

Prior, the then agents of the Canada Company, made the first motion towards founding Guelph. St. George's day being chosen for the occasion. It would seem that the name of Guelph was not adopted by acclamation, Mr. Galt, its sponsor, having met with much opposition as to the name of his babe. He appears to have been firm, however, in his design of paying a compliment to the royal family, and a substantial and right royal compliment has the town of Guelph turned out to be. Your correspondent happening here on the Fair day of Xmas exhibits of stock, was astonished and delighted with the wondrous display. A thousand head of cattle at one view, all in good condition, and very many of enormous size and fatness, was a sight rare to him, and thanks to the attention of Mr. Charles Sharpe, of the firm of C. & A. Sharpe, seedsmen, who is President of the Agricultural Society of Guelph, every opportunity was afforded for the indulgence of his taste in this direction. In the competition for prizes, the writer would have found it difficult indeed to decide between the specimens of different ages as presented; and he is free to say that the huge steer brought up by Mr. West, evidently in the way he should go, and coming up to the point of from 3,400 to 3,600 pounds, so filled the measure of his thoughts and fancy that he could think of nothing else in connection. The symmetry of this large animal is something remarkable, and would seem to show that "blood will tell" even in an ox. Guelph upon this same day was certainly a city for the nonce, if one may judge from its people-crowded streets. The wonder to the writer was, where did they come from, and how could the numbers so rapidly accumulate. No better evidence of the excellence of the advantages presented in the surrounding country could be afforded. The church is in a thriving condition, as it will be my pleasure to show in another communication, when, being less hurried, I can properly present the facts.

HAMILTON.

Guelph, Dec. 20th, 1876.

HAMILTON.—The following account of the Churches and services on Christmas Day is from the *Evening Times*:

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.—The service in the Cathedral yesterday morning was distinguished by a warmth and brightness suitable to the occasion. The decorations were not numerous, the members of the congregation evidently thinking, and rightly too, that the beauty of the already handsome church was better unadorned. Morning prayer was read by the Rev. W. S. Speirs, assistant minister, and the lessons by the Very Rev. the Dean of Niagara. His Lordship the Bishop preached from the text, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will towards men." The singing was particularly good, and we note an improvement in the service that the Psalter was chanted. This is as it should be in the Cathedral. Why not keep it up regularly? It would add to the beauty of the service, and to the devotional spirit of the worshippers.

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION.—The Christmas decorations in the Church of the Ascension are more elaborate than they have been for some years previous, and reflect great credit on those who undertook the task. For elegance of design, thoroughness of execution, and attention to detail, it was as well done as any one could desire. The Scriptural sentences, "Unto us a child is born," "Unto us a Son is given," "Glory to God in the Highest," and "Emanuel," worked out of evergreens, on red ground with evergreen border, were placed on the walls of the Church. Two handsome banners were hung—one on each side of the chancel, with the inscriptions, "Peace on Earth," and "Good-will toward Men," on streamers, in the centre of the red ground. The chancel, communion-table, reading-desk, pulpit and baptismal fonts were heavily decked with evergreens and *immortelles*. The windows and doors being arched, the galleries festooned, and the pillars entwined with evergreens, gave the decorations a finished and unique appearance. The service on Christmas morning was well attended and was appropriately bright throughout. The Rev. Canon Hebden conducted

the service and preached an impressive sermon from the text, "Unto us a child is born; unto us a Son is given," Isaiah, 9th chapter and 6th verse. The music rendered by the choir was excellent, the hymns being chiefly congregational, and J. Barnby's anthem, "The grace of God that bringeth salvation," was exceptionally well done.

ST. THOMAS' CHURCH.—This Church is decorated in a similar manner to that of last year. The windows are all surrounded with evergreens, with titles of Christ in white on a red ground on the sills. There is a reredos of green and festoons round the gallery with Trinity Crosses on the west wall. Under the arch entering the chancel there is an ornamental arch erected, with the words, "We praise Thee, O God," on it, surmounted by a Trinity Cross. The reading-desk and pulpit are heavily draped with red and green, amongst which is a little holly, but the gem of all is the font, which is handsomely decorated with ivy, while it is filled with green ferns and in the midst of them stands a lily. The different illuminations are also worthy of notice, especially the two on each side of the chancel, and the one in the east window. Between the windows on either side are hung banners and shields on which are various devices.

Yesterday morning the service in this church was rather more musical than is customary. It commenced with the hymn "Christians awake! salute the happy morn." The *Venite Exultemus Deo* was sung to a Gregorian chant, 6th tone. The *Te Deum* was composed by Thomas, in P., and the *Benedictus* by Dykes. The anthem was a very nice one, from the words of the Prophet Zechariah, chap. ii. verses 10 and 13, set to music by Joseph Barnby. The *Kyrie Eleison* and "Offertory" by W. B. Gilbert and the *Gloria Tibi* by Wilson. The *Gloria Patri*, after the Psalms, by Greatorex. The hymns "O come, all ye Faithful" and "Hark! the herald angels sing," with the doxology to the tune of the "Old Hundred" completed the musical programme, which throughout was ably and heartily rendered by the choir. The Rev. J. B. Richardson, rector, preached a sermon from St. Luke ii., 14 v., "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." After service the Holy Communion was administered. The collection is to be devoted towards the relief of the poor in the district.

