

NIAGARA.

(From our OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

DUNDAS.—A correspondent writes to us about the Lenten service held in the school house of St. James' Church, of which the Rev. F. S. Osler is the Rector. He says:—"It was my good fortune to be present at a service held in the before-mentioned school house, in Passion Week, when the Rev. C. E. Whitecombe, Missionary in charge of the Church of the Redeemer, Stoney Creek, preached. His subject was the life of Judas, explaining his besetting sins, and showing, in very forcible, expressive, and feeling language, his complete ruin and downfall, by a giving away to those sins. He then depicted, by a beautiful analogy, the dangerous state of the hardened, impenitent sinner."

The previous portions of the service were conducted as usual, the psalms being the 36th, 37th, and 38th. The "Magnificat" and "Nunc Dimittis" being chanted to Gregorian tones.

Throughout the old Niagara district, several of the clergy made an arrangement so that each week through Lent there should be in every parish a clergyman from some adjacent parish. By the adoption of this excellent plan a greater interest was taken in the services by the laity, and the clergy mutually aided each other in keeping the season in a seemly manner. The subjects of the lectures delivered in each parish were—"St. John, the Baptist," by Canon Read; "Moses," by Canon Roberts; "St. Peter," by Rural Dean Holland; "St. Paul," by Rev. H. F. Holmes; "Joseph," by Rev. C. L. Inglis; "Elijah," by Rev. J. Griffith; "Joshua," by Rev. E. J. Fessenden.

GUELPH.—At St. George's, Canon Dixon through Lent gave a series of lectures on the Lord's Prayer. During Holy Week and from the Friday preceding, he preached on "the Raising of Lazarus," "The Excitement in Jerusalem as Jesus approached," "The Paschal Lamb," "The appointment of the Lord's Supper," "Christ before Pilate," and on Good Friday, "The attraction of the Cross," and "The state of the departed between death and judgment." The attendance at all these services was very good, but especially on Good Friday, when many not members of the church were present, and took a deep interest in the solemn services of the day. During Holy Week, Munro's "Story of the Cross," music by Redhead, was sung at each service. On Easter day there was an early celebration, at which there were present 51 communicants, and at the mid-day there were 145. The musical portions of the services were admirably rendered, and were of the festal character appropriate to the season. In the morning Canon Dixon preached on the "Teachings of the Resurrection," and in the evening, on the "Analogies of Nature with respect to the doctrine of a risen body." There is to be an ordination held in St. George's Church on Whit-Sunday, and a confirmation in the evening of the same day.

HAMILTON.—On Friday last the Rev. Canon Hebden lectured in the Church of England Institute to a very fair audience. His subject was "The Eastern or Greek Church." A short musical programme was first given. The great excitement among churchmen just now is, of course, the result of the Easter vestry meetings. So far as Hamilton Churches are concerned those results have been, on the whole, satisfactory. At the Ascension Church a point arose from a consideration of the best means to procure funds to meet the deficiency of \$585. It was finally resolved to raise the pew rents 25 per cent., but still many wonder and doubt whether that be the best and fairest plan. A poor man with a large family and consequently with a large pew will be obliged to pay more than the rich man who finds a small pew sufficient. It seems a pity that an income tax could not be brought into service in churches as well as municipalities; for then every member would be more likely to bear only his due proportion, and the old principle of tithe-giving be more fully carried out. Then again there are not a few who think that our churches would be better filled and the expenses more promptly met if, instead of

pews, the offertory were made the only means of support. There can be no doubt that the higher the rent of the pews is, the thinner will be the congregation and the smaller will be the voluntary offerings. I might add that the cause of so large a deficiency in the Ascension Church is owing (1) to expenses lately incurred in connection with the recently purchased cemetery, and (2) to a falling off in the offertory of some \$400.

Christ Church Cathedral.—The wardens, Col. H. V. Villiers and J. M. Lottridge, Esq., were unanimously re-elected. Delegates: Judge O'Reilly and Dr. Ridley.

Church of the Ascension.—The wardens, Messrs. N. P. Bickley, D. G. Greer, were unanimously re-elected. Delegates: F. W. Gates, E. Browne, Adam Brown.

St. Thomas.—Wardens: Messrs. James Walker and Robert Morgan. Delegates: F. E. Kelvert, Esq.

St. John's.—The wardens were unanimously re-elected. Mr. Hornby, the retiring trustee was re-elected for a term of three years.

ERALC.

ORANGEVILLE.—In Memoriam.—Died, on Good Friday, Mrs. J. M. Bennett, aged 80 years and 5 months. She was a faithful and devoted member of the Church. She has left a large family to mourn her loss. On Easter Sunday last her funeral was attended by a very large number of relatives and friends to the Forest Lawn Cemetery. The following is a brief summary of the sermon preached by the Rev. A. Henderson on the occasion, from I. Cor., xv. 17: "If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." He said that, our Lord was really and truly dead before he was taken down from the cross, we believe not only on the word of his friends, but on the testimony of his enemies. That our Lord truly rose again we believe, because his resurrection is borne witness to by followers, revilers, friends, enemies, and angels, as well as by God himself, and "He showed himself alive after His passion by many infallible proofs."

