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house of Grace Church on "Self help." The chair was occupied by Rev. J. P. Lewis. The Misses Walker furnished music during the evening. The lecturer gave an interesting talk on the human system. He described to his listeners the heating, illumination, and ventilation of the house in which we live. He touched upon the functions of the different organs, and the treatment likely to produce health or disease. When anything went wrong it was not the fault of the Divine Builder, but of the occupant. The lecturer gave some valuable advice, and made his remarks exceedingly interesting and instructive.

YORK AND NORWAY.—*Sunday School Festival's.*—The Sunday school scholars of York and Norway assembled on December 30th in the hall at York, by kind permission of Mr. Morton, for their annual Christmas entertainment. After an address of welcome by the Rev. Charles Ruttan to the scholars, parents, and friends, with whom the hall was well filled, sweet singers chosen out of the school stirred up the festive spirit by singing Christmas carols. The singers, and the good lady who trained them, brought forth pleasing fruit. Now were presented the school rewards, a book to each scholar, prizes to the first three in each class. Song and recitations remove the slight flavour of monotony, and draw out the pleasures of anticipation, for a Christmas tree, glorious with lights and presents, has long been the source of sweet hope to each one that holds a ticket with its mystic number. But before the joy of fulfilled hope, comes the joy of surprise. Mr. Pickering, churchwarden of York congregation, presented to Mr. Ruttan a large, handsome Bible, together with a chair, as a present from York congregation, for use at Sunday service in the hall. Mr. Ruttan has spent many years of hard work in the ministry. To him this gift of kindness has afforded no small degree of pleasure and comfort, as all could easily see from the glad countenance and happy voice with which thanks were returned to the givers. At last the tree yields its fruit; longing hope is emptied in delight of possession. A vote of thanks to Mrs. Ruttan and her assistants was proposed by Mr. Morton and unanimously carried. Mrs. Ruttan may claim one more triumph. With a mind busy upon many projects, a will determined to do all well, this indefatigable worker has always room for one more, the more the merrier. After singing "God Save the Queen," the assembly poured out to meet the cold, very cold air, with cheerful and warm hearts. May they never grow cold, but when Christmas comes again may the fervid glow in our hearts of Christian love of the brethren and all mankind, prove that the fire has been kindled and fed from God's altar.

NIAGARA.

BURLINGTON.—A supplementary confirmation, as it may be called, of certain persons who were disappointed in being present at the mid-summer confirmation, was held in St. Luke's Church, on Sunday, Jan. 9th. Five persons, three of them (adults) from other religious bodies, received the laying on of hands, and were admitted to the holy communion. The Bishop also preached in the afternoon and evening, at Aldershot and Burlington respectively, the evening service in the latter place being held in the new Sunday school.

The parishes of Georgetown and Thorold are still vacant, but negotiations are in progress, and it is hoped that satisfactory appointments may soon be made to both parishes.

CHIPPAWA.—The rector's family have just moved into the building erected in the place of the one burned some three years ago. It is a plain square ten roomed house, well planned, inside roomy and very comfortable, and, best of all, free of debt, and when the proposed addition of verandah, etc., is added, will be one of the brightest and best rectories among the country parishes.

The church was prettily decorated for Christmas, and the offering given to the general funds of the parish by the Dean of Niagara, who is now taking duty in the absence of the rector in England on a deputation for the S. P. G. The music for this occasion was very bright and hearty, Mrs. Leon Macklem kindly presiding at the organ.

