

ALGOMA.

IN West Chaffey, the Bishop of Algoma held a service at which about thirty persons were present, twelve of whom received communion, and three children were baptised. The Lord Bishop of Algoma, accompanied by the Rev. W. Crompton, conducted Divine Service in the Church at Ufford, on the 20th ult. His Lordship preached a most eloquent and impressive sermon to a crowded congregation. During his stay, he was the guest of Henry W. Gill, Esq.—*Orillia Packet*.

A PLEA FOR MUSKOKA.

To the EDITOR OF THE DOMINION CHURCHMAN.

MY DEAR SIR,—Will you give me a little space in your paper that I may say a few words to my fellow Churchmen upon the above named portion of the Lord's vineyard. To many I fear Muskoka is an unknown region—to not a few a place of wild animals only—and to some (sadly too many) a region with which they can have no possible interest. Yet there are few spots of the earth's surface which should be of greater interest to the Churchmen of Canada than this which forms a part of the missionary diocese of Algoma. It has been my privilege of late, to have seen and taken part in, the visitation which our Bishop has paid us; and I am sure there are scores—nay, I may say hundreds—of my brethren, in "The Front," whose hearts would have been stirred within them, could they have heard the pleading and earnest cry on every hand for clergymen to dispense the means of grace. Frequently has the good bishop felt constrained to express the joy and the grief he experienced during his progress from settlement to settlement. Joy at witnessing the warmth towards and love of the Church amongst those whom circumstances had separated from her ministrations—grief that everywhere he had to make the same reply, "my dear children I can at present do nothing for you."

And, sir, it was grieving to be witness to the plainly expressed sorrow amongst the people in the backwoods. May I give one or two cases? One of these shall be the rising town of Huntsville. Here a newly built store was laid at the command of the Church authorities (the owner being the Warden), and a congregation of upwards of two hundred assembled for Sunday evening service. On the following day, there was a confirmation when 8 males and 8 females, whose ages ranged from 14 to 40 years—were admitted to the Apostolic Ordinance. A celebration of the Lord's Supper afterwards witnessed the meeting of seventeen at their Master's Table. A social was held the same evening—being the first ever held here under the auspices of the Church—when friends from far and near came to give a helping hand to make it a success, which they succeeded in doing. The Bishop entered into an explanation as to the difficult position he had found himself in—a missionary diocese formed from others with the promise of substantial aid till able to help itself, left without that, or with very little of promised help! A diocese given him to work—yet no means provided him to work it with! Yet he accepted the duty on the faith in the promises made to help him by Churchmen!

From Huntsville we were driven to a place called Raven's Cliff. Here we had a delightful service with a congregation of forty people. His Lordship baptized three children, and there was a celebration at which twelve communicated. The devotional spirit and strong love of their Church were here so strongly developed

that the Bishop expressed his approval in very warm terms, saying "he had had a treat given him which was worth a much longer bush journey than the miles he had come to meet them." But here occurred one of those scenes which met the Bishop at almost every turn of his visitation—a deputation of settlers from the bush still further back—asking for a clergyman to come now and then if they could not have one regularly. One man said he would have a church, offering to give the whole of the necessary lumber, and \$50 towards the building fund; and this one man was only a sample of the rest. One man has made the sashes and doors—others are making the shingles—others cutting logs for several churches to be built the coming summer, in trust and hope that the Lord of the harvest will send forth labourers to the harvest. Leaving Huntsville and neighbourhood behind us many, many miles, we find ourselves on the banks of a small lake called Three mile-Lake, at a place named Ufford. A congregation of 62 adults here welcomed their bishop, and we had a hearty service. Here again we found a man with his plans ready drawn, lumber bought, windows ordered for a neat little church, and the usual request, "will your Lordship send us a clergyman soon?"

