

IT HAS A SPECIAL OFFICE

of peculiar value—in smoothing the asperities which make life oftentimes so bitter. It is curious to note how the very mention of "Christmas" and its approach, stills the louder cries of wrath and contention, throws "oil on troubled water" everywhere. A truce is called, with more or less distinctness, in almost every department of life in civilized Christendom. It is sometimes almost ludicrous to see how suddenly a silence falls on many a bitter tongue, and how the uplifted sword hesitates to fall on its victim—demonstrating the very essential guilt of vengeance, however "righteous" it may seem. Even stern and calm justice looks askance, and wonders whether the sentence had not better be modified a little. The most just are made more careful than ever, and are inclined to add a "taste" of mercy to their decisions—a flavour of Christmas, so to speak, to soften the blows of discipline!

GOD'S "UNSPEAKABLE GIFT"

takes quiet possession of all the wide world's consciousness, and calls mankind away more and more from their usual sordid and worldly ways, to ways more like those which are divine. Theologians may argue and dispute about the precise point in Divine compassion which should be called especially "unspeakable," or peculiarly a "gift"; but at Christmastide no one hesitates to reach instantly the easy conclusion which Christmas most pointedly suggests—"He sent His Son into the world." That settles it; all else, theologically, follows, and is connected with that idea. Lent and Passiontide still loom in the far distance; they do not obtrude themselves upon the present scene, though we know they must come and have their turn presently.

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS

FREDERICTON.

The Ruri-Decanal Chapter of Fredericton met on the last Wednesday and Thursday of November at Stanley. The opening meeting was begun at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, there being present: The Rev. the Rural Deans Roberts and Reed, H. Montgomery, John Parkinson, A. B. Murray and H. E. Dibblee. A letter of regret at being unavoidably absent was read from Rev. W. Herbert Whalley. The afternoon was occupied in discussing matters of importance in relation to the Church's work in the different parishes of the deanery. At 7.30 there was Evensong in St. Thomas' Church. The prayers were said by Rev. H. E. Dibblee. The Rev. A. B. Murray and the Rural Dean read the lessons. Earnest and instructive addresses were given by Rev. John Parkinson and Rev. H. Montgomery, the former's address being upon the subject of "Loyalty to the Church," and the latter's being a clear statement of the financial status of the Church in this diocese. At 8 a.m. on Thursday there was a celebration of the Holy Communion, the Rev. the Rural Dean being the celebrant, and Rev. A. B. Murray acting as server. The chapter resumed business at 10 o'clock, and passed a resolution in respect to the times in the year when offertories for the mission work of the Church should be made. It being necessary to adjourn in time to return to Fredericton by the 2 o'clock train, the reading of the chapter in Greek was dispensed with. In that free interchange of thought and feeling which is usual when the brethren meet together in the interests of Mother Church, subjects outside of the deanery, and effecting the Church's work in the diocese as a whole, are oftentimes informally discussed. The recent gathering of the clergy at Stanley was no exception to this customary and very helpful diversion. Taking into account the undue prominence which has been given in the secular newspapers to the private opinions of certain controversial minds in the Church, it will be conceded as matter of no surprise that there was a general expression of regret at the attempts being made of late to develop in this diocese an extreme partizan spirit. Speaking as one who knows, your correspondent counts himself fortunate in being able to state that that unanimity of feeling which has hitherto characterized the Churchmanship of the