STONEY CREEK.—Sunday, January 9th, was the tenth anniversary of the opening of the Church of the Redeemer, Stoney Creek. Sermons were preached suitable to the occasion, in the morning by the Rev. Thomas Smith, Taplestown, and in the evening by the Rev. F. E. Howitt, incumbent. On Monday evening a congregational gathering was held in the parish room, where the greater part of the members sat down together to a substantial tea, and afterwards enjoyed themselves with songs, speeches, and readings. The incumbent gave a short history of the

work of the church in the district since its first inception, now nearly half a century ago. Stoney Creek had its first service through the efforts of the missionary who laboured at Woodburn, where the late Geo. Leith, Esq., interested himself much in the building of a church. For a number of years the few people in Stoney Creek gathered where best they could, sometimes in the school house, and sometimes in the Methodist place of worship. When the Rev. Mr. Whitcombe, now of San Francisco, was appointed missionary to Saltfleet and Binbrook, he set himself vigorously to work and succeeded in having the present very neat church built and consecrated on the day of its opening. The church is one of the few in the diocese which is perfect in its chancel appointments, where the ornaments and rubrics observed, and where an honest effort is made to carry out the spirit of the Book of Common Prayer. Both priest and people have grasped the Catholic faith, and this fact manifested itself in the external arrangements of the church, especially of the chancel and altar. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that when the fame of these things spread outside, and reached the ears of adherents of the Church who knew little of her doctrine and nothing of her practice outside a very narrow sphere indeed, should have viewed the work with suspicion and alarm. Considerable pressure was brought to bear some years since to induce the Rev. Mr. Whitcombe to abandon some points of ritual which were not in universal practice, especially among the members of the mission board of the diocese. Congregation and clergyman stood together for their rights and liberties, in fact, for the rights and liberties of the whole Church. That they were in the right is proved now beyond dispute by the fact that what was then condemned is now aimed at as the standard which most churches are striving after. The ten years past have seen wonderful changes, on all sides there are evidences of new life, cleaner and brighter churches, proper chancel furniture, decent altar appointments, more cheerful services all along the line. As in apostolic times the practices which were ten years ago condemned they now practice.

ORANGEVILLE.—The annual anniversary of St. Mark's Sunday school was held in the town hall on last Thursday evening, and was very well attended. Tea was served in the council chamber from 5 30 to 7 30 p.m., when the chair was taken by Mr. F. Irwin. The secretary, Mr. A. A. Hughson, then read his report, which showed the Sunday school to be in a very flourishing condition, the average attendance being exceedingly large. Mr. J. H. Ross then sang a song "The Warrior Bold," in a pleasing manner. A charade on the word "Farewell," and a song entitled "The Babies Lullaby," were rendered in capital style. The song by the little children being exceptionally pretty. A song and chorus by a number of Sunday school girls, entitled "Queen's Jubilee," and a recitation "Too much of a lady," by Miss Florence Collier, were well received, the latter piece was especially well delivered. The operetta, "Jack the Giant Killer," was one of the features of the entertainment. This piece was really very fine. The costumes of the children, and others engaged in it being very striking. "The Policeman's chorus," from the opera of "The Pirates of Penzance," by a number of boys attired in regulation uniform, under the direction of Mr. Ross, concluded a programme, which was so good that the only regret was it was so short. A large sum was realized.

MOUNT FOREST.—St. Paul's Sunday school Christmas entertainment was held in the town hall, which was well filled, on Thursday last. The rector, the Rev. R. S. Radcliffe, occupied the chair, and in a few words introduced Dean Spencer. About the middle of the entertainment the Rev. C. G. Snepp, Rev. D. Bickell, Mr. Joseph Reid, of the High School, and Mr. W. C. Perry, made short speeches. The magic lantern display was all that could be desired, and was thoroughly enjoyed by young and old. The Bible scenes were made more heart stirring by verses of well known hymns bearing on the subject of the picture, being reverently sung. The views pleased all, being varied to suit all tastes. The order and keen interest in the proceedings manifested itself from the beginning to the end, and Dean Spencer desired the rector to say that in all his journeyings that his audience in Mount Forest stood among the first in his list for good order and strict attention. It was a matter of regret that the excellent superintendent, Mr. George Allen, was absent, but that gentleman was away on his wedding tour. The prizes were presented the following Sunday by the curate, the Rev. C. G. Snepp.