What could the Bishop say? Just what he did say—he would go out to the "Front" and he would do his best to make the people realize the need there was for help being sent to Muskoka in aid of the Church work there ready to be done. God grant he may succeed! I fear trespassing upon your space, yet pardon me for thinking you Churchmen ought to have no more important subject, but I cannot resist telling your readers the plan suggested by, and now being carried out under the authority of the Bishop of Algoma. In every place where he could, he has met the Church people; and after consulting with them and explaining his difficulties, he has suggested to them that they should elect one of their number to act as a lay reader and conduct a service every Sunday, they, the Church people pledging themselves to give such elected lay-reader their hearty co-operation and personal support. On his part the Bishop promised he would endeavor to raise funds in the front, which would enable him to send one or two travelling missionary clergymen who would make periodical visits of once in 6 or 7 weeks for the purpose of looking them up, and for the administration of the Sacraments.

By one and all, this suggestion of their bishop has been gladly acted upon, and he has now some eight or nine lay-readers at work. These of course represent from twelve to twenty services in different directions every Sunday; and I will not insult your readers by doing more than alluding to the beneficial results which must accrue to the Church by having her members take so active a part in her work.

Now sir for my plea—the Bishop of Algoma told us he is shortly going through the diocese of Ontario and elsewhere, and I ask you to publish this my letter, crude tho' it is (but what can you expect from the bush), so that our members may be prepared to meet the Bishop with the help he requires. If each member would devote a few cents per week to this object the work would be done. Oh, believe me Sir, the necessity is great. Few of you dream of the great number that are here back in the bush, of good members of the Church. They do what they can for themselves and they are willing to put their shoulders still more to the wheel. But after all has been done, that they can do, much help is needed. I believe the Bishop could at once obtain the services

of a travelling missionary, ready to give up home and home comforts to carry forth the means of grace to the hungry souls crying out for them; but unless the necessary funds are forthcoming, the work must be still in abeyance.

The cry is great, the necessity is greater, the danger of losing our members still greater. Oh, then let me plead for Muskoka, with those of you who enjoy your Christian privileges near your own homes, and show you value yours by the anxiety you evince that others may have the same privileges brought within their reach. Up and be doing, or the blood of your brothers may cry aloud for vengeance.

Up and be doing, prove that you realize the blessing of redeeming love by doing what you can to give the blessing to others.

Do not criticize my style of writing; think of the subject I write upon; and may the Lord of Sabbath put into your hearts this Lenten season to do without something that you may have it in your power to do your share in the good work. I am etc., A BUSHWHACKER.

[We shall be happy to hear from Bushwhacker, or some one else on the same subject, every week. We know of nothing more important or more urgent. The subject should be dwelt upon, again and again; especially during the Bishop of Algoma's tour. We must not be afraid of repetition. Without it nothing can be done.—EDITORS OF DOM. CHURCHMAN.]

ENGLAND.

UNDER the auspices of the Church Homiletical Society, the Bishop of Rochester in the chair, Canon Barry recently delivered a lecture on "Study in its bearing on Preaching." The object, he said, of study for the preacher was, first, to accumulate materials for future use, and next, to instruct him how to use them. The aim of the preacher should be *didaskalia*, or teaching addressed to the intellect or understanding; *paraklesis*, exhortation addressed to the imagination or emotions; and *anagnosis*, from the Scriptures of Truth, addressed to every part of man's being—moral, spiritual and intellectual. Three books he spoke of, viz., the book of nature, of humanity, and beyond all, the inspired volume itself. In each of these the handwriting of God is traceable. Unless the preacher is acquainted with something of the subjects upon which mankind are engaged, which come within the scope of science and natural philosophy, and of the feelings and habits which mankind bring to them, his success as a preacher in influencing them must be more than doubtful. In support of which position he quoted the saying that "the man can never be a theologian who knows nothing but theology." The study of the Word of God, especially of the New Testament, in the original must be paramount to everything else; and with this study and by prayer, and the aid of the Holy Spirit, a man of no more than ordinary abilities may become, if not a very brilliant orator, what is of much more value, an able and useful minister of the Gospel.

A Mission is about to be held in Lincoln, in which all the parishes but one take part. It will open at the cathedral on Saturday, Feb. 19th, by the celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 a.m., with an address by the Bishop of Lincoln, to missionaries, clergy and Church-workers; there will also be a special evening service in the cathedral at 7.30 p.m., at which the Bishop of Lincoln will preach.

DEAN BONNER, the chancellor of St. Asaph, has issued notices stating that he