

The Y. P. A., of St. John's held an "At Home" on the evening of Thanksgiving Day. There was a large and appreciative audience. Songs, piano solos, and club swinging formed part of an interesting programme. Refreshments in the form of tea, coffee and cake were provided.

The Bishop preached at the morning service in St. John's, Sunday 5th ult. His subject was the "Value of the Scriptures."

**GRACE CHURCH.**—The annual payment upon the mortgage of the Church, together with the semi-annual interest thereon, is being raised by the Finance Committee from the congregation; large subscriptions have already been given and no difficulty is anticipated in raising the required amount by the 1st day of January. One further payment after this, that is to be made in January, will reduce the mortgage to \$10,000 (ten thousand dollars). It is proposed, when this is accomplished, to allow the debt to remain at this sum for the present, merely paying the interest thereon. The congregation then propose to turn their attention to the erection of a School House, the need of which has been very much felt for some time. It is a difficult matter at present to arrange for congregational gatherings of a social nature, and when it is seen how essential it is to the life and well being of a congregation that opportunities should be provided for cultivating mutual knowledge and friendly intercourse, a School House becomes a necessity.

The Rev. A. Whalley preached at the Thanksgiving service in Grace Church. The offertory was given to the Children's Hospital.

The Women's Guild intend having a sale of work before Lent.

The bale of clothing which the W. A. have been preparing for some time, has been sent off to Rev. Mr. Smitheman, diocese of Algoma.

A successful concert was given in St. John's Hall under the auspices of the Women's Guild of St. Matthias Church, Hintonburg, of which Rev. Mr. Green is the Incumbent, on Wednesday evening the 8th inst. The Very Rev. the Dean was in the chair.

The cases of bigamy which are so often brought to our notice in the public press are due surely to the laxity of the civil regulations which govern marriage. A marriage may be performed if a marriage license be secured by the contracting parties and presented to the clergyman who may be requested to perform the ceremony. And when it is known how easy are the conditions upon which this license may be secured we cease to wonder at the regrettable results which follow in many cases. A few weeks ago a Mr. Costello, of Renfrew, was convicted of marrying no less than three women, and the discovery of his villainy was due to accident. Where marriage may be so easily contracted, it is evident that the penalty imposed upon the bigamist often fails to deter. The regulations regarding marriage should be more stringent. Is it possible after all to improve upon the laws of the Church in this matter? The publishing of banns, upon three several Sundays is surely a wise precaution, inasmuch as it affords an opportunity to the public to take steps to prevent a marriage if it be unlawful. Marriage of minors, runaway marriages, and bigamy could be almost altogether prevented if the rule of the church were adhered to.

The Rev. A. Shaw, of the Mission of Cobden, has been spending some time in the city raising funds to build a church in an outlying district of his parish. Mr. Shaw preached at the Advent service in Grace Church on Wednesday evening the 1st of Dec.

St. Luke's Hospital, in which so much interest is manifested, is being built very rapidly. It promises to be a handsome addition to the city from both an architectural and philanthropic point of view. Its success in every way is now fully guaranteed since the ladies of the city have identified themselves with it in a most enthusiastic manner.

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