

hangings in white. The chalice veil is a present from the infant class.

THE DIVORCE LAWS OF THE U. S.—In a recent address on "Marriage and Divorce," delivered at Saratoga Springs, New York, the Rev. Herrick Johnson, D.D., showed from unquestionable statistics that, as things are now, about one marriage out of every twelve, taking the whole country, is foredoomed to a violent disruption under the operation of our corrupt divorce laws. "As brought out in official reports, Connecticut's ratio of divorces to marriages is about one to eleven. The average for ten years in one of the counties of Connecticut was one to six and a half. Massachusetts has steadily advanced her ratio. It was one divorce to fifty one marriages in 1860. In 1880 it was one to twenty-eight. Rhode Island, Vermont, Maine, Ohio have gone on the same descending scale with all to eager feet. California, in twenty-nine counties, has struck as low a ratio as one divorce to a fraction over seven marriage licenses; Chicago one divorce to eight marriages; Indiana one to eleven; Denver one to a little less than four! This is the way we guard the most sacred and fundamental institution of our social life! Statistics also support the view that sins of unchastity, so far from diminishing, positively increase with increasing facilities for divorce. Massachusetts increased her population fifty per cent, in twenty years prior to 1880. During this period she more than doubled her divorces. But in these twenty years, while crime in general increased only twenty and four-tenths per cent. The guilt of the nation in this whole matter is greatly aggravated by the legalization of the re-marriage of parties who are divorced for causes not recognized in the teaching of Christ. We are outlawing divine law by our human law, and at the very point where every interest of the family and every interest of the State should plead for stay of the irreverent and challenging legislation, lest God give us over to a riot of lust, and this fairest heritage left us of Eden become a moral cesspool. We are ruthlessly breaking the seal which He has solemnly used for wedlock, and are substituting one of our own, stamped with the national device, and are thus guilty of the monstrous usurpation of setting ourselves up in the place of God, and pronouncing that a legitimate and chaste union which He has pronounced adulterous. A voice sounds out of heaven, 'They have sowed the wind, and they will reap the whirlwind.' Our divorce laws are in direct, open flagrant contravention of the divine law. *We must change these laws, or God will curse our choicest blessings.*

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

The Southern Churchman says:—

The family life, based upon Christ and the teachings of Christ, exalts marriage into a divine institution, and sacred. It was the Christ that Christmas tells of, who sanctified marriage at Cana of Galilee, and all married life blessed of Christ grows elevated and nobler, because Christ takes it as emblematic of His relation to the Church. The Church is the bride, the wife of Christ. If not perfect now, yet to be adorned hereafter with beautiful garments and presented to Him without spot or blemish.

Children begotten in and by this divine institution—how they grow in largeness and grandeur as we go back to the time when Christ took little children in His arms and blessed them, and said, "Of such children the kingdom of Heaven is composed." Family life, child life, ennobled by Christ—is it any wonder that the domestic associations of Christmas should have grown larger as the family got to be better understood as divine and of Christ?

The Church Year, says:—

The New Year begins its course again with

"The Name of Jesus" as its starting point. Doubtless there was a purpose in the minds of those who united in one the two festivals of the Circumcision of our Blessed Lord and the first day of the opening year. That purpose must have been to head the daybook and ledger, and twine the sinews and nerves of the new year's struggles, with the living impress of the reconsecrating presence of Jesus Christ, the one true representative of perfect humanity, God manifest in the flesh for the world's redemption. The festival gives thus the keynote for the reconstruction of the last year's wrecks of purpose and attainment; a staff to lean upon in the onward pilgrimage and a sanctifying influence for all the efforts, trials, duties, loves and losses of the speeding years.

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

STEWIACK.—The Feast of the Holy Nativity was reverently celebrated in this Parish by the faithful. The Holy Eucharist was offered at 8 a. m. in the Parish Church, with matins at half-past ten. At St. George's Dutch Settlement, evensong, was sung at 3 p. m., and a successful entertainment in aid of the Sunday-school library, with a Christmas tree for the children, at half past seven, brought the sacred day to a close. As we returned home we were still singing our *Gloria in Excelsis Deo*, which had been begun before God's holy altar at our early morning sacrifice. *Deo gratias.*

