



The Pro-Cathedral of St. Luke Sault Ste. Marie.

Auxiliary were duly distributed amongst the deserving at this station.

I am, Mr. Editor,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES HICKLAND

### Sault Ste. Marie.

REV. R. RENISON, B.A., INCUMBENT.

The Christmas services at St. Luke's pro-cathedral were well attended and marked throughout with great heartiness. The interior, too, bore witness to the festal season by the decorations which were beautiful and appropriate. The offertory was about \$60.

On the following day, Sunday, December 26th, in the evening, the Bishop held a Confirmation. Mr. Renison presented a class of twenty nine, among whom were several adults. The church was crowded, the service bright and musical and at the same time congregational. The Bishop's words were calculated to impress the candidates with the importance of the act in which they were engaged, and at the same time to interest and arouse others present.

For the midnight service on New Year's Eve another large congregation gathered. The Bishop preached. At the celebration of Holy Communion in the early morning there were about fifty communicants.

The Feast of the Epiphany was duly observed. It was the commemoration of the Bishop's consecration. There was a celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper; the Bishop preached.

Encouraging notes of parochial life and progress are to be found in a growing and flourishing Sunday-school, as well as in active young men's and young women's societies, which are doing good work.

We are able to give our readers a picture of the pro-cathedral of St. Luke, Sault Ste. Marie, for the use of which our thanks are tendered to Mr. J. H. Meir, of the Sault Star.

### Mission of Burk's Falls.

REV. CHARLES PIERCE, INCUMBENT.

Christmas season with all its special services and gatherings has again come and gone. Though in this northern portion of the Province of Ontario, cold weather is invariably to be expected at this time of the year still people are to be found who willingly give the time and do the work necessary for the decoration of our little churches, as well as for the musical brightening of the Church's services, and for the preparation for the children's festivals. December 24th was decidedly a cold day. Just one of those days which keeps at home people who are not compelled to go abroad. Early in the afternoon of this day the incumbent left home for Sundridge, where, on the morrow his Christmas duties commenced. The road was a fair one, there being plenty of snow for sleighing, but the frost made it heavier work for the horse to draw. There is no mistaking the hard grating noise made by the steel cutter shoeing, as it rides over the dry, frosty snow. A two hours' drive took him to Sundridge, where, having stabled and fed his horse, he was, as usual, the recipient of the kindest hospitality at the hands of the Church people there.

Certainly the traditional customs which attach to Christmastide and make it the season for family rejoicings and reunions do not appear to lose their influence, for the village stores or shops are crowded with customers until late on Christmas Eve, some straggling in during the last hour of the day. Be the villager or the settler ever so poor, strenuous efforts are put forth to pro-

vide little presents for the members of the family and something extra to grace the board on Christmas Day. As the years go by it may be hoped that the religious observance of Christmas Day will forge itself, by reason of the Church's teaching, more into the foreground and that every family in the community will have representative participants in all the services of Mother Church.

Christmas morning was bright. During the night the wind had dropped and the temperature risen. The first service of the day in the mission was a celebration of Holy Communion in St. Paul's Church, Sundridge, at 8 a.m. There were fifteen worshippers present, of whom ten were communicants. After the service warm Christmas greetings were exchanged, and the incumbent had a hurried breakfast and got ready for his drive--fourteen miles to Burk's Falls, where the second service had been announced for eleven o'clock. By dint of hard driving no delay occurred, the clergyman having five minutes in which to divest himself of wraps in the little vestry room of All Saints' Church and to make ready for the service following. It commenced with Nahum Tate's familiar hymn:

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

All seated on the ground

in which the whole congregation heartily joined. The service consisted of Morning Prayer and Holy Communion with sermon.

At the home station the church was prettily decorated with wreathing made of hemlock and cedar sprigs, and with a few designs in color of an ecclesiastical character.

Next day, Sunday (St. Stephen's), the missionary started early enough to take morning service in Sundridge. In the afternoon he spent an hour with some candidates for confirmation, returning to Burk's Falls for Evening Prayer.

To the W.A. in the Diocese of Toronto, gratitude is due for the gifts that enabled us to decorate Christmas Trees at the Children's Festivals. The first one was held at Burk's Falls on December 29th, in the room in the village Court House, rented for the occasion. The entertainment commenced with a tea supplied by members of the congregation. Then followed a programme of carols,