

Trinity Church. The Ladies' Aid Society have raised, since last Easter, nearly two hundred and fifty dollars for the benefit of the Church.

BRANTFORD.—Christmas offertories in the diocese are, by the direction of the Bishop, given to the rector or incumbent. The offertory of Grace Church amounted to \$111.50—the largest for many years. It was, of course, a gift to the rector, the Rev. G. C. Mackenzie.

SARNIA.—We regret to have to say that the Rev. Mr. Ellerby has for some time been unable to discharge his duties as rector of St. George's in consequence of an attack of paralysis. The two last Sundays of Advent his place was supplied by his Lordship the Bishop.

ERRATUM.—We are, we confess, jealous for the good name of our "Old St. Paul's." The letter from "T. Brown" in the DOMINION CHURCHMAN of Dec. 2nd, would lead the reader to suppose that a Methodist minister and the Rev. W. F. Campbell addressed a missionary meeting at St. Paul's, London. Now neither of the gentlemen named addressed such a meeting here. In fact there has been no such meeting here. The meeting took place at Kirkwood.

EXETER.—Christ Church was handsomely decorated on Christmas, and great credit is due to the ladies of the church, especially Miss Hyndman. A grand entertainment, under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid Society of Christ Church, was given in Drew's Hall. The programme consisted of readings, songs, tableau, and an exhibition of Mrs. Jarley's far-famed collection of wax-works. It was really the treat of the season.

The Christmas offerings in connection with Christ Church were unusually large this year, amounting in money and substantial presents to the clergyman and his good wife, to about \$35.

Parsonage improvements will be carried on in the spring.

HENSALL.—St. Paul's church was handsomely decorated on Christmas, and much credit is due the parties by whom the work was done.

WATFORD.—Trinity Church: The Sunday-school festival in connection with this church was held on Christmas-eve. The exercises consisted of recitations from the Old and New Testament Scriptures, relative to the birth of Christ. The readings, recitations, and answers, by the children were very commendable. The singing of carols and hymns appropriate to the joyous season, was something that should be heard to be appreciated. Among many beautiful parts of the service was that of thirty children standing in front of the chancel, with evergreen branches, while singing "Hosanna! Hosanna! to our King." One hundred and twenty-five children took part in the exercises, and every one was presented with a gift from the Sunday-school. A large congregation was present, and a liberal offering was taken for Sunday-school purposes. The festival was helped by the appearance of the church, the walls being decorated with appropriate mottos in coloured letters, and the chancel with evergreens. The rector of the church conducted the services.

It is pleasant to be able to state that the Christmas offerings from the congregations of the parish were very far in advance of any previous year.

SIMCOE.—Trinity Church: The services on Christmas-day were attended by unusually large congregations. In the evening the old church was crowded to the door. The decorations were really beautiful. The young ladies of the congregations, and the gentlemen who assisted them, are deservedly praised by all for the taste and refinement displayed in the designs chosen, and for their effective arrangement. They were resolved to make this venerable edifice look its best for the last time, as ere next Christmas the new church will have taken its place. The choir rendered valuable aid in the choice hymns and anthems given. Never before did they sing so well, although now without a leader. The rector, the Rev. Mr. Gemley, took for his text, in the morning Isaiah ix. 6, and in the evening, Luke ii. 13, 14. Those words formed two of the chief mottoes in the decorations. The offertory, which was presented to the rector, was, we are told, \$100, which was larger than usual. The services of the day must have given great satisfaction and encouragement to Mr. Gemley and to his congregation.

In the afternoon the teachers and scholars of the Sunday-school assembled in the church. The rector

preached a short and suitable sermon to the children. At the close the teachers gave Christmas cards to the members of their classes, each card bearing the inscription "Trinity Church Sunday School." Two Christmas carols were sung by the children.

CHATHAM.—Christ Church: The decorations of this church, which were under the management of Wm. Northwood, Esq., ex-mayor, and a committee, were very handsome and very tasteful and deserve great praise on the part of the parties who assisted in getting them up. The church never looked so well. The new stained glass window, just put in, added very much to the appearance, also the memorial window put in by the wife of the late churchwarden, Mr. P. T. M. Andrew, who was very much respected. The service which was conducted by the incumbent, the Rev. N. H. Maclean, both morning and evening, were interesting and instructive, and suitable to the day. A very large Christmas offering was taken up, amounting to \$131, which went to the clergyman, showing the appreciation in which he is held by the congregation, which is in a very flourishing condition, as is also the Sunday-school, which is under the superintendence of our worthy pastor, assisted by Mr. H. J. Ebert, eldest Sunday-school teacher, who is very much liked by teachers and children.

#### ALGOMA.

From Our own Correspondent.

ST. JOSEPH'S ISLAND.—The Rev. H. Beer desires to acknowledge the receipt of a box of books from Mr. Jewell, librarian of St. Paul's Sunday-school, London, Ont., through T. Vallier, Esq.

UFFORD.—Mr. Thomas Dowler, lay-reader, wishes to acknowledge the receipt from the "Church Women's Mission Aid," of a box of toys for the Christmas tree, to be given to the children of St. Mary's Sunday-school, Beatrice Watt, Muskoka, on the 29th ult.; and also of a large quantity of papers and cards from the same source, for distribution in the same school. He wishes also to thank the Rev. H. B. Owen, Newmarket, for the very regular supply of Sunday-school lesson papers sent by him, and also for his subscription of two dollars towards the Christmas tree.

