

In the evening his Lordship again officiated at Mr. Luke's, and in the course of his sermon said a word in high praise of the singing—a well merited compliment to our choir leader, Mr. J. R. Wilcox. At 10.30 P.M. his Lordship took the train en route for Quebec, apparently well pleased with his visit.

On December 14th our Woman's Auxiliary packed off for the Black River Indian Mission, Man., a barrel and two boxes of quilts, clothing, preserves, &c., for Christmas.

The Parish has been overshadowed of late by several deaths. Among them, that of Mr. Amos Messervey, who, a year ago last June, at the advanced age of eighty-three, travelled six miles to receive the blessing of Confirmation. From that time he used constantly with his Bible and treasured as most precious the little book, "Our Only Hope," given him on that occasion by the Bishop. I might mention also the case of a young man of nineteen, who, though not generally supposed to have been possessed of religious tendencies, was found at his death to have carried constantly on his person and used, a little Prayer Book that was given him from the Christmas Tree a year ago.

Sunday, December 20th, was a very sad day indeed, being marked by the largest and most affecting funeral that Magog has perhaps ever known. It was the funeral of two most excellent of our young people, who had been drowned while skating, Annie Cain, aged seventeen, and James Mills, sixteen. The cortege, with its two hearses one immediately behind the other, was led by the Memphremagog Brass Band, moving to the slow and solemn strains of the "Dead March," together with a large number, in order, of Good Templars in their regalia. In the Church the two coffins were placed side by side in front of the delicately draped Chancel, and there tenderly covered with the numerous offerings of affection—emblems of heavenly love and blessedness, woven of choicest flowers. Every inch of standing room was occupied by the followers, including Vestry and Sanctuary, and outside the building were hundreds besides, and all were mourners, the stoutest hearts being moved to tears. The hymns sung were, "O let him whose sorrow," "There is a happy home," and "On the resurrection morning." James Mills was known as a kind, thoroughly honest boy, and was regarded by his overseer with special interest as a lad of fine promise. The blow to his home, especially to his parents, is unspeakably severe, as time had scarcely begun to ameliorate the anguish caused by the decease of their daughter Annie—a fine young woman of eighteen, who won the hearts of all and of whom it was said that her very face was a benediction. Annie Cain may be spoken of in similar terms. Like Annie Mills, too, she was a winning Sunday School teacher.

Though the youngest but one in a family of brothers and sisters, she mothered the home with an ability beyond her years. Ever sweet and gentle, she was their constant sunshine, and though occupied with many household responsibilities, she was ever alive with kindly thoughtfulness for others. When found through the fatal aperture, she was standing erect a little below the surface with her companion recumbent at her feet, her face sweetly upturned. It was a picture of the wonted attitude of her soul—the instinct of prayer. In her we have lost a jewel from our congregation, and long will it be ere the name of dear Annie Cain will be mentioned among us without a feeling of emotion. In the Valley View Cemetery lie three graves side by side, which will be visited by many with tender interest. They are those of Annie Mills, with her brother Jimmie on her left and Annie Cain on her right.

Our annual Christmas Tree Festival, in connection with the Sunday School, came off in the Town Hall on Christmas Eve and was well attended, but subdued in its mirthfulness, owing to the sadness of recent events. I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of \$10.00 from a gentleman of the congregation for the purchase of toys, &c., for the children of families in lowly circumstances.

Our Church decorations this Christmas were uncommonly effective, thanks to the ladies of the Sanctuary Circle, who attended to the Chancel, and to our Danish friends, Messrs. Fritz and Hans Wenning, who decorated the Nave.

Stimulated by our M. P.'s kind offer to provide what he termed the "sinews of war" (oysters), the ladies of the Guild gave a supper on New Year's night, in the Court room, supplemented by a bright, picturesque entertainment in the Town Hall overhead, arranged by Mrs. Marshal Cummins, who was able to draw largely upon a rich store of East Indian draperies and ornaments for the occasion. Proceeds \$30.00.

At Cherry River we had a most animated Christmas Tree gathering. The school-house was crowded to its utmost capacity, and of programme and presents it seemed as if there would be no end. Three of our favorite musicians from Magog, the Misses Maud and Mabel Young, and Mr. Bowles (organ, violin and cornet) furnished a fine little orchestra for the occasion. The Incumbent and his sister came off joyfully with a twelve dollar envelope and a bouncing turkey, to say nothing of other expressions of good will.

Mr. Fred. Gustin, of the Brotherhood of Readers, B.C.L., while en route for College after Christmas Vacation, kindly took a Service at McDermott's and at Cherry River with marked interest to his hearers.

Special offertories—S. P. C. K. . . \$10.00
Foreign Missions. 10.00