

Home & Foreign Church News.

From our own Correspondents.

DOMINION.

QUEBEC.

St. Matthew's.—A very large congregation assembled in this church on Wednesday evening, the 14th inst., it being the occasion on which the splendid chime of eight bells, just placed in the tower were dedicated. The ceremony was conducted at the entrance to the belfry, the clergy and choristers having proceeded direct to the west door from the vestry. Besides the Rev. Lennox Williams, M.A., Oxon Rector, and the Rev. J. E. Hatch, Keble College, Oxford, junior curate, there were present the Ven. Archdeacon Roe, Bishop's commissary, the Rev. Canon Richardson, rector of St. Paul's, and the Rev. A. J. Balfour, rector of St. Peter's.

The first portion of the special service was intoned by the rector, Rev. L. Williams, M.A., the choir singing the responses and antiphon as well as Psalm 150. Archdeacon Roe, Bishop's commissary, then read the following prayers:

Almighty God, who, by the mouth of Thy servant Moses, didst command to make two silver trumpets for the convocation of solemn assemblies, be pleased to accept our offering of this the work of our hands, and grant that through this generation, and through those that are to come, these bells may continually call together Thy faithful people, to praise and worship Thy Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall be called by the sound of these bells to Thine House of Prayer, may enter into Thy gates with thanksgiving, and into Thy courts with praise: and finally may have a portion in the new song, and among the harpers, harping with their harps in Thine house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that whosoever shall, by reason of sickness or any other necessity, be shut up, so that he cannot go into the house of the Lord, may in heart and mind thither ascend, and have his share in the communion of Thy saints, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that they, who with their outward ears shall hear the sound of these bells, may be aroused inwardly in their spirits, and draw nigh unto Thee the God of their salvation, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that all they, for whose passing away from this world the bell shall sound, may be received into the paradise of Thine elect, and find grace, light and everlasting rest, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with Thee, and the Holy Ghost, be all honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Grant, O Lord, that all they, who shall minister to Thy service by ringing these bells, may be fulfilled with all reverence and godly fear, and mindful of the sacredness of Thy House, may put away from them all idle thoughts and light behaviour in the discharge of their service, and so continue in holiness of life, that they may be counted worthy to stand with them who praise Thee evermore in the Heavenly Jerusalem. Amen.

After which the 122nd Psalm was sung, and the ringers sounded several peals. The following special hymn was then sung:

Now at length our bells are mounted
To their holy place on high,
Ever to fulfil their mission,
Midway 'twixt the earth and sky.

As the birds sing early matins
To the God of Nature's praise;
This its nobler daily music,
To the God of Grace shall raise.

And when evening shadows soften,
Chancel, cross, and tower, and aisle;
It shall blend its vesper summons
With the day's departing smile.

Christian men shall hear at distance,
In their toil or in their rest,
Joying that in one communion
Of one Church they, too, are blest.

They that on the sick bed languish,
Full of weariness and woe,
Shall remember that for them, too,
Holy Church is gathering so.

Year by year the steeple music
O'er the tended graves shall pour;
There the dust of saints is garnered
Till the Master comes once more—

Till the day of sheaves in gathering,
Till the harvest of the earth,
Till the saints rise in their order,
Glorious in their second birth.

Till Jerusalem, beholding
That His glory in the east,
Shall, at the Archangel trumpet,
Enter in to keep the feast.

After the dedication the usual evening service was sung, the musical portion being exceedingly well rendered under the able supervision of W. Cuff, Esq., organist and choirmaster. Rev. J. Edgar Hatch occupied the pulpit, and preached a very eloquent and impressive sermon suitable to the occasion. At the close of the service the bells pealed forth in splendid harmony, and taking into consideration the short time in which those performing on them had to practice and acquaint themselves with the difficult task, they acquitted themselves remarkably well.

Harvest Thanksgiving.—Thursday, the 15th inst., the day set apart by the Governor-General in-Council as a day of harvest thanksgiving, was observed in Quebec by a united service of all the English Churches in the Cathedral at 10.30, and at St. Matthew's in the evening. At the Cathedral there was a large congregation, and amongst the clergy taking part were the Ven. Archdeacon Roe, Very Rev. Dean Norman, Rev. Canon Richardson, Revs. L. Williams, H. J. Petry, A. J. Balfour, and J. Edgar Hatch.

The services were intoned by the Rev. Lennox Williams, M.A., rector of St. Matthew's, and the Rev. Canon Richardson, rector of St. Paul's, and Rev. J. E. Hatch, junior curate of St. Matthew's, read the lessons. The sermon was preached by the Rev. A. J. Balfour, M.A., rector of St. Peter's, and was naturally appropriate to the occasion. There was a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Very Rev. Dean Norman being the celebrant.

At St. Matthew's there was a celebration at 8 a.m., and at 8 p.m. the thanksgiving service was held. The church was handsomely decorated. The chancel was decorated with flowers and grain; the pillars of the gas chandeliers with fruit, grain, &c., and crosses, formed of small sheaves of wheat, occupied places on the window with evergreens, &c. The decorations, on the whole, were very chaste and pretty. The church was crowded to its utmost capacity. The musical portion of the service was rendered in good style by the choir, under the able direction of W. A. H. Cuff, Esq., the organist and choirmaster, who has, it may be added, made a remarkable improvement in the choir since he assumed charge of it about three months ago. The rector, Rev. L. Williams, M.A., read the first portion of the service, the lessons being read by the Rev. R. Hewton, M.A., of New Ireland, and Rev. J. E. Hatch. The second part of the prayers were read by the Rev. A. J. Balfour; the sermon was preached by the Very Rev. Dean Norman from the text, Hosea x. 12—"Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground." The excellent sermon was very attentively listened to, and the Dean concluded by a warm appeal for the Clergy Pension Fund of the Church Society, towards which the offerings of the congregation were devoted.

