

News from the Home Field.

**HALIFAX—St. Mark's Church.**—The Xmas decorations in this pretty little Church are far superior, both in design and accomplishment to anything seen here in former years. Every lover of Ecclesiology can see at a glance that the whole of the work is strictly in keeping with the architecture of the building. Everything is done in good taste, combined with neatness and elegance. The walls and windows of porch, nave and chancel, are tastefully festooned with spruce and hemlock. The wreathing, which is a new design, is suspended most artistically, and presents a very handsome appearance. An elegant scroll over the western window bears the appropriate inscription, done in gilt letters, with scarlet back ground, "And the Word was made Flesh," this is supported on each side by a well-wrought parchment tablet, containing the texts, "Behold Thy King Cometh," "A Saviour, Christ the Lord. Over each of the other windows of the nave are placed suitable texts of ecclesiastical letters on a crimson back-ground, all of which have reference to the Birth and Incarnation of the Saviour. The chancel arch is nicely wreathed, and is surmounted by a white wool inscription, with chocolate ground: "Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the new-born King."

This is supported on each side by elegant scrolls containing the text: "Aria, shine, for the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee." The stars around this and the windows, and the sacred devices on the walls, add much to the pleasing appearance of the sacred edifice. The prayer desk and pulpit are trimmed with hemlock and everlasting flowers, the usual open work being filled in with white, edged with red. A white silk banneret, on which is worked I. H. S. in gold, hangs over the pulpit lectern. The font is covered with crimson drapery, and trimmed, each panel bearing a gilt monogram. A new wood cover, surmounted with a double decorated cross, frosted and outwined with ivy, makes it a most imposing and handsome feature, and reflects great credit on the lady who so successfully carried her designs. Entering the Church, the decorations here, we have no hesitation in saying, are indescribable. The reredos is similar to last year, but more complete, and between it and the Holy Table, are the words, Holy, Holy, Holy; over the eastern windows in straw letters on the scarlet back-ground runs the text, "Glory to God in the Highest," and on each side of the reredos, the continuation, "Peace on earth and good will to men." The sanctuary is surrounded with Gothic arches, filled in with white, relieved with fleur-de-lis. The lower part of the chancel walls is surrounded by lattice work, trimmed with hemlock, and over the door is suspended a beautiful banner, containing the word "Jesus." The choir-stalls and organ are nicely trimmed by the ladies. Churchwarden Connors, with the able assistance of the committee and the congregation, may be justly congratulated on the great success of their indefatigable labours.

When speaking of the presentation to the Rev. Mr. Winterbourne, we omitted to mention that he was the recipient of a useful gift, in the shape of a Pocket Communion Service, and on Sunday last was presented with \$31 from the Village congregation.

**St. Luke's.**—As many of your numerous readers must be interested in the welfare of Sunday Schools, perhaps they would like to have a short account of the Cathedral Sunday School Festival, held in St. Luke's Hall, on the night of the Epiphany. So many of the children are absent in the summer, it was thought a picnic at that season was not desirable, therefore, a treat was decided upon, consisting of a magic lantern, distribution of prizes, singing of carols; and last, but not least, a substantial and elegant tea, in which about 200 children participated. The scholars and teachers first assembled in the Cathedral for a special Epiphany Choral Service, and then went in procession to the Hall, which was most tastefully decorated for the occasion. After a short grace by the Rector, the children were all seated at the well-filled tables, and for some minutes it was a happy and busy scene. Tea over, the Choir boys were called on for their carols, which were well sung. Then, a distribution of prizes by the Rector, to one of the best scholars in each class in the upper school. Then another carol—then more prizes to the Infant School.

After that, the magic lantern was exhibited, to the great delight of the children, who shouted with joy at the different pictures of the nursery tales of "the death and burial of Cock Robin," and "Jack the Giant Killer." That exhibition over, the usual cheers were given for the Bishop, the Rector, the tenor, the School, and "Ourselves." Before being dismissed, a small tree laden with bright cornucopias of candy, was dismantled, and each child presented with one in remembrance of St. Luke's Festival, Epiphany, 1881. Thus ended a most delightful gathering, and we most cordially thank our many friends for their kindness and assistance in giving happiness to so many children.

