

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

Gathered specially for this Paper by Our Own Correspondents.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

NEW GLASGOW.—The nave of St. George's had its windows very neatly dressed in living green by Mrs. Townsend, Mrs. Drake and Miss Campbell, but time could not be found for the heavier work, which required men's aid.

The attendance on Christmas Day was not as large as usual. Doubtless the want of snow and consequent hard roads had something to do with it. But our organist and choir did their part as usual, and that includes high merit. The sermon, by Rev. D. C. Moore, was from St. Luke ii. 10, 11, and the offertory for the Superannuation Fund amounted to \$2.06, making the collections in the parish during the day \$20.67.

AMHERST.—The season of Advent was signalized by special services and earnest appeals from a faithful pastor to his people, not only to prepare to properly celebrate Christ's first coming in the flesh, but earnestly prepare for that second coming, "when He shall come again to judge the world," that "we may be found an acceptable people." The Litany was said every Sunday at 3 o'clock, when the pupils of the Sunday-school were also publicly catechized. Willing hands were busily engaged for some days preparing the decorations for Christ Church, and on the morning of the festival the busy workers must have felt well rewarded for their labor, for the church looked very beautiful in its Christmas dress. It would trespass too much on this valuable space to enter into a full description, but will merely add that the evergreen wreaths and ferns, banners, suitable devices and pots of blooming plants were all arranged with even more (if possible) than the usual amount of good taste displayed in the past. A good congregation assembled together on the morning of the Nativity of our Blessed Lord, and at the two celebrations of Holy Communion, at 8 and 11 a.m., a goodly number partook.

On St. John the Evangelist Day a special service was held at 3 p.m., when Acadia Lodge, A. F. & A. M., attended, and a sermon suitable to the occasion was delivered.

The Vicar and family have been comfortably settled for some weeks in the new Rectory. It is a tasteful looking building, and a credit to the parish, and when the grounds are properly graded, &c., and enclosed, it will add to the beauty of the town. The parishioners presented the Vicar and Mrs. Harris with a sum of money to purchase a carpet for the drawing-room, which is a large and handsome room, extending the length of one side of the house. It is pleasing to record these little acts of kindness, showing the good feeling existing between pastor and people.

ALBION MINES.—Christmas Eve was warm and wet, Christmas Day cold and hard, while this morning St. Stephen has come in a pitiless north wind to cover the earth with a white shroud.

Our church never looked so well. Our churchwarden, Mr. Rutherford, prepared plans and undertook the whole decoration, so, helped by his daughters and son, Misses Johnstone, Carritt, Blenkinsop, Owen, Haddow, McInnis, Clarke, &c., and Messrs. York, Stone, Wilson, Mailman, and our other warden, Mr. Kennedy, &c., a result was produced which pleased everyone. The chancel, was, of course, the main piece. It was arched with canopies of spruce, through which peered a red background, and was screened from the nave by a bold screen of three arches of the same style, the screen having parolose extensions of lattice work extend-

ing to the north and south walls of the nave. The reredos was very pretty. A white ground containing the angelic message, in the centre of which was a star of complicated make—green and red and white—while on either hand was the *Chio-Rho* and the sacred monogram, boldly shown. The whole was surmounted by a gilt cross thrown up against the centre light of the east window. The altar was vested in its white frontal (the work of Mrs. H. S. Poole), and the re-table held vases of beautiful cut flowers. The font was wreathed with cut flowers and running plants by Mrs. Poole; the shields made by Mr. E. Gilpin, Jr., adorned the front of the gallery; while Miss Hudson's banners hung high on the tower pillars, one inscribed "Lamb of God," the other "Prince of Peace." Mr. Gilpin's three shields, emblazoned with "No Cross," "No Crown," and the "I.H.S.," had under them an inscription of red letter on a white ground, "God was made flesh and dwelt among us." The base of the lectern was a bank of moss with lovely growing plants. Mr. Rutherford's plans included the encircling of the windows of the nave, and placing between them various emblems in spruce, and all was carried out to perfection.

The service was well attended. The singing was better than usual; indeed it has improved much since Professor Smythe, of Charlottetown, P. E. I., gave us his help; and much credit is due to our young volunteer organist, Miss Wentworth, and to the incipient choir. "Christians awake," "Hark, the herald angels," "While shepherds watched," and *Adeste Fideles*, were all well given.

The sermon was by the Rector, from the "Angelic Message." He dwelt upon what the things were from which Christ is a Saviour, and pleaded that it might soon be made true that it was for all people.

