

In the afternoon the new church of St. Thomas was opened with appropriate services. This is a station connection with St. Stephen's Church at a distance of six miles in the adjoining township of Lochaber. It is a neat church-like structure; is nearly finished and free from debt. It was erected during last summer and fall. The little church was suitably decorated for the occasion and crowded to excess by an interesting audience. The sermon was preached by the Incumbent from Gen. 28: 22, which from the attention paid to it must have been listened to with much interest. The people of Lochaber are deserving of commendation for their zeal and for having accomplished so much in the face of many difficulties, and now that they have a church in which to worship, it is reasonable to look for more satisfactory progress in the future than in the past. The members of the church in the parish have reason to thank God and take courage at seeing His work prospering among them.

ONTARIO.

(From our own correspondent.)

OTTAWA.—The Church of St. Alban the Martyr was on the fourth Sunday in Advent the scene of a ceremony of unusual interest to the members of the Church in Ottawa. No more appropriate edifice could have been chosen for these exceptional services than the unpretending building which combines elegance without ostentation, and is an all its equipments symbolical of the faith professed by the members of its congregation.

AN ORDINATION SERVICE

is not one of common occurrence, even in the capital city, and it therefore did not surprise us to see the Church well filled by the Anglican members of this diocese.

THE ASPIRANTS TO THE DIACONATE

were Mr. J. R. Serson, of Pakénham, and Mr. Joseph Elliott, of Hungerford. Both of these gentlemen have been students of Trinity College, Toronto; the former having taken his degree of B. A. During the past week the two candidates have been under examination by the Rev. Canon Jones and the Rev. Canon Bleasdel, Chaplains to His Lordships the Bishop of Ontario; the latter of whom carried at yesterday's service.

THE EPISCOPAL STAFF,

of which we make mention "per parenthesis." This handsome emblem of Episcopal power was recently presented to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese by the clergy of his diocese, and deserves more than passing mention from the fact that it is modelled from an ancient Irish crozier, a drawing of which is to be found in a work of Petrie's, the celebrated Irish antiquarian. The staff is of black walnut, banded at intervals with handsome silver circlets. The head contains a richly chased Maltese cross, which carries the following inscription:

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost,
Presented to the Right Reverend Father in God,
JOHN TRAVERS, D.D.,
First Bishop of Ontario,
by the Dean, Chapter, and Clergy of his Diocese,
Advent, 1877.
"Feed My Sheep, Feed My Lambs."

Considering the Irish descent of His Lordship, there is something very appropriate in the model selected for the pastoral staff by his subordinates of the Church. But to return to our theme—

THE SERVICE YESTERDAY

opened with the Advent Hymn, "O come, O come, Emmanuel," used as a processional, the music by Gounod, admirably rendered, Mr. Tiepke presiding at the organ, evidently having the choir well under control, and the congregation cordially following their leaders.

THE SERMON BY THE BISHOP

was preached by the Bishop. His Lordship took his text from the 6th verse of the 6th chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, "whom they set before the Apostles, and when they had prayed they laid their hands on them." His Lordship eloquently and logically argued that the Church orders of bishops, priests and deacons were a divine institu-

tion; that other systems, ignoring any of these degrees, came into vogue long after Christianity was an organized body. The Christian Church, in these orders, was but the perfection of the Jewish Church, in which the High Priest, the Priest, and the Levite, were fresh adornings of the three Christian sacerdotal orders.

The Church of Christ is the oldest corporate body in the world.

THE CHARTER OF THE CHURCH

could not exist without episcopacy. "Thou art Peter, and on this rock will I build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." These are the words of the Redeemer, but they must not be applied to St. Peter alone. The original of the Bible showed that they were addressed to all of the twelve. To each of them authority was given to preach the Gospel to all nations, and each one had unlimited powers in his own territory.

THE DIACONATE WAS FIRST INSTITUTED

When the number of the disciples was multiplied, and there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations. Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said: "It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables." Such were the words of St. Luke, and there was no reason to doubt that he had given the true reason of the institution of the Diaconate.

The chosen Twelve had up to that period dispensed the alms of the Church, but it was evident from the language used by St. Luke, that this work of distributing alms had interfered with their special duties; hence their complaint against the complainants. "It is not reason that we should leave the Word of God and serve tables;" but they desired the institution of the Diaconate, saying, "But we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word."

DISPUTANTS OF CHURCH AUTHORITY

had attempted to show that the institution of Deacons was an incidental circumstance—a matter of expediency, and done to appease the discontent of the Grecian members of the Church. There was nothing in Scripture to warrant this idea.