**MISSION OF LOUISBURG, CAPE BRETON** Services were held at each of the three Churches in this Mission on Christmas-day. At Main-a-Dieu and Lormine, the congregations were large, but at Ebenesong the church of St. Bartholomew, at Louisburg, was crowded beyond its seating capacity. The churches were decorated in honor of the festival. At Main-a-Dieu and Lormine, the churches are both small, and being built in the style prevalent some twenty or thirty years ago, are without any chancel; the other with what can only by courtesy be called a chancel, afford but little scope for effective decoration. However, the best that could be done was done, and it is hoped that ere long structures more suitable for the worship of the King of Kings will take the place of those now altogether unsuited to the requirements of the congregations worshipping in them. At Louisburg, however, the Church, although as yet uncompleted, is, as His Lordship the Bishop remarked at his last Visitation, a credit not only to this Island but to the whole Diocese. Loving hands had for a week been busy early and late, working to make glorious the House of our God.

The principal efforts had been directed to the decorations of the Chancel and Sanctuary. The colours employed were chiefly red and white, the fundamental ecclesiastical colours of the English Church. Around the top of the chancel wall, on a red ground, was the text in white letters: (on the north side), "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty;" (on the south side), "Which Was, and Is, and Is to Come. Circling the East window was the text in red letters: "We have seen His star in the East, and are come to worship Him." Surmounting this text was a red star, placed half way between the top of the window and the apex of the roof.

The reredos was of red cloth, bearing two texts: on the north side of the Altar, "I am the Bread of Life;" on the south, "Lord, evermore give us this Bread." Behind the Altar was a panel of white, bordered with red, divided into three small panels, the two side panels containing a red "cross and circle." The centre panel being a background for the Altar Cross. This Altar Cross was the work of a young man, now entered into rest, a son of Wm. Bown, Esq., of Cow Bay. It was his own work, the last manual work which he was able to perform on earth. It is three feet in height, made of black walnut. Within the larger cross is set a smaller one of lighter coloured wood, and within this again a small cross of silver, which lights up as it were the whole cross. Immediately above the reredos, on each side of the Chancel window, in a triangle of evergreen, was, on the north, the Greek letter "Alpha"; on the south, "Omega." The centre light of the east window having been broken out and not yet being replaced, its place was supplied by a red ground-work bearing the sacred monogram I. H. S. in white, surmounted by a floriated crown. The Altar vases were supplied with bouquets of everlasting and Autumn leaves.

A bordering of evergreen surrounds the top and two ends of the reredos. The reading desk and lectern were wreathed with evergreen, as were also the Litany desk, chancel arch, and the several windows in the nave. A double triangle of evergreen occupied the space in the nave on the wall between the chancel arch and the north and south walls of the nave. Girding the West window is the sentence in red letters: "In His temple doth every one speak of His Glory;" and immediately above the window, the monogram "Chi Ro," in Greek letters.

The effect of these decorations is exceedingly chaste and beautiful, especially by lamp-light. The blending of the three colours, red, white, and green, has a most pleasing effect. The banner of the reading desk and lectern were white,

trimmed with green border, and bear respectively the "I. H. S." and the "Chi Ro." It is deeply to be regretted that the mission being as yet in charge of a Deacon, the faithful had not an opportunity, on the Birth Day of their Lord, of partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ; but it is expected that the Rural Dean, Rev. C. Croucher, will visit the mission during the last week of the year; and it is expected (D. V.) to hold a midnight service, with celebration of the Holy Eucharist, on the last night of this year. The Offertory throughout the Mission realized \$16.25, and is to be devoted to the Board of Home Missions.

**SANDY COVE, DIGBY NECK.**—On New Year's Eve the annual entertainment was given for Church purposes. This year, however, the interest manifested was double that of any other year, on account of the special object to which the proceeds were to be devoted—viz., to present the Missionary, Rev. John Partridge with a purse, as a slight token of gratitude for the numerous good works to which he has devoted himself during his pastorate. On Christmas Day, in the evening, however, our endeavours received a great shock, by the sudden illness of our devoted clergyman, during Divine Service. The service, which was choral, had been achieved with great pains by the choir and parson, was well rendered, and the heartiness of the service seemed to fill all with solemn awe. The sermon was eloquent and most impressive, and was just finished when the overworked brain of our dear parson gave way, and the Christmas service brought to an abrupt close by his fainting in the pulpit. We carried him home, and in the morning was very much surprised to find the parson prepared for another day's work; apparently quite revived. On Sunday Mr. Partridge preached twice, and drove 14 miles to Roseway, where he stayed all night. Having been invited to celebrate St. John's Day in Digby, he proceeded there, intending to have a little recreation. During the afternoon, however, he was again taken sick, and has been very dangerously ill in Digby ever since. The concert realized \$36.64, which will be presented when our parson returns to us again. During the season of Advent, we understand, Mr. Partridge travelled over 600 miles, and lectured every night in the week, except Saturday. Although it seems hard for us who have shared his labours to find fault, but any one who thinks of the matter, cannot help seeing that this continuous strain on mind and body must, sooner or later, do its work, and bring low the strongest constitution. I hope I have not trespassed too much on your space, but I thought it nothing but right that the friends of Mr. Partridge should understand the circumstances of his illness. We have just heard, with great pleasure, that Mr. Partridge is much better, but still very weak.