several members of this deanery was never more firmly cemented than it is at the present time. Come what may, all insidious attacks made upon their honesty of purpose will be met by an emphatic refusal to be swayed in the least degree from their loyal and steadfast adherence to the Catholic teaching of the Church of England as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer. On Thursday evening, Nov. the 29th, the annual meeting of the Fredericton Deanery Sunday-School Association was held in the Church Hall, Fredericton. After the reading of reports from the various Sunday-schools, which showed a material increase in the number of Sunday-school children, the meeting proceeded to the election of officers for the ensuing year. The result was as follows: President, Rev. John Parkinson; Vice-Presidents, Miss Jacob, Mrs. A. F. Street and Mrs. W. H. F. Whalley; Secretary-Treasurer, Rev. Herbert Whalley; Librarian, Mr. John Bebbington; Corresponding Secretaries, Miss M. Robinson and C. Lippert. This association has proven its right to exist by the increased interest which has been developed in Sunday-school work since its formation. As will be seen by advertisement in the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN, a priest is needed at once to supply the vacancy in the mission of Douglas and Bright, which was occasioned by Rev. Herbert Whalley's appointment to be Sub-Dean of the Cathedral. It is generally conceded that the appointment of Rev. Dr. Partridge to the position of Dean of Fredericton Cathedral will bring to the diocese a man of deep learning and a sound, practical worker. King's men in this diocese will welcome the Doctor all the more heartily on account of his staunch adherence to the best interests of their *alma mater*. We may cherish the hope that with the advent into our diocese of such a zealous advocate of "King's," Churchmen in New Brunswick will begin to appreciate more generally those excellent institutions of the Church at Windsor. Nearly a month having elapsed, one should be in a position now to view some of the apparent results of the so-called Church of England Conference which was held in St. John on the 13th and 14th days in November. It is pretty generally known to the readers of the CANADIAN CHURCHMAN that early in November three priests of the Church of this diocese (all of whom, by the way, are quite recent accessions to our clergy roll) issued a circular invitation to the clergy and many of the laity to meet in a conference at the Stone Church school-house, St. John, "to discuss important practical questions concerning the welfare of the Church of England." The three priests whose names were subscribed to this invitation—let it be borne in mind—were Revs. J. de Soyres, A. D. Dewdney and G. E. Lloyd. Out of an enrolment of about 70 clergy, not more than 15, so far as we can learn (possibly a less number), were present. In addition to this number from the diocese (with a few laymen, not all of whom, by any means, can be classified as staunch supporters), the promoters had secured a few stalwart representatives of their views from different parts of Canada, either to be present or to send papers. Taking into account the views which were represented by the various writers and appointed speakers, one need hardly add that the conference was a harmonious one. Reflecting as to the probable results of this conference upon the Church life in this diocese, one is helped in forming a conclusion by even such a trifle as the spirit which was displayed in the introduction of a speaker, when the Rev. J. de Soyres, the chairman, said "he would direct their attention to the statement to be made by one who came as a fighter from the battlefield." His reference was to the Rev. W. G. Noble, from the Diocese of Quebec. "The welfare of the Church of England" was, no doubt, in the chairman's mind; but, if we might venture an opinion, we would say that such an utterance seems to accord somewhat harshly with his previous statement deprecating "the notion that they were a party gathering in any sense." One result is made very apparent, in that since the conference the judiciously anonymous writer of those philippics known to New Brunswickers as "Church of England Notes," has found abundant material of a suitable kind to "dish out" to his hungry patrons in the outside Christian bodies, who, we venture, are already beginning to fatten on those good (?) things that are being said anent the Romanizing tendencies of his brother clergy, and which he knows so well how to flavour to suit the public taste. Whether those priests to whom our thanks are due for so much gratuitous information upon the proper (?) interpretation of the Prayer-Book, have been successful in satisfying themselves that they are not "priests," we shall not be sure until they place in our hands—as I have no doubt they will shortly do—a full report of their "feast of reason and flow of soul." Then, perhaps, we shall know whence the necessity arose that the chairman should deprecate the notion that they were "a party gathering"; and then, too, no doubt we shall be relieved of the anxiety that attends that unkind statement which has been made, that the members of that conference

returned to their homes all imbued more or less with that sense of bitter disappointment which more than once before has proven to be the dear-bought fruit of an unreasonable agitation.

QUEBEC.