HEBREW AND HELLENISTIC JEWS

had for years a feud betwixt them, and had the Diaconate been confined to the Grecians alone it is hardly possible, the Greek and Jew should have agreed in its institution. It might seem to many that it was a trivial matter as to whether the order of the deacons was one of divine institution or not, but on that question hinged many of the arguments relating to Episcopacy.

THE NEW TESTAMENT

did not lay down explicit laws for church government, but its most casual allusion to events which have transpired should be taken by induction as authorities. Every Christian should remember that the Church is older than the New Testament. The New Testament is a record of what had been done by the Christian Church in its primitive organization, and instead of dictating to the Christian world what it should do, in regard to temporal matters and church government, leaves many points on such subjects to be reduced from casual references.

CLERGY AND LAITY

had their relative positions. The laity should esteem the clergy. He did not demand that they should esteem the man, but contended that they should esteem the office. If all members of the Church would accept their proper positions, we should hear no more of High Church men and Low Church men. They would both be united in the high respect and earnest devotion paid to their Creator, and the lowly spirit of contrition in which they appeared before Him. His Lordship concluded his discourse by requesting the prayers of the congregation for the candidates for ordination of the Diaconate, of which St. Stephen, he remarked, the first martyr of the Christian Church, was one of the first members.

The above is a most imperfect summary of an elaborate and highly interesting sermon, which we should wish to see in print for the benefit of a wide circle of readers.

THE MAKING OF DEACONS,

as the service is termed in the Church of England

ritual, was now proceeded with, the neophytes being presented to His Lordship by Canon Bleasdel, one of the Bishop's chaplains. The remainder of the service was conducted in accordance with the printed rubrics of the "Book of Common Prayer" with one exception, that concerning the

"OATH OF SUPREMACY,"

which, in keeping with the recent imperial and colonial enactments, is now administered in private. The greater portion of the service was choral. The Litany was very feelingly sung by the Rector, and both choir and congregation performed their part well, the responses being heartily made by all those present. The Rev. I. R. Serson read the Gospel. The Bishop was the Celebrant, and was assisted by his Chaplains and the Rev. W. Fleming, Rector of March.

KINGSTON CHRISTMAS SERVICES.—The Christmas services in Kingston were well attended, and the churches more or less tastefully decorated. On Christmas eve, the choir of All Saints' Church and a number of the members of "A" battery band, under the leadership of Mr. Creggan, lay delegate, went out carol singing. They visited several of the clergy and one or two prominent citizens. The five instruments of the band combined with the melody of the voices had an excellent effect, the night being fine. Some of the "old time" carols and some modern ones were sung by them. Arriving between one and two o'clock, a. m., at the residence of the Rev. Mr. Bousfield, the Incumbent of All Saints', and after singing one or two carols, they were invited to partake of the good things provided by Mrs. Bousfield. When the viands had been discussed, the Incumbent, on behalf of the donors (through Mrs. Bousfield), made a short address to Mr. Charles Creggan, organist of the church, expressing their appreciation of his services, and the kindly feeling felt for him, and placed on his finger a fine signet ring as a token of their good will. Mr. Creggan replied appropriately with earnest words, congratulatory of the harmony existing between the members of the congregation, and the hearty welcome which they would extend to all comers. One or two more carols being sung, they departed for their homes.

ST. GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL.—On Christmas Day there was early Communion at 8, a. m., and upwards of 80 communicants. At 11 o'clock there was a full service, when the Dean preached a sermon appropriate to the occasion. The Rev. H. Wilson, assistant minister, took part in the services, and the number of communicants who received at this service swelled the total amount for the day to upwards of 230. The church was decorated in and around the chancel. The congregation was very good. On Christmas Eve the Sunday school children had a choral service, and were addressed by the Rev. Mr. Wilson.

ST. PAUL'S.—There was a large congregation at the service. The sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. Carey, the Incumbent; the Venerable Archdeacon Parnell, D. C. L., who was present, assisting. The church was decorated with texts and mottoes, stars and triangles, etc.; the font with evergreens, maple leaves and berries. At the chancel arch was a very fine temporary screen of evergreens put up in the Gothic style.

ST. JAMES' CHURCH.—Here, also, there was a large congregation. The Rev. Mr. Kirkpatrick, Incumbent, officiated. His text was taken from the 85th Psalm: "Mercy and Truth have met together, Righteousness and Peace have kissed each other." The church was very nicely decorated.

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH.—Here there was a very good congregation. The Rev. T. Bousfield, Incumbent, officiated. The text was taken from the second lesson and was a short meditation, and exhortation based thereon, on the glad tidings of the day. Holy Communion was administered by the Incumbent, and the services were of the usual hearty character of this church. The rood screen was tastefully decorated, the cross surmounting it being wreathed with white flowers interspersed with berries and evergreens. At the point of the