

Mrs. Renison is a sad state of mind, as the Mission house at Negwenang was the only comfortable dwelling we ever had, since we came to Canada, and God only knows the hardships and worry of mind that the building of that house entailed.

A few of the men working on the railroad are coming on Tuesday to fix the old house so as to keep out the wind and snow. Mrs. Renison and the children will stop at the hotel for a few days till it is made comfortable.

I remain, Dear Bishop, your obedient serv't,
R. RENISON.

The Bishop would suggest to any friend, who may desire to aid the Mission in this great emergency, that contributions in money (for the rebuilding of the Mission house,) or of clothing, etc., be sent direct to Rev. R. Renison, Neepigon, Ont.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—*Lay Helper's Association.*—On All Saints' Day the first annual celebration of the Holy Communion for the Diocesan Lay Helper's Association as a Body took place in Christ Church Cathedral at 8 a.m. There was a large attendance of the members of the Association. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Rector of the Cathedral, (Rev. Dr. Norton), the Very Rev. the Dean of Montreal, and the Revs. E. A. W. King and W. Abbott Smith entered in procession from the Chapter House, preceded by seven members of the Association clad in surplices, and who under the direction of Mr. Corbett, the organist, acted as a choir. The music for Kyrie, Gloria and Sanctus, was "Helmere," and the service throughout was monotoned; Hymn 3rd A. & M. was sung kneeling, whilst the Bishop administered to the priests present. As a Recoessional the *Nunc Dimittis* was used. A very earnest and most practical address was delivered by the Dean on "The Priesthood of the Laity," in which he pointed out in what that priesthood consisted, and how it differed from the ordained ministry of the Church, and he called upon the Lay Helpers to realize their responsibility: recognize the gift special to each one; be ready and willing to exercise that gift and not seek to do duty in spheres for which the gift did not fit them, and in closing he expressed his strong interest in and hopes for the work of the Association. The service throughout was hearty and most reverent, and the thanks of the members are due to Mr. A. D. Nicolls, who made the arrangements and acted as choir-master. The Bishop acted as celebrant, with Mr. King and Mr. Smith as Epistoler and Gospeler. Several of the clergy of the city were present in the church, though taking no part in the service; amongst them Canons Ellegood and Muloch, and Rev. James Walker.

ALL SAINTS' DAY was marked in the city by services in the various churches, Anglican and Roman. Evensong was also said at the Church of the Redeemer, Cote St. Paul.

For further *Home Field News* see pp. 41 & 14

DIOCESE OF BRITISH HONDURAS.

BELIZE.—ST. MARY'S.

The Harvest Festival for the above parish was held on Thursday, Oct. 10th. During the preceding day willing hearts had most beautifully provided fruit of almost every tropical variety—flowers and vegetables of all kinds, which had been artistically placed on the screen and in the chancel by loving hands; choice offerings of flowers, fruit and vegetables were arranged around the dais of the altar by the Rector, who also offered the choicest of all specially on the altar, grapes, corn and flowers.

The new banners of the Guilds of St. Stephen and St. Mary were used for the first time; six of them on the walls of the transept, and the

two violet Episcopal banners filled niches in the reredos on either side of the altar cross. Naturally special care was bestowed upon the font, pulpit, lectern and rood screen; all of which were exquisitely garlanded and decorated; the crosses of white flowers on the font and pulpit were simply beautiful, but even these were surpassed by the grand cross which was laid on the rood over the chancel screen; this was made of white orchids. The palm branches, bananas, date palm and poke boy palm added beauty to all, as they were everywhere with their fresh green color and grace of foliage. The altar and ratable were radiant and lovely with bouquets of flowers in pots, the choicest being in the vases. Two sheaves of barley were on either side of the altar, whilst a larger one, surmounted by a bunch of grapes stood at the foot of the Calvary under the shadow of the cross: speaking of the sacramental veils whereby the Body and Blood of Christ were conveyed to the faithful in the Sacrament of the altar. So early on the Festival morning the Eucharistic service of Thanksgiving was duly celebrated at 7 a.m.

The Rector officiated, and the service was semi-choral. About one hundred and thirty then partook of the precious Manna from Heaven. In every way all had much cause for thankfulness; no epidemic, very little sickness during the year; seasonable rains, glorious sunshine, refreshing breezes, and good fruit crops up the river; the river flooded so that the mahogany and logwood cuttings of the past two or three years could be floated to the coast. A new church opened, increased number of communicants, increased congregation, increased attendance of men; Sunday-school now being considerably augmented; works appreciated; life and vitality in the Guilds; greater peace, better feeling, less litigation; altogether a happier and better tone prevailing one and all, made all hearts tuned in full harmony with the voice of thanksgiving. During the day new offerings arrived, fresh flowers added to the decorations, so that by the time for the ringing of the first Evensong bell everything seemed to be bright and fresh again.