**WYEMOUTH.**—On the morning of the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, the congregation of St. Peter's were much gratified by observing a very handsome Lectern, (an Eagle in black walnut,) in the proper position in the chancel of the Church. It was imported by Lamb & Co., London, and was presented by Colia Campbell, Esq., who adds this to his other gifts to our new Parish Church.

In the morning of the day the Rector was able to give the Church of St. Mary, Barton, a full service with the celebration of the Holy Communion, the Rev. Canon Dart kindly taking the duties of St. Peter's, and preaching again at St. Thomas' in the evening. Indeed the Canon, in his usual kind and ready manner, has, since the Christmas vacation at Windsor commenced, rendered the Rector valuable assistance by frequently occupying the pulpits of the churches in this village. On New-Year's Eve we had a service between the hours of 11 and 12 p.m., Canon Dart addressing the congregation, very appropriately, from Pa. xc. 5, (P. Bk. version), "Lord, let me know mine end, and the number of my days, that I may be certified how long I have to live."

The decorations in the churches at this joyous season are of a suitable and chaste character. The offertories on Christmas day were \$11.17, which have since been increased by a contribution from a lady, on New-Year's Eve, of \$1.60, were for Foreign Missions.

**WOLFVILLE—St. John's Church.**—The decorations in this Church are certainly most beautiful, and reflect very much

credit on the many earnest workers who arranged them. There is a very large amount of lettering. Commencing at the entrance to the chancel on one side, and extending around the nave to the entrance, the text in scarlet and gold ecclesiastical letters, "The Word was made Flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His Glory, the Glory, as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth;" lower, down on the walls of the nave, between the windows, are the titles "Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace, Key of David, Ancient of Days, Rose of Sharon, Princes of the Kings of the Earth," these letters are in scarlet and green. The windows are heavily twined, and over the west door is a green pointed arch, beneath which is a large bell of moss and immortelles. The font is a perfect masterpiece of beauty and effect. From a bank of green moss rise small white pillars, twined with fine vines, and meeting at a point. Above this point is a crystal cross; higher than this, and resting on two heavier pillars is a Gothic arch, with a scroll above and around it. On the latter, in maroon and gold letters, is the text, "Jesus said, 'Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of Heaven.'" Inside the pillars are ferns and flowers. Above the chancel arch, in a scroll, are the letters, in old English, "The Lord is in His Holy Temple." The arch has all about it a very heavy rope vine of fir and spruce, and across the front of the chancel is a screen of moss; this screen is of a very chaste design, and is perhaps the most effective part of the decorations. There is a tall point in the centre, having inside an arch with three points. On either side are sloping arches to the sides of the building. The whole structure is covered with moss, in which are placed bleached ferns and autumn leaves, waxed to retain their colour. At the top is a tall cross of pure white, with pale green ferns upon it. Two shields, in silver and gold, and colours, adorn the ends of the nave on either side. Inside the chancel, the trimmings are most elaborate. A heavy border of evergreen runs about the sides, and underneath on either side are the texts, "Let Thy Priests be clothed with righteousness," "Let Thy Saints sing with joyfulness." Against the east end is a heavy reredos, of moss, to about 4 feet above the altar, and thence of evergreen terminating in a point, inclosing in a dark panel, a glittering silver star; at the top of the moss, on a white ground, in green and gold letters are the words, "I am the living Bread which came down from Heaven." On each side the altar are two magnificent dorsal wings of ivory, white, crimson, and gold. The design is in bands, and fleur-de-lis in plush. The altar is vested in white, and on the reredos are cross, lights and flowers. The lectern and reading desk also have white frontals, and are ornamented with wreaths of ferns and autumn leaves. The Services on Christmas Day were at 11 p.m. and 7 p.m., and were hearty and well attended.

