

Home & Foreign Church News

From our own Correspondents.

DOMINION.

MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—At a largely attended meeting of St. George's Church, held lately, Rev. Campbell Fair, D.D., at present rector of Church of the Ascension, Baltimore, was unanimously elected assistant minister of St. George's. The rector, Rev. Dean Carmichael, was requested to convey this resolution to Dr. Fair, and to secure, if possible, his acceptance of the position.

TORONTO.

Grace Church.—*Lenten Discourse.*—The sixth of a series of sermons was delivered on the 18th ult., by Rev. Prof. Clark, in Grace Church. The text was taken from Romans viii. 16, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." The reverend gentleman said that it was the work of Christ that men were indebted for the salvation of their souls. They would, however, be taking a very wrong view of His teaching and work if they were to exclude from them the other persons of the Trinity. Christ said His work would be incomplete unless the Comforter came. The office of the Holy Ghost was to instruct the heart of man, to make his calling and election sure. This aspect of the work of the Spirit was set forth in the text. Christ had assured them that him that cometh He will in no wise cast out, but He had given a double assurance in the witness of the Spirit. Was the testimony of the Spirit necessary or desirable? One class of persons say that assurance is the essence of salvation, and unless they have assurance they cannot believe that they are among the saved. On the other hand, others say that the testimony of the Holy Spirit is not only unnecessary but undesirable, as it is apt to lead to presumption. Both these classes go to extremes. Assurance is not a condition of salvation in the word of God. The only condition is the finished work of Christ. Many men pass through this world to their Heavenly reward with no assurance that they are accepted. Assurance, however, is a desirable thing. What advantage is it to be ignorant or in darkness? Presumption is not necessarily the result of assurance. He instanced the case of St. Paul, whose work would have been greatly marred if he had not had a conviction that his calling and election were sure. He said in his epistle to the Corinthians:—"I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." At the last he said:—"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." Where there was the witness of the Spirit the fruits of the Spirit were apparent.

GARDEN HILL.—The Rev. A. B. Chaffee, B. A., was very kindly presented by Willie Maize, with the sum of \$25, as a gift from the church members, on the occasion of his departure from the mission of Perrytown, to take charge of that of Alliston and West Essa, in the county of Simcoe.

Confirmations.—Within the last few days confirmation services have been held at St. Luke's, St. Matthias and St. Barnabas Churches, Toronto. At the former the candidates numbered over sixty, at St. Matthias sixty-nine and at St. Barnabas twenty. The address given by the Bishop at St. Barnabas was chiefly directed to an exhortation to the candidates to take up some branch of active work for the Church. The Bishop said that the time was especially opportune for lay help, the Church needed a large measure of such assistance and it should be given freely under the direction and with the hearty co-operation of the clergy. The emphatic approval given by the Bishop of Toronto to the lay help movement, will be of great value in strengthening the hands and hearts all who have at heart the providing the Church with this most necessary auxiliary.

NIAJARA.

DUNDAS.—The Rev. George Harvey, now in charge of this parish, has been engaged as curate of St. George's Church, Guelph, in place of the Rev. E. A. Irving, who takes charge of Dundas this week.

HURON.

BIDDULPH.—Though Trinity Church, Lucan, is now the most important church in the rectory of Rev. T.

Magahy, it has not the prior claims to that pre-eminence. Lucan is a town of recent date. It is a railway station, and has become a thriving country town. The old church in the mission is St. James's, Ballymote. It is a good church with a good country congregation, and has attached to it a burying ground. Its position is like that of many of the old churches in the Old Country, the graves of those who had worshipped within the sacred walls, now lying within their shadow. In the incumbency of Lucan is also included Granton, a church of modern date.

LUCAN.—Rev. B. P. DeLom, Huron missionary, has closed his mission in Trinity Church. His mission was for fifteen days, including two Sundays. The congregations were very large. Last Thursday was a very stormy day, yet there was a congregation of 180 worshippers in Trinity Church, giving testimony that they were not all "fair weather Christians." On the Sundays there was a celebration of the holy communion, both morning and evening. The number of communicants was very large.

Rev. Mr. DeLom, the missionary, commenced his evangelical labours last week, in the deanery of Kent, opening the services on Wednesday, in St. John's Church, Morpeth. Rev. John Downie, rector of St. John's, has also in his mission Trinity Church, Howard, and the Church of the Redeemer, Highgate.

ALGOMA.

UFFINGTON.—The Rev. Alfred Osborne has just concluded an eight days mission at this place. The services were well attended. His clear and decided expressions of the Catholic doctrines of sin, faith, works, and means of Union with Christ, has awakened fresh interest, and several have been led to think more of the relation in which they stand to God.

FOREIGN.