The lighting on this occasion was good, very good; but alas it was borrowed, that is, it was only temporary. Long before the appointed hour for service every available part of the new chancel was filled and hundreds were outside; so that after the voluntary had ceased and the choir began to wend its way from the vestry, on reaching the centre aisle only in single file could the choristers reach the chancel, singing "Come ye thankful people come." The service was full choral, Tallis' being very well rendered indeed with a promptness and decision which added much to the heartiness of the service. The anthem "Blessed be Thou Lord God of Israel" was well sung, the chorus parts especially. After the second part of the prayers had been said, the hymn "Praise the Lord, ye Heavens adore Him" was very well sung to the grand tune of "See the Conqueror" by Wiseman. Unfortunately, through illness the Rev. H. Nethercote, Rector of St. John's, was prevented from preaching the annual Harvest service, so the Rector gave a practical sermon from the Psalmist's words, "That Thou givest them, they gather."

The next Anthem was a solo setting of Rook of Ages, which was devoutly and sweetly rendered by Miss Armor, a visitor from Alabama, who having been entirely deprived of her eyesight during the last few years, has been most wonderfully endowed by Providence with a sweet, rich and full voice—a voice which by God's help she is consecrating in the most humble and devout manner to the service and worship of Almighty God. On this occasion the efficient rendering of the old hymn made the power of the human voice wonderfully felt and realised by all the congregation, who were much impressed during every part of the anthem. This was followed im-

mediately by the Offertory hymn, "We plow the fields and scatter." At its conclusion, during the offering of the alms, &c., the Doxology was sung. After the Benediction by the Rector, a solemn Te Deum of Thanksgiving was sung, the choir being grouped with their faces eastward round the altar, and the hymn, "Praise, Oh Praise our God and King," was the retrocessional. Mr. J. A. R. Swalley, Lay reader for St. John's and a candidate for Holy Orders read the first lesson, and the Lay reader for St. Mary's, Mr. Westerton Blockley read the second.

The offerings amounted to about \$48 which are to be sent to the S.P.C.K. in grateful recognition of its bountiful help and needed succour, daily tendered to the Colonial Church at large, and specially of late to this parish.

On the Saturday the offerings in kind were carefully packed and sent to the Public Hospital, Poor House and Asylum, and also to the sick and needy.

This ended a very happy and hearty, devout and earnest Harvest Festival. When almost all, especially many of the poor, offered freely of their time, strength, substance and devotion, special references cannot be made, but one can only pray that the recurrence of these earthly Harvest gatherings may not only find us ready for the gathering round the Board of God and the altar of love day by day here, but for the final ingathering, that we may be partakers of all the bounties prepared for the faithful at the Feast of the Lamb.

(To be Continued.)

CHILDREN'S SERVICES.

Church Life, Cleveland, Ohio, referring to a sermon at St. Mary's Church says:

On Sunday afternoon of the twentieth inst., (October) was inaugurated the first of a series of special services for the Sunday-school, to be continued on the third Sunday in the month throughout the winter. The order of service was as follows:

- Processional hymn, "Children of the Heavenly King." Pleyel.
- Litany—choral Har. by J. Barnby.
- Catechising by the rector.
- Anthem, "Behold how Good and Joyful," Dr. Clarke-Whitfield.
- Recessional hymn, "Jesus, Meek and Gentle," Wm. Hy. Monk.

The service was very sweet and impressive; and the close attention of the large number of children present a most noticeable. It was peculiarly appropriated to begin these services with the litany. Of the litany, the saintly Hooker speaks of its "absolute perfection." Bishop Cosin, in his "Devotions," calls it "this principal and excellent prayer." Dr. Jebb, in his great work, "The Choral Service," describes it as "a most careful, luminous and comprehensive collection of the scattered treasures of the universal Church," and Blunt's "Annotated Prayer-book" says, "Such a fulness of supplications, combined with the comparative familiarity and homeliness of its subjects, makes the litany welcome to the lips of every age; and it is none the less so in that it speaks a language of prayer which has been substantially that of our forefathers for twelve centuries."

When it is said that the responses were all sung—a feature so attractive to the young, the world over—the close attention of the children cause no surprise. The action of the Sunday-school superintendent and the teachers in venturing upon the series of services, is, undoubtedly, a very wise one. To some teachers, no doubt, who have been, unfortunately, deprived of, or have never had the opportunity of participating in, many of the beautiful forms of worship in which the Church is so rich, the service may seem unnecessary, and may not,