

When a calamity, the loss of a relative or friend fell upon a family, the members of that family would be at Church on the first opportunity afterwards. Now, they seize the infirmity as an excuse for absence.

A young lady about to be married deems it right to be absent from public worship, when it used to be thought more necessary than ever, to supplicate God for guidance in the serious step she is about to take. Most of these derelictions and mistakes arise from the fear of unfair and even cruel criticism which they imagine their fellow worshippers will bestow upon them, but which even if it did exist, unconsciousness of self would render utterly innocuous.

The Church Year, Florida :

The religious bodies throughout the land appear to be awakening to the injury done to religion by the introduction of sensational attractions in religious services, and objectionable methods of replenishing the funds of the Church. Here are some wise words from the *Presbyterian* which are deserving of wide dissemination and general consideration.

"God never intended the Church to vie with the world as an amusement caterer, either in the way of raising money for its needs or for attracting crowds upon its services. In His day there were those who made His temple the seat of merchandise, and when Jesus came to it as its Lord and Purifier he rose in his indignation and expelled the desecrators with a scourge of cords. Were he personally to visit some of our churches to-day he might find occasion to apply the lash to those who desecrate his sanctuary by kissing plays, and raffish, and theatricals, and other questionable practices. In their eagerness to increase the Church funds there is a disposition among too many persons to adopt and countenance the principle that the end justifies the means, and so they sanction almost any method that will attract the multitude and unloose the purse-strings. But certainly this subordination to the worldly taste and appetite in order to fill a depleted treasury, or this rage for church entertainments, has gone too far, and it is time a reformation was being introduced. The craze in this direction is bringing the Church into disrepute, and leading to excesses most reprehensible. Christ would rather have the plain dwelling and pure heart and life than the costly building paid for at the sacrifice of womanly modesty and through paudering to worldly customs and gratifications. He never asks for an edifice which the people cannot pay for by voluntary contributions. Let His ordinances be sustained as well as His churches be built on Christian principles, and in a way that neither our Lord nor the world can take exception to."

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The *Hants Journal* says that it is rumoured that Bishop Courtney has been offered the position of Assistant Bishop of New York.

MIDDLE MELFORD—PORT MULGRAVE.—On Thursday, 21st inst., the foundation stone of the new Episcopal Church was laid by Mrs. Lloyd, wife of the Rector. There was a large congregation assembled. Several addresses were given by the following gentlemen: Rural Dean Hamilton, Rev. T. Lloyd, the Rector, and Cyrus Parks, Esq., the contractor of the building. The old church is in such a dilapidated state, and too small for the enlarged congregation who now attend the church, it is pleasing to find that they intend to have a good and substantial one instead. The old church has been built nearly 70 years, and strange to say, an old lady (who was unable to attend) sent a letter, containing the pleasant information that she was the oldest member and the first con-

firmed in the church. The letter was deposited together with a coin of this year's date, and a local paper, under the stone. The site on which the church is being built was kindly given by the Terminal City Co., to whom the thanks of the parish are due. An appeal by the Rector for help was readily responded to by the people, and a grand sum was placed on the stone, viz: \$82; it was pleasing to see a gold coin, one Spanish doubloon, equal in our money to \$16—placed on the stone by Mrs. C. Park, the noble wife of the contractor. Work will be proceeded with as quickly as possible, and by this time next summer, or rather before, we hope to have our new church to worship in. *Laus Deo.*

DIOCESE OF ONTARIO.

BROOKVILLE.—The interior of St. Peter's Church has just been greatly improved by the addition of a beautiful Oriol window of stained glass. It replaces that which has long been an eyesore at the otherwise handsome east end of the church. The window is a parting gift of Mrs. Keefer, who desired in some tangible form to evince her attachment to the fine old church before her departure from Brookville. It was made at the stained-glass works of Mr. Henry Horwood, Prescott, and reflects much credit on the artistic skill and taste of that gentleman. The subject is a half-length figure of our Lord, seated in glory, with the right hand raised in the act of blessing, the left hand holding a globe surmounted with a cross to represent the redeemed earth. Behind the figure is the symbolic rainbow and on either side stars, all surrounded by a beautiful rich border, the colors of which blend harmoniously with those of the picture and the other lancet windows below. It presents a most striking object immediately on entering the building.

At the evening service, which was well attended, the interesting ceremony of Benediction took place. After the third collect, was sung the appropriate hymn,

"We love the place O God,
"Wherein Thine honor dwells."

