and a very close poll resulted in the selection of Lepreaux.