

PARISH NOTES.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., JANUARY 1, 1892.

PARISH NOTES.

THE month of December includes so many incidents of Church activity that it will be difficult to furnish even the briefest chronicle in the space allotted to us. The special Advent services were held in the afternoon, owing to the difficulty of securing the help of preachers in the evening; but we trust that next year it may be possible to fix them at an hour when a larger congregation may be present. Those who attended our church profited by some helpful addresses. Mr. Eatough's discourse upon the "Prophetic Office of Christ," was an excellent piece of Biblical study, and the same may be said of the sermons of Messrs. James and Schofield.

AFTER an interval of two years, a Deanery service was held in our church. There were present: Canon Brigstocke, (*Rural Dean*), and Revs. Canon DeVeber, W. B. Armstrong, Geare, James, Hudgell, Raymond, Sampson, Spike and Schofield. Mr. Lloyd, who is an honorary member of the Deanery, was unavoidably prevented from being present. Proceedings commenced at half-past two with the reading of a portion of Revelation, ch. xx, in the original. This was followed by a discussion upon Almsgiving, introduced by the Rector of St. John's church, in a paper included in our present issue. A very interesting debate followed, all those present contributing experiences upon the subject, and the practical outcome was a resolution, unanimously carried, to the effect that a committee, representing all the religious bodies in the city, should be established with the object of investigating applications from strangers and others not connected with any congregation, and of keeping a record of persons receiving relief under these circumstances. Canon Brigstocke was requested to communicate with the representatives of other churches, with a view of obtaining their assent and co-operation. The members of the Deanery were entertained at dinner afterwards in the Association room. The evening service suffered in the matter of attendance through a heavy fall of snow, and therefore especial thanks are due to the choir who performed an anthem in excellent style. Prayers were read by Rev. W. B. Armstrong, the lessons by Canons Brigstocke and DeVeber, and the sermon preached by Rev. J. H. Geare, minister of St. John the Baptist's. The sermon was

an interesting exposition of Acts viii, 31, a lesson which should no more be ignored than the supplementary and not less important teaching contained in Acts xvii, 11.

OF the Christmas Day service, the exigencies of the press do not enable us to speak, except with a prophetic hope that whether, as regards attendance, and the special offertory for the poor, the result will not fall behind the encouraging precedents of former years.

THE usual grant of money for purposes of decorating the church and school house, has been made by the vestry, and as usual willing workers from the Young Men's Association took charge of the labour of love, helped by other members of the congregation. Considering the many social claims upon our young men at this season, a very special debt of gratitude is due to one and all, and the success of their many efforts so fully and gratefully recognized will recompense them for the double strain of performing the work, and of preserving due order. Christmas would be a barren festival if it did not mean a day of love, shown to those who suffer need. Besides the Christmas offertory, which amounted to \$125.00, various efforts had been made by our societies. The Junior Girls sent a parcel of Christmas gifts to the parish of Welsford, duly acknowledged by Rev. W. B. Armstrong. The newly formed section (which deserves a better title than that of the 'middle-aged') had laboured earnestly for the Christmas tree and entertainment for the poor, and the full success of the evening, (which we trust will be a perpetual feature of Christmas in future), must have repaid them fully. As usual the Rector of Trinity Church granted donations from the Swinny and DeWolf funds, to applicants from our parish, and five deserving persons received sums varying from nineteen to twenty five dollars.

AND now it is our duty to speak of the Magazine which completes a year's issue with the present number. In spite of the difficulty of obtaining the desired contributions from members of the congregation, and of ascertaining the names of intending subscribers, the financial result would bear a not unfavorable comparison with that of a good many other parish magazines. There is a deficit of some twenty dollars, due chiefly to the failure of some advertisers. The Rector has assumed responsibility for the financial management of the next year's issue, which will be carried on upon very similar lines. He will be assisted by members of the Young Men's Association in the work of editorship, and the usual space will be given the proceedings of our societies, as furnished by their own representatives. We invite contributions from members of our congregation, whether in the form of original articles, correspondence on matters affecting our church, or information concerning by-gone persons, or events in our city.

A parish magazine is a real necessity in a congregation which has obtained the importance of our own. We need the means of announcing our doings fully, of eliciting congregational opinion, of developing literary talent. The fact that there is no diocesan magazine should stir up our energies. A brief record of church doings in other parishes will we hope be an addition to be obtained. But we ask