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

CAMPOBELLO.—St. Anne's Church has every reason to be thankful for having experienced an unusually successful and bright Christmas this year. The building, which, it may be remembered, was enlarged last summer, was decorated in excellent taste by the young ladies, who certainly did not grudge their time and labor. The plan adopted with the new arches was to drop wreaths from the point, and loop them up to the capital of the pillars, and then twine them round to the base. The effect was graceful, avoiding formality. Flowers were very scarce and not to be bought; however, the altar and the font were made to look specially attractive. The services commenced with prayers on Christmas Eve at 7.30. The brilliant lights and prime novelty of the decorations, "beautifying the place of His sanctuary," were gladdening, and proved an inspiring preface, to the 50 or 60 worshippers, of what was to be held the next day. A short address on "the watching shepherds and their beatific revelation," was delivered by the Rector. On the great festival there were two celebrations, one at 8 o'clock and the other after morning prayer, and altogether 34 communicants, an increase of 15 since last Christmas. The psalms and canticles were well sung to Anglican single chants. "Adeste Fideles" was used as an in-trait, and was succeeded by "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," and a Christmas carol from Hutchins' School Hymnal and service book. The sermon was from the "Gloria in Excelsis," and was a plain, earnest invitation to behold and worship "God manifest in the flesh," to consider the glory due to God in the Highest, the peace between God and sinners, and between man and man. The congregation, for a week-day morning in Welshpool, was very large, there being close upon 100 persons present. There was no evening service, the rest of the day having been devoted to mirth and festivity *nem. con.* On Friday, the 28th, the Christmas tree was reared up in Hagg's Hall. From 250 to 300 gifts were suspended on the branches, soon to be distributed to the happy children. We are proud of our Sunday-school; it is the special care of the Rector's wife, who, as superintendent, spares no pains to make the school a success. Including teachers, there are 128 members, and for

the last two months there have been upwards of 100 in attendance every time. The young men of the island got up a capital entertainment and handed over to Mrs. Pember, the superintendent, \$30, which, with subscriptions, and a box of gifts from a lady of New York, furnished the tree with abundance of valuable presents. We are indeed glad and thankful to own a proper and excellent feeling subsisting among the Church people here, and indeed the Islanders generally. We only hope that time will increase and strengthen it.

NEWCASTLE BRIDGE.—St. Mary's Church, Little River, was beautifully decorated for Christmas. Everybody admired it. A beautiful temporary reredos was erected by Mr. Coburn; and though it rained the church was full. Bridgewater's evening service was sung with animation and feeling by the excellent choir. A great surprise awaited Mr. Hansen, rector of Canning and priest in charge of St. Mary's, on Xmas night. On entering the vestry he found a large parcel containing two beautiful sleigh rugs and other little presents, the thoughtful gifts of the young people of Little River. Mr. Hansen was not a little moved by this mark of thoughtfulness on the part of the young men and young women; and at the conclusion of his sermon he thanked the people heartily and said that he hoped it was rather a sense of the debt of gratitude they owed to God than any miserable efforts of his own, which had made them think of this. He was proud, however, of his little congregation to-night, proud that they, so mixed up in denominations, should be so kind and so thoughtful; proud that they should seem to know the many discouragements of a clergyman and try to relieve it with such thoughtfulness. He was encouraged to greater efforts because he felt that he had the sympathy and good-will of his people: for though the aim of all aims should be that we might please God, yet it was only human to have a craving for human affection and human sympathy. He was sure that they mutually felt closer and warmer for each other; he was sure that they, too, were happy to-night, for it is written it is more blessed to give than to receive, and that was their position to-night. May God grant, he concluded, that we may all meet in those happy realms above, where we shall be happy with the happiness of heaven.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

FRELIGHSBURG.—The Christmas festivities in the Parish of St. Armand east, were of a very lively character. Earnest hearts and willing hands had been busy during the week, and on Christmas Day the beautiful Bishop Stewart Memorial Church was well decorated. The Memorial hall was the scene of preparations ample for a hearty welcome to old Santa Claus, who had indicated that the unusually open season of navigation would enable him to bring to moorings at Frelighsburg "three ships" laden with the products of different climes and gifts expressive of his large range of affection. The service on Christmas eve was a joyous one, participated in by the congregation largely filling the capacious edifice. The music of canticle and song embraced an exceptionally bright and inspiring selection fitted to stir most effectively the warmest emotions of the sacred season. The Rev. N. P. Yates, B. A., preached a faithful and practical sermon. At the conclusion of the service all adjourned to the hall, where at the appropriate strains of the legendary carol "I saw three ships come sailing in," Father Santa Claus steered his gaily decorated barks (manned by some youthful forms) oreaking and straining with his generous burdens into the centre of the expectant multitude. Amazement and curiosity were excited to the utmost as to the identity of the one traveller, but he soon turned attention to the beneficent intent of his visit and in quiet terms