As usual at St. Paul's Church, during the incumbency of the present clergyman, the solemn, instructive service of watch night was held. Though not very full, there was a good congregation, who came, it could be felt, to worship and not to look about. The hymns, prayers, and addresses were suitable to the hour and day. Forty-five received the holy commu-

nion. The large bell of the church tolled out the old and rang in the new year. The service concluded about 1 a.m., with good wishes from the clergy to the people for a holy and a happy new year.

Mr. W. R. Cross, a lay reader, from the diocese of Huron, assisted in the services at St. Paul's Church last Sunday. This gentleman has proved himself an active worker in his own sphere of labour, and already shows ability and love for the work of Christ, which must bear fruit in due time. Mr. Cross expects to enter the University of Trinity College, Toronto, before long.

HURON.

LONDON.—*See House.*—On the return of his lordship the Bishop and Mrs. Baldwin from Toronto, on Thursday, December 31st, they were agreeably surprised by the presentation of a beautiful China set and a very handsome pair of drawingroom portieres. The presentation was the gift of the ladies of the Anglican congregations of the city. The first intimation to Mrs. Baldwin of their kind intention, was to find on her returns that the gift had taken possession of the house. The following note accompanied the presentation:—"The ladies of the Episcopal churches in the city, beg Mrs. Baldwin's acceptance of the accompanying gifts, as a very slight token of their affection." To this Mrs. Baldwin sent the following reply: "Mrs. Baldwin cannot find words to express the pleasure experienced on returning home last night and finding the beautiful presents so kindly given by the ladies of the Episcopal churches in this city. She desires to convey to them her heartfelt thanks in which the Bishop joins, and to say how deeply touched and overcome both have been by this act of love coming in such a form, and as a glad surprise and welcome home. They together wish their thoughtful and sympathetic friends every blessing at this joyous Christmastide."

The Festival of the Circumcision in our city churches.—The first day of the civil year was appropriately observed in our old St. Paul's. The congregation was not as large as might be expected on this one of the early festivals of the year, and this was, we believe, the only religious commemoration of this one holiday in the city. In St. Paul's some members of the other churches meet on the days set apart for public worship. All such days are religiously observed in it. It is well that on the great festivals the old mother Church of the city and the metropolitan of the diocese throws open their doors, and extends a hearty Christian welcome to all. As the scions of the family who have been scattered away from, delight in meeting each other beneath the roof tree at the family festivals, even so do they to whom the old church is endeared by many hallowed recollections rejoice to spend the sacred festival in the dear old church.

The Dean of Huron.—The Ven. Dean Huron still lives, though wholly paralyzed. His has been a long and useful life. Well has Mrs. Huron given proof of the poet's eulogy:

"When pain and sickness wring the brow
A ministering angel thou."

AYLMER.—*Elgin Deanery.*—Trinity Church in Aylmer barely maintains its ground, though there are fewer sects here than in many other towns. The only churches in it are the Anglican Church, and the Methodist and Baptist. The place may also be said to be a Baptist colony. There were two sects of Methodists, but at the time of the Methodist Union the two became one. One of their churches, too, was found to be large enough, and the other was sold, the Anglican Church being the purchaser. There was a very pleasing feature in the purchase. Some unbelievers in the Christian religion were about purchasing it to introduce into the place an American infidel institute. To prevent this, Methodists and Baptists aided the Episcopalians in buying it. By this means the infidels were prevented establishing themselves in Aylmer.

WANSTEAD.—The new church at Wanstead was opened on Sunday the 9th of January, by the lord Bishop of Huron.

EXETER.—Rev. G. B. Sage was announced to officiate in Christ Church, Exeter, on the first Sunday of the New Year. Mr. Sage has been for some time professor in the Hellmuth Ladies College.

MORPETH.—Rev. John Downie, Rural Dean of Kent, who had been nominated by the lord Bishop to the incumbency of old St. Paul's Church, Woodstock, has, after much deliberation, declined the appointment, preferring to remain rector of Morpeth. The readers of the DOMINION CHURCHMAN, no doubt, remember Mr. Downie's motion in the last session of the Synod of