Then the Ven. Archdeacon gave a short and impressive address. In this he expressed his gratification, as Rector of St. Peter's in performing the pleasant duty of accepting the offering of the window for the church, and urged the propriety of invoking the blessing of Him, to whom really the offering was made, on the gift as well as on the giver. For the gift, he said, should be a blessing to every worshipper entering the church. It should at once suggest that this was the presence chamber of God, and that the promise of the Lord to every faithful soul coming there would be fulfilled, that "where two or three had gathered together He would be in the midst of them and bless them." Some day that Lord would come to be Judge of all. Meanwhile, He gives grace now as He will give glory hereafter. He has a blessing for all who draw near Him. This would be the lesson of the window to-day placed in St. Peter's. It should be remembered that this and similar offerings were not for the gratification of personal pride and vanity but were intended to promote reverence and edification and the greater honor and glory of God. He hoped that henceforth the worshippers in St. Peter's would at all times try to take away with them not only the impression of the beautiful picture but the real spiritual blessing of Him whom the picture represented and whose blessing he would now invite them to invoke.

The Archdeacon then proceeded, all kneeling:—

V. "Our help is in the name of the Lord."
R. "Who hath made Heaven and earth."
V. "The Lord be with you."
R. "And with Thy spirit."

LET US PRAY.

O Lord God, Who hast commanded every

man to offer unto Thee of Thine own gifts, according to the purpose of his heart; and dost abundantly requite them from Thine eternal bounty; Thou, who didst graciously receive the widow's mites; accept, we pray Thee, the offering of this window, now made unto Thee by Thy servant, and grant that this and all her other benefactions may be stored up in Thine eternal treasures; Who, with the Son and Holy Spirit, livest and reignest; one God world without end. Amen.

Almighty, and Everlasting God, we humbly beseech Thy Majesty to bless and hallow this picture window, in which is represented faintly and with all reverence the glorious form of Thy Son our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Who shall one day come to be our Judge; and grant that whosoever looks upon it with true devotion to Him, may be inspired by His grace to love Him more and serve Him faithfully, so that at the last the words of joyful benediction may be spoken to him or her: "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." This we humbly pray through Jesus Christ, our only Saviour and Redeemer. Amen.

The service was then concluded as usual, all remaining for a few minutes to admire this handsome parting gift to St. Peter's, and offer their cordial good wishes to the generous donor.

The Journal of the 28th Synod of the Diocese, that held in June of this year, contains some valuable tables showing the progress of the Diocese. It appears that the oldest parish is that of St. George's, Kingston, organized in 1785, and Bath takes second place, dating from 1787. There were at the date of the consecration of Bishop Lewis, March 25th, 1862, 48 parishes and missions, more or less organized. Since his consecration 64 parishes or missions have been formed, the largest number having been created in 1862 when 8 additional parishes or missions in all were formed. In 1889 six new missions were opened and in 1890, one.

From 1787 to 1793 the present Diocese of Ontario formed part of that of Nova Scotia; and from 1793 to 1839 part of that of Quebec, during which period 19 parishes were established making at the close thereof 21 parishes in all. From 1839 to 1862, the Diocese formed part of that of Toronto, and during this period 25 additional parishes were created, making 46 in existence in 1862. From 1842 to 1862 it appears also that there were collected for diocesan purposes a sum of \$24,580. Since 1862 the diocese has had an independent existence under its own Bishop and has made rapid progress. Divided into triads this period shows diocesan contributions for the first: for missions \$50,396, for the second: from 1871 to 1880 \$76,247; from 1880 to 1889 \$105,225, making a total of collections with the last years contributions (\$13,449) of \$245,348 in the 28 years. Besides this sum there were special bequests for the same object of \$6,500, and direct contributions to the Sustentation fund \$9,326 and for other diocesan funds \$58,414.14, making a total of \$319,589 raised in the diocese during the last 28 years.

The Diocese at present is divided into two Archdeaconries, viz:—that of Kingston and of Ottawa, and there are 15 Rural Deaneries. The total church population in the Archdeaconry of Kingston is 24,710 with a communicants' roll of 7,412. In the Archdeaconry of Ottawa, population 24,970, communicants 7,309, making a total church population for the diocese of 49,680 persons and 14,721 communicants. The families number 11,100. In the Sunday schools there are in the Archdeaconry of Kingston 3,950 pupils, and in that of Ottawa 2,778.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

TORONTO.—A harvest festival was held in the Church of St. Mary Magdalene on the 25th of Sept. When this Church is completed it will be one of the finest buildings of its class in the city. The church was particularly attractive