

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

Gathered specially for this Paper by Our Own Correspondents.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA

AMHERST.—The Lenten services were well attended. The Queen of Festivals dawned upon us bright and beautiful. There were three celebrations, at 7, 9 and 11 o'clock, when about 135 received the symbols of the body and blood of their risen Lord. The church was very tastefully decorated with banners and rich flowers, the lily standing out prominently above all, and presenting a gladdening effect.

The annual parish meeting was held on Easter Monday, when the financial state of parochial affairs were found in a satisfactory condition, and the business was conducted most harmoniously.

The following were elected Wardens for the ensuing year, viz., Messrs. Barry D. Bent and G. Medley Townshend.

PUGWASH.—Easter Day—St. George's Church was very tastefully decorated with flowers, ferns and mosses. Gifts had lately been made in inscriptions, hangings and very pretty white book-markers, which were all in place. The services were warm and hearty, and the little band of the faithful can indeed thank God and take courage, for at the Easter meeting on Monday, parish affairs were found most satisfactory. Only a small debt of \$200 remains to be paid, and a friend has kindly offered to bear the expense of staining and varnishing the interior of the Church. The clergyman in charge is most zealous and hard-working, and has indeed been blessed, for the fruit of his labor is quite apparent. To God be the praise.

BRIDGETOWN.—The meeting of the Annapolis Rural Deanery was held at Bridgetown, pursuant to notice, on Wednesday, the 28th ult. Morning service was held in the church lately erected in this parish, an edifice hardly second to any in the diocese, being strictly architectural in its design, chaste and appropriate in its fittings, with several handsome memorial windows, and everything in keeping and style, striking the eye and taste of everyone entering its sacred precincts with its entire aptitude and fitness, reflecting also great credit upon the unwearied energy of the Rector and his amiable lady, as well as the willing hands and generous hearts of his parishioners.

As was suitable upon such an auspicious occasion as the first meeting of the Chapter in this beautiful and imposing structure, the pulpit was occupied by the Venerable the Dean, who preached a most impressive and appropriate discourse.

Prayers were read by the Rev. James Ritchie, Rector of Annapolis; the Litany by Rev. H. D. DeBlois; the Lessons by Rev. F. P. Grotorex, Rector of Granville. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the Dean and Rev. Mr. Ritchie.

After partaking of dinner at the Rectory, the business meeting was opened with prayer by the Dean at 2:50 p.m., when the minutes of the previous meeting having been passed, the fifth chapter of the Acts was read and critically commented on.

The subject of the proposed alteration in the Superannuation Fund scheme was then taken up, causing a long and animated discussion, and every member of the Deanery present pledged himself to do all in his power to have the scheme, at the next meeting of the Synod, placed upon a more satisfactory basis.

A communication from the Secretary of the Avon Chapter on the same subject was brought before the meeting, and the views of that Chapter were by resolution fully endorsed.

A Missionary Meeting was held in the evening, which was very largely attended, and

stirring and eloquent speeches were delivered by the Rector, and Rev. Messrs. DeBlois, Ritchie and Filleul; and, from the earnest attention paid and interest manifested, much good, it is trusted, may result.

The Church was beautifully trimmed with flowers. The collections, by special permission of the Deanery, were devoted to the fund for the paying off of the debt still existing on the church.

The members of the Deanery present were the Rev. the Dean, and Rev. Messrs. Ritchie, Wilkins, Grotorex and DeBlois (Secretary).

During part of the session the Chapter was enlivened by the presence of the genial Rector of Kentville, the Rev. J. Owen Ruggles.

This meeting of the Chapter was universally acknowledged to have been both pleasant and profitable.

WINDSOR.—We understand the Lord Bishop intends calling together his Rural Deans for Conference on the day before the opening of the Diocesan Synod. They should be eight in number; but the Venerable Dr. T. H. White has resigned Shelburne, and his successor is not elected.

Rev. Dr. Maynard is Rural Dean of Avon; Rev. H. H. Hamilton, of St. George; Rev. P. J. Filleul, of Annapolis; Rev. D. Smith, M.A., of Sydney, C.B.; Rev. W. Ellis, of Tangier; Rev. W. H. Snyder, M.A., of Lunenburg; Rev. D. C. Moore, of Amherst.

Rev. Canon Brock, professor of divinity and acting-president of King's College, preached an eloquent sermon in St. Luke's Cathedral, May 2nd inst.

