

delivered, and I have no hesitation in pronouncing them the most interesting and instructive discourses ever preached in this church. The attendance at the Advent services has been very good, especially with reference to the children, 47 being the average attendance for the past few Sundays.

In the course of a few days, Mr. Thursby expects to be able to forward to the treasurer the sum of fifty dollars, being voluntary subscriptions towards the liquidation of the mission debt of this diocese.

The Women's Auxiliary held a sale of work, and high tea on Saturday, December 11th, in the Brotherhood House, which proved very successful, the proceeds amounting to \$70.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew have reopened their gymnasium for the winter, while the "Mechanics Institute" Library, which is situated in the "Brotherhood House," is well supported. The building is now lighted throughout with electricity, and the question of putting in some baths, in connection, is being mooted.

The Sunday school, at the instigation of Mr. Thursby, have commenced a series of "Birthday Offerings," in aid of the Shingwauk Home. Six birthdays have provided 96 cents, and upon receipt of the next donation, the amount will be forwarded to the Diocesan Treasurer. H. B.

Powassan Mission.

REV. C. H., BUCKLAND, INCUMBENT.

Our Mission was favoured with its first Rural Deanery meeting on the 7th and 8th of December. Only two clergymen put in an appearance, the Revs. A. W. H. Chowne, R.D., Emsdale, and D. A. Johnston, of Magnetewan. The Rural Dean arrived on Monday evening, and on Tuesday afternoon in company with the incumbent drove to Trout Creek to inspect the church, having given up all hope of seeing any other clergymen, but on their return they received the welcome news that the Rev. Mr. Johnston had arrived from Magnetewan, having driven a distance of 42 miles over very rough roads. On Tuesday evening, December 9th, Divine service was held in St. Mary's Church, Rev. D. A. Johnston being the preacher. On Wednesday morning at 9.30 o'clock there was a celebration of Holy Communion; the celebrant, the

Rural Dean, assisted by the Rev. D. A. Johnston.

During the day the Rural Deanery meeting was held at the parsonage when matters of importance to the Deanery were discussed, and letters of regret were read from Revs. Cobb, Evans, and Piercy.

Wednesday evening, 7.30, missionary meeting was held, at which the clergymen present made addresses.

C. H. B.

Webbwood Mission.

MR. THOMAS SCARLETT, CATECHIST.

On Thursday, December 9th, the Bishop visited this mission. He preached at Webbwood in a well-filled church on the evening of the 9th, and held a celebration of the Lord's Supper on the morning of the 10th. He then took the train for Nairn Centre, and inspected the new church which has been lately built there, in which he preached the same evening to a goodly number. He made a passing reference to the costly and magnificent fixtures and decorations which Miss Gurney had sent out from England. He said that it behooved the people of Nairn to greater efforts in the future, since Miss Gurney and others in distant England were so interested in their behalf. On Saturday morning His Lordship administered the Holy Communion to eight communicants. He took the afternoon train for North Bay. The people of this mission have been stirred up to renewed activity by the visit of our beloved Bishop, and hope that his visits may be frequent. T. S.

Confirmation.

Bishop Eden, now the Bishop of Wakefield, in his farewell sermon as the Bishop Suffragan of Dover (in the Archdiocese of Canterbury), preached in Canterbury Cathedral, referred in the latter part of his sermon to the work among the young who are confirmed, and who had been confirmed by him, as follows:

"A large part of my work in the past seven years has been to lay hands upon those who came up for God's blessing in confirmation. Those who have lived long enough tell us of the marvellous change which has passed over the outward reception, at least, of this rite. This work, so far as this diocese is

concerned, was really begun on this present scale by my predecessor, Bishop Parry, whose name I mention with affection and reverence to-night. I have tried to teach you that the essence of confirmation is that there is a good work in you, which God begins, and which God will perfect; that it does not consist in mere professions, nor even in the most earnest self dedication, though all this is in it, but that there is the presence of God the Holy Spirit—a power that worketh in us, an indwelling, divine inspiration, which will sit upon the throne of our judgment and take possession of our souls if we yield them to Him. Let us be quite clear about this. There is a difference between Christ's work for us and God's work in us. Christ's work for us is completed and finished. You cannot add one atom of merit to the sacrifice He made once for all upon the Cross for you, but you can increase the force and opportunity of Christ's work in you, and you have the fatal power, if you will, of stopping this work in your character; so, therefore, circumstances place it at the door of your heart either to open it to Him to reign there, or to close it tighter and tighter with wilful and habitual sin. Work with Him, be not ashamed to make fresh starts; God will never cast you out so long as your face is set Zionwards. I shall never forget, when I first became Bishop how that great and good man, Archbishop Benson, spoke to me about the thousands of young people whom I should confirm. He said, 'I want you to tell them, above all things, this, "that God is their friend already, and that He is pledged to help them."' This is the essence of our Church teaching. We say God has begun the work in us even when we were enemies. By our baptism we were placed under this salvation, and received the first sign of God's love through the Holy Ghost. God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your heart. If you cast out of your heart the world, the flesh, and the devil, and by God's grace empty yourself of the sins that are hindering your full communion with Him, the oil of His Holy Spirit will feed you with new life. In conclusion, we sometimes think too much of the workers; let us go back behind it to God; let us rest upon His love and say, 'Thou hast been my Helper, therefore under the shadow of Thy wings will I rejoice.'