

PARISH NOTES.

Editor.....G. G. RUEL.
Assistant Editors.....E. H. TURNBULL, and H. C. WETMORE.
Business Manager.....A. O. SKINNER.
Assistants.....C. F. SANFORD and H. C. TILLEY.

ISSUED MONTHLY.

TERMS: - FIFTY CENTS PER ANNUM PAYABLE IN ADVANCE. SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.

All Articles, Contributions, Letters or Matter pertaining to the Editorial Department should be addressed to the Editor, 3 Pugsley Building, City.

Communications in regard to Advertising, Changes in Addresses or in the Subscription List, and all remittances should be addressed to A. O. SKINNER, King Street, City.

ST. JOHN, N. B., MARCH 1, 1891.

NOTES.

The order of sermons and lectures announced in our last issue for the Sundays in Lent, have been so far altered that the subjects set down for Sunday, March 1st, will be dealt with on March 8th, concluding the courses on Palm Sunday.

The Rector's lecture is postponed until after Easter. The subject will be "The Two Races: England and France."

To praise a number of our own staff is a delicate matter; but we convey to our Business Manager, Mr. A. O. Skinner, whose department is entirely separate, the thanks of the whole congregation for his generous gift of a carpet for the platform of the Sunday School.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

The proceedings of the opening of the new Sunday School having been fully reported in the daily press, there is no need to repeat what will not be soon forgotten by those who were present. But a very general desire has been expressed that the historical account of the Church, read by Mr. J. R. Ruel, should be given in our columns. It had been drawn up at the request of the Rector and Vestry, and it is here appended in full;—

It is my duty, at the call of the Vestry, to say a few words in handing over to you, as Rector of the Parish, the noble building in which we are now assembled. It is for the use of a school for the training of the young in those truths of our holy religion which will, when duly received, enable them to become good and true men and women who will faithfully serve God in their day and generation.

It has also been designed to meet all the requirements of the Parish in its various departments of work, and it is a matter of great rejoicing to us all that the efforts of the congregation, fostered and encouraged by you, our Rector, have been rewarded with such triumphant success. It will be a lasting monument of your Rectorship, and, at the same time, will serve to make an era in the history of the Parish.

It is written that when the second Temple was built many wept when they recalled the first and all its glories. We, on the contrary, may well rejoice and be glad when we make a similar retrospect.

And yet I would not cast a stone at the old building. It served its day and purposes, and, like all things earthly, passed away. It, too, had its glories. Doubtless there are very many trained within its walls of whom it will be said, "The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people that this man was born there." Most surely many have been trained in it in the way of righteousness, in true Church principles; many have been strengthened, and many can look back upon the hours spent there with joy and thanksgiving.

My first connection with St. John Church was in 1833—nine years after it was erected. At that time there was but one Church of England Sunday school in the city, and it belonged to Trinity Parish, which then embraced the whole area of the city on the east side of the harbor. It was held when I first joined it as a teacher in 1845 in a building owned by the Madras School Board on the north side of King Square. Dr. Benjamin G. Gray and Drs. J. W. D. Gray both took a most lively interest in Sunday Schools, regarding them as the true nurseries of the Church, and when the room then occupied became too strait and limited for the members pressing into it, the latter succeeded in securing the funds for the erection of a fine, commodious building on the site of the present Trinity School House. There was great rejoicing when it was dedicated, but it, too, passed away. Beverley Robinson, late Collector of Customs, was Superintendent of this school for many years, and on his retirement in 1853 I succeeded to the office and continued in it about ten years.

The Parish of St. Mark was set apart by law in 1853 as a separate Parish with the consent of the Vestry of Trinity. The Rev. G. M. Armstrong was appointed Rector by the Lieutenant Governor of the Province in the same year. This most important event gave an immediate impulse to Church life, as manifested in works of various kinds. Under the inspiration of the Rector steps were taken to erect a school building, but it was not until 1855 that it was accomplished, the children of both parishes up to that time being trained in Trinity School. It was the best that could be designed at that time without injury to the light of the Church, as the land in the rear of it, upon which the present building is put up, was then in the possession of the estate of the late Chief Justice Chipman, and not obtainable.

A few years later, Mr. Armstrong, who was ever most active and earnest in the cause of his Lord and Master, undertook the erection of a Church Sunday School House in a district of the Parish then entirely destitute of any accommodation of the kind. The result is seen, in the present time, in the flourishing Parish of St. Mary's, with the Rev. W. O. Raymond as Rector. The school there was for a long time under the superintendence of the late Samuel T. Berton, a Christian in word and deed, full of ardent zeal in the Sunday School cause, and whose works most surely do follow him.

The first Superintendent of the Parish School was, I be-