No historic fact appears to be better authenticated than the resurrection of our Lord. This is a matter all should endeavour to be clear upon in their own minds; for unless the doctrine is fully and satisfactorily proved, there is no sufficient evidence that our Lord's sacrifice of himself has been accepted by the Father as an atonement for the sin of the world. But as Jesus truly rose again, so shall we rise; for "He is the firstfruits of them that slept." On this Easter day, when the grand theme of resurrection should occupy much of our thoughts, we ought to be able to lay the remains of our sister in the grave with the more hope and consolation, seeing that she shall surely rise again. The signs of the times appear to me to indicate that our Lord's second coming is drawing very near, when the dead shall rise. I am always glad to be able to say of any one departed, that he died *professing* affiance in Christ, but I have something better to tell you of Mrs. Bennett; it is not how she died, but how she lived. We find but very little in God's word of how men died, but we find much written of how they lived. I suppose it is because generally people die as they live. Repentance upon a deathbed is not impossible, but we cannot always be sure that it is true—the work of the Holy Spirit. Our sister, from the day of her confirmation to this day, was as regular as possible in her observance of holy communion, which is one of the two sacraments "generally necessary for salvation." In her own family she was truly exemplary, teaching her children, not only by precept, but by example—by family worship and attention to every religious duty, to walk in the paths of righteousness. The expectation of a joyful resurrection, and of a meeting beyond the gloom of the grave, must surely afford some degree of comfort to bereaved ones who fully and firmly believe these doctrines.

HAMILTON.—On Sunday last, April 8th, the proposed changes in the cathedral service came into effect. The *Times* thus describes it: "The choir, which consists of 22 boys and 14 men, entered in procession from the vestry and took their seats in the chancel, the appearance of which was greatly improved by the proper and uniform ap-

pearance of the occupants of the stalls. The Very Rev. the Dean officiated, and the following was the musical portion of the service which was most excellently and we may say remarkably given, considering it was the first appearance of the choir in public: Venite, Woodward; "Te Deum," Steggall (unison); Jubilate, 214 Synod; Kyrie, 242nd Synod. Hymns: "Onward Christian Soldiers," "When Morning Gilds the Sky," "The strife is o'er, the Battle done." In the afternoon the choir were present at the I. P. B. S. service, and in the evening the cathedral was crowded, when the singing was even better than at the other services, the Dean again officiating. We heard nothing but praise of the choir on all sides, and congratulate the clergy, wardens, and congregation of Christ Church Cathedral on being the first cathedral in Canada to set the example of the beginning of a proper service. The choir-master, Mr. Robinson, deserves great credit for the manner in which he has brought on the boys during the short time he has had them in hand.

In the afternoon a special service was held for the benefit of the Irish Protestant Benevolent Society. The musical part of the service was again rendered by the Surpliced choir. The prayers were said by the Rev. Canon Hebden, and the Rev. J. Gemley, of London, preached from Isaiah, lvii., 7. The discourse was a most able and interesting one, shewing the duty and benefit of charity and benevolence. He referred also to the Surpliced choir, saying that while in Great Britain he had noticed that nearly every Church had its choir of men and boys in surplices. He shewed that it was not the insignia of any party in the Church. He mentioned the fact that the first Church he preached in, in England, was at Greenwich, the Church of Canon Miller, the champion of the Low Church party and the choir there was a surpliced one.

HURON.

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BRANTFORD.—Grace Church.—Wardens, Alfred Watts, H. Jones, Esqrs. Delegates, Messrs. W. J. Imlach, C. S. Ceaser, and Dr. Hewett.

St. Jude's.—Wardens, J. T. Gikison and Frank. The wardens were appointed delegates.

NOTICE.—The Rev. J. W. Bonham, Church of England Evangelist, has accepted an invitation from the Lord Bishop of Huron to spend a short season in Canada. Bishops and Rectors who may desire him to hold Missions are requested to address him: Post Office, London, Ont., Canada.

PARIS.—The Rev. R. O. Cooper, lately assistant minister in this parish, has been appointed successor to the Rev. Dr. Townley, who has resigned the incumbency, after having been Rector for 22 years, but will continue to discharge the duties till the 1st July.

PETERVILLE.—St. Georges'.—The second Easter Vestry Meeting of this church was held on Tuesday evening, the 3rd inst. Rev. J. Gemley presided, in the absence of the Rector, Rev. Canon Innes. Messrs. John Peters and Gibson were reappointed churchwardens, and Mr. Peters, lay delegate.

GLANWORTH.—Christ Church.—The Easter Vestry Meeting of this church was held at 2.30 p.m., on Easter Monday, the Rev. Professor Halpin, of Huron College, Incumbent of the parish, presiding. The Incumbent's churchwarden for the ensuing year is Mr. M. Jackson, the people's churchwarden Mr. F. R. Shore. The delegate to the Synod is Mr. Jackson.

CHAPTER HOUSE.—The connection of Rev. Mr. Campbell with the Chapter House, as assistant Minister to the Dean of Huron, has terminated; his time will for the future be occupied by the care of the affairs of the Helmut Colleges as Secretary and Treasurer; the Dean meantime ministering entirely to the congregation. It is worthy of note that in this church, whose capacity is only for 300 people, 103 members partook of the Holy Communion last Sunday. The attendance at the Bible Readings continues very large.

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