St. Paul's.—The annual harvest thanksgiving service was held in this church on Sunday morning, Nov. 18th, when a special sermon was preached.

St. Peter's.—Sometime ago it was published in the local paper that a movement was on foot to amalgamate St. Peter's and Trinity Churches, and since then a committee was appointed by the Trinity Church people to wait on the Lord Bishop. The whole thing was done without the consent or co-operation of the congregation of St. Peter's, and was simply a deeply laid plot by those Ultra-Evangelicals, of which Trinity congregation is principally composed, to try and capture the Endowment Fund, parsonage, &c., of the prosperous parish of St. Peter's. This would, no doubt, have been a capital help for Trinity as, besides having no Endowment Fund, they owe something like \$4,000 on their church building. The following is a copy of a letter from the senior churchwarden of St. Peter's to the *Guardian*, who puts the matter pretty plainly as regards the lack of sound Churchmanship, &c., of Trinity:

SIR,—Some time ago you published the fact that at a meeting of Trinity Church congregation, Quebec, a committee of four were appointed to wait on the Lord Bishop to hear his views on a proposed amalgamation of the congregations of St. Peter's and Trinity Churches. The correspondent who furnished this item has failed to favour us with the report of that

committee, or with an account of what transpired at the interview between the committee and the Bishop. The coolness of the proposition made to His Lordship may be judged of from the fact that it consisted of a suggestion to close St. Peter's Church. Of course the Bishop promptly informed them that this could not be done, and that it would require an Act of Parliament to divert the Endowments Fund of St. Peter's from the object for which it was contributed. It would not, perhaps, be worth the trouble of doing so, to notice the matter thus publicly at all, were it not that recent enquiries regarding the condition of St. Peter's show that the item referred to has done injury, by leading people to suppose that the congregation of that church were desirous of such amalgamation or, in some way, a party to it. As a matter of fact the Trinity Church people approached the Lord Bishop on the subject without either asking or receiving either the consent or the co-operation of St. Peter's Church congregation in the matter. Probably this was due to the fact that when the matter was privately mooted by a leading member of the Trinity Church congregation, he was distinctly given to understand that a necessary condition of any such alliance or amalgamation was the continued maintenance of St. Peter's Church, which, as you may be well aware Mr. Editor, is the centre of a self-supporting parish, and the only Protestant Church in the whole of St. Roch. Moreover, St. Peter's has no difficulties to contend with that call for so desperate a remedy as an amalgamation, involving loss of influence for good, independence and sound churchmanship.

E. T. D. CHAMBERS,
Churchwarden St. Peter's Church,
Quebec, Nov. 3rd, 1888.

MONTREAL.

COTEAU LANDING.—The English-speaking people of this village celebrated the public feast of thanksgiving on the 15th inst., also their harvest home festival on the same day, under the auspices of the Rev. T. A. Young. The St. Lawrence Church was tastefully decorated for the occasion by the members of the congregation, who supplied the fruits, vegetables, and flowers of the earth in bountiful profusion, each trying to make the thanksgiving one of hearty happiness. The service opened with the hymn 882, A. & M., "Come ye thankful people Come;" the sermon from the text, "The Lord is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His Works," Ps. cxlv. 9, (preached by the good clergyman of the parish) was very impressive, showing our duty of thankfulness for God's many mercies and blessings so bountifully showered upon us. The pleasing effect of the surroundings and the look of contentment on the faces of the congregation, also several outsiders who dropped in during services, brought to mind the words of Isaiah, "They joy before Thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil."

MONTREAL.—Services were held in the Cathedral, St. George's, St. James', St. Jude's, and others among the English Churches, and the day has been observed also by the Presbyterians, and other religious bodies. Special interest attaches to the thanksgiving service at the Mackay Institute for the Deaf and Dumb—the Creed and the Lord's Prayer were joined in by all the pupils present, and the service and sermon were interpreted by the lady Principal, Miss McGann. There are, just now, between forty and fifty pupils; the buildings have been erected expressly for a Deaf and Dumb Institute; and besides the usual school instruction, there are industrial and technical departments, e.g., basket-making, carpentry, dress-making and drawing. At the close of the service a basket of apples was distributed by a kind friend among the young people, who all appeared very happy.

At the last session of the Ministers' meeting it was moved by Rural Dean Lindsay, seconded and resolved, that the petition of the mercantile public of Montreal praying the Government to close the post-office on Sundays in Montreal be strengthened by a similar petition from the religious public of Montreal, and that the matter be referred to the Committee for the better observance of the Lord's Day.

A reasonable item might also be mentioned, viz., that in addition to offerings of flowers and fruit for the adornment of the churches—offerings of Sunday School papers for remote parishes and clothing for the needy are refreshing sights to see on Thanksgiving Day. May the Lord abundantly reward the cheerful giver!

MONTREAL, Nov. 20th.—*Grace Church.*—The seventeenth anniversary of the consecration of this parish was celebrated last Sunday with special services of a