A new and what bids to be an important mission district is situated in the county of Arthabaska. A number of members of the Anglican Communion are scattered throughout this county. A number of the places, such as Stanfold, St. Christophe, Victoriaville, Bulstrode, St. Amade's, Saults and St. Leonard, were situated on the line of travel before the Grand Trunk Railway was built, and consequently received the attention of Bishops Mountain and Williams, but of late years some new places have sprung into existence, and the present Bishop, in his zeal to become acquainted with every part of his vast diocese, offered, during the month of November, to take a trip through, and visited particularly the points on the line of the Drummond County Railway now building towards Levis. At Stanfold he administered the Holy Communion to Mrs. Huston, an elderly lady, who remembers distinctly the visits of his two predecessors. Forestdale, one of the places visited, is a pretty village of a year's growth. Some 40 members and adherents of the Church reside here, and a comfortable building has been fitted up for church and school purposes. A most hearty service was held here and the wish expressed by all that the Bishop might, in the near future, again pay them a visit. The Bishop and the Rev. F. G. Scott, M.A., then went to Mitchell Station, where evensong was said at 7 o'clock, His Lordship preaching an able sermon. Then next morning, after a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 6.30, followed by breakfast, they proceeded by train to Drummondville, where matins were said, and an adult, who had been unable to be present at the last confirmation, received the Apostolic rite. After lunch the Bishop went on to Actonville and Sherbrooke, much pleased with his novel trip made by means of buckboards and railway velocipedes.

The Bishop's Movements.—On Nov. 11th, His Lordship held an ordination in Sherbrooke; afterwards going on to Cookshire, and then visiting Bishop's College, Lennoxville, on the 14th, where he heard the Divinity students preach in the College Chapel, criticising them wisely and kindly. At 4 p.m. he gave a lecture on "Church Finance." The next day at 11 a.m. he gave another lecture on "Amusements," in reference to the clerical and parochial life, which was listened to by 28 candidates for holy orders and the professors. In the evening he presided at a meeting of the Jubilee Committee of the College Corporation. After a brief visit to the See City, His Lordship again proceeded to Scotstown via Sherbrooke on Dec. 1st, where, on the following day, he held a Confirmation and Holy Communion; Confirmation at Lingwick and Evensong at Canterbury. Monday, Dec. 3rd, he went to Bury, where he held Confirmation and spent the following day working in the mission of Bury. Dec. 5th, by C. P. R. to Cookshire, and then by vehicle to Ascot Corner for a Confirmation in the morning, and to East Angus for another in the evening. Dec. 6th, via Cookshire and Lennoxville, to Hatley, for Church History lecture and a private Confirmation, also spending the next day working in the same mission. Dec. 8th, proceeded to Compton, where a Confirmation service was held on Sunday morning, the 9th, and from thence to Stanstead for a similar service in the evening. Dec. 10th, Confirmation at Beebe Plain. Dec. 11th and 12th at Sherbrooke, attending the annual meetings of the St. Francis District Branch of the Church Society. One of these meetings was of a missionary character, when addresses were delivered by His Lordship, Rev. Canon Von Iffland, of Quebec, and the Rev. G. Osborne Troop, rector of St. Martin's Church, Montreal. Dec. 13th, Confirmation at Richmond, and Dec. 14th, Confirmation at Dunnville, proceeding the following day, Saturday, to Quebec, preaching in his cathedral on Sunday morning, and on Tuesday and Wednesday presiding at meetings of the Central Board and Clergy Trust Committees of the diocese. His engagements after that are, Thursday, Dec. 20th, opens Mrs. Dunn's Christmas tree and sale for the Labrador Mission in the Church Hall, Quebec. Friday, 21st, St. Thomas' Day, holds a special Confirmation for a class of adults at St. Matthew's Church, Quebec, at 8 p.m. Sunday, 23rd, holds service and preaches at Levis and New Liverpool. Christmas Day to be spent in the See City preaching at the Cathedral.

Advent.—Special services are being held with special preachers in most of the city churches, and on Christmas Day there will be celebrations of the Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral at 7, 8 and 11 a.m., at St. Matthew's at 6, 7.30 and 10.30 a.m., St. Peter's, 8, and 10.30 a.m., as well as celebrations in the other city churches. A new feature in St. Mat-