ROSSEAU.—A numerous assembly of parents and children gathered at the Rosseau House to witness and participate in the distribution of gifts from a large Christmas-tree laden with treasures to gladden the hearts of our Sunday-school children. The contributions were chiefly from the lady visitors to the Rosseau House during the summer, who gave a concert in aid of this school, augmented and assisted by other kind friends. It was an exceedingly pleasant sight to see the children sporting round the tree with their joyous faces. The prizes were given away by Santa Claus impersonated by a gentleman here, to whom great praise is due for the excellent manner in which he sustained the character, and for the capital original poetry he delivered, suitable to each one receiving a gift. Mr. Ditchburn, the superintendent of the Sunday-school, on behalf of the parents and children thanks, in most grateful terms, those kind friends who contributed towards this entertainment.

#### UNITED STATES.

ALBANY.—The Convocation of Ogdensburg met in Trinity Church, Gouverneur, on the evening of the 18th ult., under the presidency of Archdeacon Morrison, rector of St. John's church, Ogdensburg. Evensong was said by the rector, Rev. J. D. Skene, and Rev. D. Flack, of Brushton, the canticles being sung to Gregorian tones very heartily and effectively by an unusually good village choir. Addresses were delivered by Rev. W. J. W. Finlay, priest in charge of Morriston, N.Y., on "The Prayers of the Church;" and Rev. C. S. Olmstead on "Private and Family Prayer."

On Wednesday morning the Litany was said by Rev. D. Flack, and was followed by a celebration of the Holy Communion by the Rector, assisted by Rev. W. J. W. Finlay. The sermon was preached by the Rev. T. Y. Clemson, rector of St. Paul's, Waddington, N.Y., from the text, Matt. xi. 7-9. The preacher briefly sketched the life and character of St. John the Baptist, dwelling upon the lesson to be learned from a comparison of the man and his work with the shortness of his ministry. In words of deepest earnestness and fervid love, he gave point to the statement that, as with St. John the Baptist, so with many another man of God, by alluding to the, humanly speaking, sad case of a brother priest (Canon Forest, of the diocese of Ontario), who, although not a member of

this Convocation nor of this nation, had often been present at our meetings. "He is one," said the preacher, "whose Christian manliness, sound learning, brotherly kindness, and practical wisdom, united with a rare degree of humility, have caused him to be greatly beloved and respected, not only in his own country but among ourselves, where he has ever been our honoured and welcome guest. And yet now, when his mind has matured, and he is in possession of all his richly endowed and highly cultivated gifts, he is called away from the scene of his ministry." He also alluded to having stood by the bedside of our brother only two days before, and witnessed his longing to be free from pain and yet perfect willingness to use to the end all human means, and patiently waiting in faith and humility for the summons of the Master; and also to the words of counsel he had spoken to his brethren who had visited him, urging them, with all the earnestness of one who had reached the point where the world and the things thereof have no power, and already his life seemed that of another world, to never forget their vocation, the dignity of the priest's office, or its awful responsibilities. That while he "had no hope, and none can have any hope but in the free mercy of God for Jesus' sake, the means whereby God's grace ordinarily comes to the souls of men have been committed to our stewardship and must be accounted for." "Like the Baptist, he seems about to depart," said the preacher, at the moment, when, as we should suppose, best fitted for his work, but the Master needs him in Paradise. Yet we shall miss him. Especially will the younger clergy miss him, for he ever delighted to draw them around him, and in him they found a friend ever ready to lend them the loving sympathy of his large heart, and the kindly and wise counsel that few are so competent to give." To all present his words came as an Advent lesson, and made the Communion more than ordinarily solemn, through it was not the first time that the Blessed Sacrifice had been offered at our altars for our dear brother.

In the afternoon the Rev. J. D. Skene, read an essay on "The purpose of divine agencies in humanity," and at evensong the Archdeacon (J. D. Morrison, D.D., LL.D.), preached a masterly sermon on "The Existence of God." Before separating all admitted the truth of the Archdeacon's remark, that this meeting had been more than usually enjoyable, and that a hallowing influence seemed to have pervaded it owing to the thoughts going to the bedside of Canon Forest, and as it were hearing the words Mr. Clemson had repeated.

CORRECTION.—On page nine, column one, in Ed. R's first answer, for "baptized" read "baptizer."

### S. S. Teacher's Assistant TO THE INSTITUTE LEAFLETS.

No. 8.

#### THE COLLECT.

It is interesting to notice that this ancient Collect is accompanied in both the Churches of England and Rome in these days by the very same readings—Epistle and Gospel—as were in use in the Church a thousand years ago. Those readings as is generally the case with the Epistles and Gospels, form the best commentary on the meaning of the Collect: perhaps we shall rather say that the Collect gives us briefly, in the form of expression of our thoughts to God, the keynote of the Church's object in providing those particular readings from Scripture for the particular day. Perhaps the two most important or emphatic words in the Collect are, "Govern" and "Peace." God is brought before us to-day as the Being who "Moderates" all things throughout the universe. An example is given in our Lord's Epiphany in the Gospel as the producer of Wine for a Wedding Feast. The process by which water became, through the substance of the Vine, the juice called Wine was in the miracle at Cana of Galilee—all comprised by the Lord in the compass of an instant of time. What was water one moment—the simplest fluid in nature—becomes next moment wine without having passed through the natural chemistry of the Vine plant, which would have taken months by the ordinary process. He who possessed this wonderful power, used it on this occasion as the Epistle indicates we should use our human powers in genuine love and sympathy with our brethren. In this way is produced the Peace of God, or the soil of our hearts is prepared for its introduction there.

[We may notice in passing that the passage from the element of water to that of wine in this miracle, suggests the Christian life which passes under the government of God, from the Sacrament of Baptism to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, in which those elements are respectively used.]