**NEW GLASGOW.—Sunday School.**—Two years ago we began with two children. On Tuesday last a large omnibus sleigh from the livery stables, and two double sleighs, started from our temporary chapel filled with children and teachers for a happy, pleasant drive. Messrs. Townshend, Drake and Stirling acted charioteers; and on the return the children were warmed and refreshed with hot coffee, cakes, &c., by Mrs. Drake and Mrs. Townshend.

**LOUISBURG, C. B.**—The Deacon in charge acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the sum of \$15 from Rev. Richard Wainwright, Clerical Secretary, in aid of the funds of the Church of St. Bartholomew in this Mission.

DIocese of Fredericton.

As far as we can learn the decorations in the various churches were equal to former years, in many cases surpassing them. In many Parishes midnight services were held on New Year's Eve, attended by large congregations.

We believe that Rev. F. H. Almon has accepted the Parish of Richibucto.

**CARLETON.—St. Jude's Church.**—Miss Laura Clark, organist of St. Jude's Church, was presented on New Year's Eve with an epistle and card receiver. Mr. C. Pidgeon, teacher of one of the

senior classes of boys, was presented with an inkstand by the boys of her class.

**RICHMOND.**—This Parish has localized Church Work, and for the January number we clip the following:—

A meeting of the W. W. branch of the Guild of St. John the Evangelist will be held on Friday, January 7th, at 2 p.m., for the election of officers, &c. Work meetings are held on the Friday afternoons of each week, beginning at 2 p.m. The sale of work held by the "Willing Workers" on the 8th of December, proved a decided success, \$76.48 being realized after the expenses were paid. The ladies are to be heartily congratulated upon the good results of their hard work, and surely deserve every encouragement in their laudable undertaking. The money is partly to be expended in putting the Sunday School on a thoroughly efficient footing, and partly in establishing the nucleus of a Parish Lending Library.

**Lecture Course.**—An interesting course of secular lectures will be delivered this winter in the Sunday School Room, to begin about the middle of January. The Revs. Canon Partridge, G. G. Roberts, W. J. Wilkinson, T. Neales, are among those who have already consented to lecture.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

**ST. ELEANOR'S AND SUMMERSIDE.**—The good people of this Parish have done well this year. Both congregations provided a very liberal Christmas gift for their Parish Priest. Such evidences of good will are highly commendable.

**NEW LONDON.**—The services in this Church on Christmas Day were of a very bright and joyous nature, and very appropriate for such a joyful day. The service commenced at 10.30 o'clock a.m., and by the time the bell had ceased ringing, the church was well filled with a large and attentive congregation, some of them having come from Kensington, a distance of ten miles, in order that they might be enabled to hear the Church Service and receive the Holy Communion. The service commenced by singing "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" The Te Deum and all the canticles were chanted for the first time in the history of New London Church. The Rev. T. B. Reagh, Rector, preached a very eloquent and impressive discourse on the Birth of Christ; and many of the congregation, no doubt, realized that Christ is indeed our Brother, who took our human nature in order that we might be saved from death and sin. A goodly number of the congregation partook of the Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of Christ. The interior of the church looked very bright and beautiful in its Christmas dress. The chancel was decorated with pure white. Over the chancel window was put the text, "The Word was made Flesh," and over the Communion Table the letters I. H. S., in gold. The reading desk and pulpit were decorated to match the chancel. The remainder of the church was decorated with texts of Scripture, in coloured letters, and wreaths of spruce around the windows, &c. The thanks of the Church people are due to Miss C. J. Anderson for her valuable services as organist, and to Messrs. Pidgeon, Jr., Thompson, Jones and others for their kind assistance in putting up the decorations. The external appearance of New London Church has been much improved by the new towers: and when the parsonage is repaired and painted, we feel confident that New London will be one of the best stations on this Island. The New London people may well feel proud of their church, and they are deserving of great praise for the warm interest they are taking in Church matters. They have had much to contend with, but they are doing their best; and when you see a congregation ready and willing to do all they can, you have every reason to expect that they will (with God's help) triumph over their difficulties.

On Christmas afternoon the following address was presented to Mr. E. M. Welsh by Mr. J. Pidgeon on behalf of the Vestry and congregation of St. Thomas' Church, New London:—

To E. M. Welsh Esq.,  
Dear Sir,—We, the Wardens and Vestry of Saint Thomas' Church, New London, on behalf of ourselves and the congregation, beg to tender you our grateful thanks for your kindness in procuring for our Church a valuable bell,