The offertories during the day were for the superannuated clergy fund, though \$10 were marked for our church improvement fund, leaving \$7.61 for the superannuated fund, and \$1 for home missions.

HALIFAX.—*Personal.*—The Rev. A. D. Sylvester, curate of St. Luke's, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, England.

HALIFAX.—*Christmas in the Churches.*—The attendance at the churches on Christmas Day was above the average; and as far as scientific music goes, the music of the services was on an improved scale. There was certainly much more fine choir music, and considerably less congregational singing. The decorations for the festival were in some instances very elaborate and costly.

St. Luke's excelled all former years, and stood easily first in chaste design and richness. Costly banners hung in rich beauty all around the sacred edifice. Between each pillar was an evergreen gothic arch, and numerous and effective texts were placed around the building. The effect in the chancel was simply gorgeous. A rood beam, beautifully worked, and below it the panels filled with hand-painted designs on silk. Cut flowers added immensely to the full effect in the chancel. The whole effect was one of impressive reverential joy in the fact of the Incarnation.

St. Paul's.—There was a great change here. The chancel was hung with a tasteful dossal and altar-hangings. A beautiful sacred monogram was over the altar, and the choir stalls were prettily decorated with spruce and loose moss. Texts of beautifully cut letters surrounded the church, and both pulpit and reading-desk were exceedingly neat. One point and change was noticeable this year, and that was that the proper place, the sanctuary, had the prominent decorations, and the pulpit had not received the principal share.

St. George's.—In consequence of the recent painting of the interior of the church, the

usual decorations were dispensed with, and all that was done was concentrated on and over the altar. There was an effective text, "Jesus, our Immanuel," in front of the re-table. Wreaths were entwined around the reredos, and there was a tasteful display of pot-flowers. Palms were placed each side of the altar.

St. Mark's, as usual, was more than attractive. Every little space in the church was filled with trimming, monogram or text. The reredos had great care bestowed upon it. It is in three panels, the centre bearing a Latin cross with sacred monogram in the centre; the left an A and O; the right a P and O. The altar was decorated with natural flowers, and pots of lilies and other blooms adorned the other parts of the sanctuary.

Trinity had considerable care bestowed upon it. Four banners were in the chancel, and the texts showed more than ordinary ability in their execution. The church is large and bare, but the decorators managed to brighten it up and give it an attractive Christmas dress.

Garrison Chapel.—The military chapel has not been so extensively decorated as in former years, but what has been done is in perfect taste and quite handsome. The chancel is, as is proper, the chief point of interest.

Bishop's Chapel.—Here the decorations are not on so elaborate a scale as in former years. The reredos is composed of three white panels, bearing crosses of ribbon. The altar is appropriately decorated with flowers, and on its base in white block letters is the text, "Glory to the new-born King." The reading-desk is neatly trimmed with evergreen and natural flowers. Scripture texts are upon the walls, and bannerets placed here and there add to the completeness.

St. John's Village Church was better decorated than usual. Much care had been bestowed on the chancel, and beautiful wreathing, monograms and texts were placed all over the building.

The various missions, viz., the Northwest Arm Mission, St. Augustine's Mission, St. Alban's Mission and the Water Street Mission, each received some share of Christmas preparation.

There was experienced in Halifax a decided interest in the welfare and beauty of the Church this Christmas, and, for some reason or other, interest in religious subjects is certainly on the increase. With this increased interest there is growing up a spirit of aggression on the part of some of the sects here, and the poorer members of the church are being systematically assailed by Salvation Army, Bible Christians, Baptists and Methodists, and we regret to say that the Church sustains too many losses in this way. Something must be done by way of more careful espionage on the Church's part to avert this leakage, and to interest the particular class which seems to need so much watching.

STEWIACKE.—Special Advent Services were held in this parish this year for the first time. Several clergymen belonging to this Deanery were invited to preach in Holy Trinity Church, Lower Stewiacke, of whom but two were able to fulfil their engagement, viz., Rev. J. A. Kaulbach, Vicar of Truro, on Thursday evening, Dec. 3rd, and the Rev. Rural Dean Moore, Rector of New Glasgow and Albion Mines, on Monday evening, Dec. 7th. Good, earnest, instructive sermons were preached by both these reverend brethren. Rev. Messrs. McKenzie, of Spring Hill, and Martell, of Maitland, were prevented from coming on the evenings appointed for them, much to the regret of those who were expecting to hear from them words of encouragement and instruction.

On Wednesday evening, the 23rd ult. (it being the forty-eighth anniversary of the Rector's birthday), a few Church people met at the house of Miss H. Chapman, organist of our