The Bishop of Nassau's own account of his shipwreck in the "Oregon" says: "The 'Oregon,' a huge vessel of more than 7,000 tons, capable of accomplishing the passage at the rate of 18 knots or more to the hour, was supposed to be the finest of its kind in the whole merchant service, and was crowded with passengers. Wonderfully indeed was the sensation of triumphing over the elements, as we dashed along in spite of head winds and mountainous seas, making nothing of difficulties; the 'Oregon' might have been some huge sea-horse, 'mocking at fear, swallowing the (waves) with fierceness and rage.' (Job. xxxix.) Alas! she was to swallow the waves too truly ere long, and not to triumph over them. But even before the crash came our voyage was sad and melancholy. In less than two days after leaving Queenstown, one of the passengers fell overboard and was drowned; then the continued rough weather forbade not friendly conversation only, but meetings for prayer also; at last, on the second Saturday, we were in a dense fog, stopping every now and then for soundings, and too evidently out of reckoning. 'When neither sun nor stars appeared,' though we were spared the 'tempest,' 'all hope that we should be saved was then taken away.' I suppose it was so. The fog cleared off, but we had got out of our course, and next morning, between 4 and 5, we struck against something. Possibly before this appears in print, the enquiry at Liverpool will have discovered what it was that knocked two or three large holes into our side, so low down that the sea began to pour in at once. Perhaps it was a schooner; but no one seems sure that he saw anything of the kind, and I hope not. Possibly it was an old wreck. Anyhow, we were hurried up on the deck, the iron screws between the ship's compartments were tight fastened, and prepared for the worst. Very imminent the danger seemed at first. The smoke of two steamers on the Southern horizon drew a crowd on to the port side, which was also the wounded side; thus the vessel was beginning to sink, and we, uniting our forces as well as we could in the confusion, prepared ourselves by prayer for the end which appeared so near. I remember struck by two things which were soothing:—one, the appearance of an unusually bright star, just over the red glow of the sunrise and nearly a calm sea, gradually brightening from the night shadow of the clear blue; the other, the thought that 4 a. m. would be 8.30 in England, and that our dear people at home would be just then going back from their Sunday Communion, after remembering us at the altar. However, the panic subsided; we were sent across to starboard side, and the ship righted itself so much that, for a whole hour, we fancied the holes had been stopped and the danger averted. In the end we had to take to the boats, but by this time a pilot cutter had appeared, and to this all the women could be safely conveyed. No sooner, again, was the cutter filled, than a schooner came down, the vessel only that was near us all the morning, but exactly at the right moment. Surely, if

ever angels succored men in distress they brought that schooner! Between the two, there was room for all our 900 souls; and the sea, though not absolutely calm, was never rough enough to create alarm. Every single soul was saved, and though all our goods were gone, we can remember the teaching of the Epistle for this very Sunday, how a Missionary if 'poor' may 'make many rich; if he have nothing, may yet possess all things.'

"Nevertheless it was a little sad to lose those presents from Dover, subscribed for by one's own poor. Crofton, who had behaved admirably, and was one of the last to quit the ship, met with no better fortune. Between us we lost three Chalices and Patens and their accompaniments, a very beautiful Baptism shell from Dr. West, our whole outfit, and, of course, many very precious books, letters, and papers, (including the notes of W. H. Cleaver's sermon) went down in the universal wreck.

"The German Captain of the 'Fulda' picked us all up, and took us on to New York. He treated us very kindly; though a German band and comic songs in the saloon were proofs that his idea of comforting men who have just looked death in the face was not altogether the highest. In truth we had a wretched night of it huddled together, and compelled to listen to a knot of Californian roughs, determined, 'in *audum renovare dolorem*,' renewing the horrors of the wreck by an endless chatter, on into the small hours. The morning light, however found us anchored happily off Staten Island, and in a very short time we were on shore in Jersey City.

"I cannot resist making some acknowledgement here of the very great kindness received from Americans in New York. Whether from the clergy, the Clewer Sisters—these English, however—or even the hotel keepers, tradesmen, and Ward's Steamboat Company, the story was still the same; as if the only question with all was, which could be; the most generous. Perhaps, however, my greatest debt is to the Sisters, who not only toiled and slaved to be able to present me with surplice, cassock, and stoles, in the very short time allowed, but permitted me also to celebrate at their altar before going on to Nassau. And next to them I will mention the incumbent of the Church of Heavenly Rest in Fifth Avenue, who, besides other generous proposals, which shall not be published here, invited me to return thanks at his Church, and introduced special prayers and thanksgivings on my account. The Altar at this Church is surmounted by a large baldacchino, under which is a good copy of Scheffer's Christus-Consolator with the text 'I will give you rest.' The daily congregations at five o'clock, at this and other large New York Churches, are wonderful to behold, averaging, I believe, five hundred or more during Lent. As a Missionary Bishop, and always used to working among the poor, I confess that I was oppressed somewhat by the immense wealth which is apparent in Fifth Avenue Churches almost as much as in the mansion; but although the absence of the poor from these may be regrettable, I heard of plenty of Mission Chapels in other parts which are doing good work, filled with working people. Americans evidently have a wholesome horror of the cold bare walls, so common in England. The Church of the Transfiguration in 29th street is almost a picture-gallery, with statues and copies of Raffaele brought from Rome, Stations of the Cross from France, etc. Dr. Houghton, the incumbent, has a daily celebration, and is well known both at Clewer and at Cowley. I am tempted to write more about New York, its happy, independent, courteous people, and the entire absence of vulgarity, whether in dress or manner, which so completely falsified all one's expectations; but I must not forget that I am hurrying on to Nassau, and indicting this letter for the benefit of Nassau associates in England. Betaking ourselves, then, to the 'Santiago' on Thursday, March 18th, we found on the quay one or two from my Cathedral city, ready to give us their good wishes for the success of our second voyage; and although still much hindered and retarded by equinoctial gales and a thunderstorm, adding a few more to our experiences of 'His wonders in the deep,' and making us thankful that we had for our Captain both a prudent and a God-fearing man, the wind lulled at last, and we reach our destination safely on Tuesday morning, one day later than had been expected.

"So many had been our vicissitudes since leaving England, that we found ourselves wondering whether any more could have been added, (unless the perchance to have fallen foul of an iceberg); and yet, one more strange incident remains to be recorded. As there is no telegraph to Nassau, we had expected to be ourselves the first to announce our own shipwreck there; but alas! a steamer from Cuba had arrived the day before, bringing the tidings through that line of intelligence, and adding that, while almost all the passengers and crew had been saved, the Bishop alone was buried in the waves! And so I was actually introduced to my new diocese like a man arisen from the dead. It was indeed a memorable beginning. A crowd of welcoming faces besieged the landing place,