ALL SAINTS.—The decorations in this church are, as usual, very pretty, and consist of a handsome screen dividing the chancel and nave, handsome banners, texts and evergreens around the windows. The pulpit, font, lectern and reading-desk are especially well decorated, and the ladies who had charge of these deserve great credit for the excellent taste displayed. On each side of the east window two very handsome banners are hung, and the altar is appropriately adorned. The service in the morning was a full choral one. The processional hymn was "Christians, Awake." The *Venite* and *Jubilate* were sung to harmonized Gregorians, the proper Psalms to Gregorian tones, the *Te Deum* was Ouseley (in F.) and the anthem was "Behold I bring you glad tidings," by Hopkins. The other hymns were "Hark! the herald angels sing" and the "Adeste Fideles." The Rev. Mr. Sutherland preached an excellent sermon, taking as his text part of the 7th verse of the 2nd chapter of St. Luke, "Because there was no room for them in the inn." There was a celebration of the Holy Communion after morning prayers.

ST. JOHN'S MISSION.—The decorations at St. John's, for this Christmastide, are all in cedar. Over the altar is the monogram "I. H. S." in red and blue letters intertwined, and in a green border of foliage. A long wreath is festooned in a central dependent curve beneath the monogram, and is supported by two lateral dependent curves across the end of the Mission House. A cross and crown on the right, and the dove and olive leaf on the left, are in the upper corners, and below two Scripture texts in ornamental print, bordered, and the dressings of the lecterns complete the chancel end of the church. The opposite end of the building, above the organ, is also wreathed, curved and lettered. Between the windows on the sides there are coronas in foliage and six-point stars. The windows are bordered

in cedar. Scripture texts in border are pendant, and the salutations (bordered) are at the entrances. On Christmas morning the attendance at the Mission was very good, and the number of communicants a great increase on last year.

HURON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON.—Attended St. Paul's (Cathedral) yesterday, and heard a very excellent sermon from the Rev. Mr. Gemley, the assistant Minister, his text being the 78th and 79th verses of the first chapter of St. Luke. "Through the tender mercies of our God, whereby the day-spring from on high hath visited us; to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The sermon was happily conceived and rendered, the earnest fervid manner of the Minister adding to the effect of the beauty of his thought as expressed. "The day-spring from on high,"—the early dawn, while yet objects were not plainly visible, though creeping out into the semblance of form that would soon be palpable to the eye—the slowly, yet surely accumulating light that would make manifest every object within the range of vision, the full light, that shining, gave glory to the day, were the ideas brought to one's mind by the Minister. "Through the tender mercy of our God" was this light created and vouchsafed to our relief from this oppressive darkness by which all objects were hid from our view. How unlike the mercy of man was this mercy of God? The one finite as pertaining simply to an occasion perhaps, the other infinite and boundless, giving light to the whole world and affording to that world opportunity for receiving it, even as the man who sleeps through the darkness of the night is prepared for the light and duties of the day. Referring to Zacharias, who because of his disbelief was made speechless, he presented the fact that, by faith, through his affliction, he was enabled to break forth in song and thanksgiving to his God, not only for the birth of his son, the forerunner of Him that was "Mighty to Save," but for the view, through the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, of that Christ whose mission on earth was the redeeming of the nations. It would take too much of your space to follow farther the many excellent points of this sermon of which I have not given even a synopsis, presenting more in my own language the channel of thought in which it led me than the words of the minister, which were apposite and effective.

The Cathedral is most handsomely and tastefully decorated for Christmas occasion. A band of illuminated scriptural texts runs the entire distance of the paneling of the gallery, while banners are placed over the head of each column that supports it, with like texts in colours and gilt. Each column is entwined with green, each window bordered in like manner, while the pulpit and clerk's desk, with font, are tastefully decorated with holly and crimson berries. The chancel with its bright banners, hung in goodly array, is very pretty. The choir of St. Paul's is very good, and with the excellent organ, which seems to be understood by him presiding at it, the services were made the more enjoyable.

LONDON.—In all our churches the great festival was duly observed; and though great numbers left town and otherwise kept Christmas merely as *holiday*, the congregations of worshippers were very large. Especially was this the case at St. Paul's, where the church was filled with those who came to worship. The Rector, Rev. Canon Jones, with Revs. H. W. Halpine, J. Gemley, and Rev. W. S. Young, read the services and lessons and administered the Holy Communion. The preacher at morning service was Rev. W. S. Young. Beautifully did he represent the humility of the babe born in the stall at Bethlehem and his years of lowly life; and then Jesus, very God showing our absolute need of "God with us" as our Saviour. His sermon was so plain that none were so dull as not to fully comprehend every sentence, and yet so powerful in its very simplicity that the sceptic, were there any such there, must feel how little ground there was for his scepticism. The discourse was such as we would most desire to hear in connection with the solemn service of this the Christian festival. The hymns selected