The *Newbury News* (Berks) is publishing extracts from an old diary containing entries made by Mr. S. Purdue, who was parish clerk there, from 1766 to 1803. He gives a quaint account of the old custom of beating the parish boundaries, or what was termed "possessioning." "1795, Nov. 2nd.—Went round the boundaries, possessioning. Began at Speenhamland water, and round the Marsh, cross the Bason in the Wharf in a boat, and then proceeding along the ditch, through Mr. Clark's yard, &c., through Mr. Loyd's, and over the wall, one man and two or three boys, and then proceeding on for Sandleford. Stopt on the the mount in the lane and cut x cross, put Osgood on end upon his head, and done unto him as was necessary to be done by way of remembrance. When we came to the canal in Mr. Montague's park, a poor Jew, as a spectator, was pushed in, and we suppose he will not very soon forget it. The grand jury was so good as to give him 5s., and then proceeded on straight to a great tree, and then down to the river, and then on to the bridge at Newtown, where they refreshed themselves with cakes and ale, and all sung the 104 Psalm, and then proceeded on through Mr. Colman's, and through the woods for the Wash Common, and when we came to Mr. Daw's Mill a shoemaker was pushed in, and narrow escaped being drowned. Jno. Lynch went into his assistance, but with great difficulty saved himself had not the third person came to his assistance, which was one Gutter-edge, and proceeded on to the Arch, where some of the people was a going to throw young Pearce in, as he was the instigation of the other being in, and then proceeded on the side of the water until we came about the middle of the Common, and then went up straight to the Burial hill, where they refresh themselves with cakes and ale, and all sung the 100th Psalm, and then proceeded down the ground straight to the New River, and cross't it to the Old River, and then cross the Old River in a boat round Northeroft up the ditch by the George and Dragon, up North-brook-street. Three huzzas upon the Bridge, and then into the Market-place, three huzzas, and then departed. A supper or dinner provided at the White Heart for the constable and the school-master. The grand jury attended the procession. Dined at the

Town Arms. The evening spent very merrily. Note.—Old Kit Nation was turned on end upon his head and well spanked in the corner of No. 3 roft and upon the Wash. Mr. Caster and Twitchen, churchwardens."

The above will interest our Nova Scotian readers above others, as Newbury is the parish in which their able Bishop spent part of his youth. His Father, Rev. Dr. Binney, being vicar. Nov. 3rd, however, strikes us as an uncommon date for "Beating the Bounds," we thought it was usual at Ascension Tide, or rather on Rogation Days—and "Strutt" confirms us.

ALBION MINES.—The Easter services were well attended; the communicants were a goodly band. The floral decorations in Christ Church and the music in St. George's were worthy of much commendation.

The Easter meeting was most harmonious. The wardens, vestry clerk and sexton were all re-elected. Messrs. Wm. Moore, W. G. Miller, G. M. Appleton and T. Patton were elected to fill vacancies in the Vestry. Miss Wentworth, organist, and choir received thanks. Delegates to Diocesan Synod: Messrs. Poole and Rutherford; substitutes: Messrs. James Gossip and C. F. Fraser.

NEW GLASGOW.—There was a harmonious meeting, which was, however, adjourned for the purpose of maturing plans for the mastery of the debts. The statement for the current year was satisfactory, as will be seen. Thanks were tendered to the committee, who were continued in office, with the addition of Harry Townsend, Esq. The choir also received a well deserved vote of thanks. Mr. Selwyn said the Evening Prayer before the meeting.

HALIFAX.—St. George's Centennial.—The turnout of St. George's Society and cadet corps was the finest seen in some years. In the march through the principal streets the procession was headed by the band of the 63rd Rifles. Following came the members of the Society with their handsome banners flying. The cadets were headed by the band of the 66th P.L. Fusiliers. Starting from the drill shed, the procession proceeded to St. Paul's Church, where service was held. The officiating clergy were Canon Partridge, Revs. Messrs. Murray, Winterborne, and Edwards. An excellent sermon was preached by the Lord Bishop, from the text: "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's and unto God the things that are God's," Matt. xii., 27. The service was full choral, the music being of a very high order.

DIGBY, N.S.—Trinity Church.—Daily services were held in this Church through Lent, besides weekly Instruction and Bible Classes in Digby and Marshalltown. The attendance at the services in both places on Good Friday was large. Very bright and hearty services marked the holy festival of Easter Day. The celebrations of the Holy Communion were held in Trinity Church, the first at 7:30 a.m., and the second at the forenoon service. The attendance at the first was 30, and at the latter 47—77 in all—being the largest for a great many years.

Sixteen persons communicated at St. Paul's Chapel, Marshalltown.

The annual parish meeting on Easter Monday was perhaps the most cheering that has taken place in this parish since its first, on Michaelmas Day, 1785, not only on account of the perfect unanimity which marked the proceedings, but also because of the fact that the parish showed a clear balance sheet,—not a cent remaining unprovided for on the clergyman's salary or the current expenses.

A very cordial vote of thanks was given to the Wardens, T. C. Shreve and T. H. Adams, Esqs., for their successful energy in this matter. The thanks of the meeting were also