

the other two having been sent back to the sea full of invalids; and at the very time when Crowther was delivering his message, only three of the *Albert's* crew had strength enough to work the ship. The sentence seemed to have gone forth, "Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further"; and the *Albert*, following the track of her disabled companions, drifted downstream, and crossed the bar on October 16th.

Simon Jonas had been left with King Obi while the expedition went up the river, and was treated by him with every kindness; and another Native interpreter, Thomas King (afterwards an ordained missionary at Abeokuta), was left in charge of a model farm, which was started near the confluence of the two branches of the Niger; but both were soon afterwards withdrawn. The Niger Expedition became a byword as a conspicuous and hopeless failure. Yet it taught some valuable lessons, and so paved the way for the more successful enterprises of the later years. It showed that the people were ready to welcome teachers; and that the liberated Africans of Sierra Leone could be employed to teach them. No one doubts this now; but many laughed at it then. In another respect the fruits have been reaped since. Mr. Schon was enabled to collect materials for the closer study of the Hausa language, into which he has since translated portions of the Scriptures, besides compiling a dictionary, grammar, &c.

But for more than twelve years public opinion allowed no further exploration of the Niger. In the meanwhile Samuel Crowther was ordained, and became a missionary to his Yoruba fellow-countrymen, as related in previous chapters, and at Abeokuta he gained the ministerial experience which was in after years to be put to so noble a use on the great water-way of Western Africa.

News from the Home Field.

DIocese OF ONTARIO.

ASHBURNHAM—Harvest Home Festival. The first thanksgiving services of this nature ever held in Peterborough or vicinity took place in St. Luke's Church, Ashburnham, September 26th. Divine service was held in the Church at 10 a.m., and 7.30 p.m. The morning service consisted of the litany and Holy Communion, the number of communicants being about thirty. In the evening the attendance was very large, about three hundred being present. The Incumbent was assisted by the Rev. W. E. Cooper, of Trinity College School, Port Hope. The service commenced by the congregation singing hymn 382 (Ancient and Modern), followed by Evening Prayer—the form used being that sanctioned by the Bishop of Toronto. Mr. Cooper read the lessons which, together with the psalms, were special and exceedingly appropriate. At the conclusion of evening prayer the Rev. Mr. Cooper ascended the pulpit, and delivered a most interesting and eloquent sermon, based on Deut. xvi., 11. He referred at some length to the services of this nature which, by the command of the Almighty, were observed in the Jewish Church, and observed that in the present age we Christians should be at least as thankful for our inestimable blessings as were the chosen people of God. He contrasted the condition of the Mother Country at the present time with our more favoured lot, and called on the people to joy and rejoice before God in the spirit of true devotion and Christian thankfulness, and to let this Harvest Festival be to them something more than a mere name. He bade them examine carefully their own hearts and lives, spoke of the prevalent sins of the day, and asked them to remember that often God punished men and nations, by withholding the blessings of the harvest because of their fearful iniquities and transgressions. The discourse was a very able one, and was attentively listened to

throughout. At the close, the Rector invited the congregation to join in singing "Te Deum," as a solemn act of thanksgiving, and a fitting conclusion of the joyous services of the day. A liberal collection was then taken up in aid of the Organ Fund. The church was very tastefully and beautifully decorated with specimens of the ripened grains, fruits and flowers, and showed clearly that many loving hands had been hard at work for many days before to beautify the sanctuary of God. Windows, arches, pulpit and lectern, were all prettily wreathed with grain, interspersed with flowers and berries; devices showing the sacred monogram were most ingeniously arrayed over the door of the vestry and organ chamber, while round the chancel arch ran the words: "Thou crownest the year with thy goodness," the letters being formed of ears of wheat and the berries of the Mountain Ash. Fruits of all kinds were arrayed with much care in the windows, and the altar was simply beautiful with flowers and grapes and wheat arranged in silver vases. The font to be appreciated must be seen, as it is completely beyond our descriptive powers. Indeed the entire work evinces more than ordinary taste, care and skill, and as all is to be left on the walls for a few weeks, we hope our readers will take advantage of the seats being free to go and behold the church for themselves. There is little doubt but that services so appropriate, so necessary, and so happily inaugurated will become a yearly custom with the good people of St. Luke's, and we trust in many other churches also.

DIocese OF MONTREAL.

ORMSTOWN.—On Sunday, the 31st ult., his Lordship the Bishop of Montreal visited St. James' Church, Ormstown, for the purpose of holding a Confirmation. Long before the hour appointed, the Church was crowded to its utmost capacity, many having to stand outside at the door for want of room, notwithstanding a number of seats had been placed in the aisle and gallery. Several vases of choice flowers were placed on the Communion Table, and in other parts of the Church, giving it a bright, festive appearance, which was very pleasing. As the Bishop and the Clergy entered the Church from the vestry, the whole congregation rose while the hymn 390, A. & M., "Brightly Gleams our Banner," was sung by the choir and people. The other hymns sung on the occasion, were "Soldiers of Christ Arise," "Behold us, Lord before Thee Met," and "Thine forever, God of Love." The singing was very hearty, and reflected much credit upon the choir, under the leadership of Miss Lockhart, the organist. Before proceeding with the Confirmation Service, the Bishop addressed the candidates, thirty-one in number, in a most earnest and stirring sermon. The Holy Communion was then administered, all the newly Confirmed remaining to partake of the Sacred Feast, together with a large number of the congregation, making in all, nearly eighty Communicants, besides the Bishop and the Clergy, who were present, and took part in the Services, viz., the Rev. A. D. Lockhart, the Incumbent of the Parish; the Rev. J. Fulton, R. D.; and the Rev. A. A. Allen, Incumbent of Huntingdon. The Services were most impressive throughout, and will be long remembered by all present.

On Monday evening following, the annual Missionary meeting was held in St. James' Church, the Incumbent presiding, when addresses were delivered by the aforementioned reverend gentlemen and the Bishop, who again spoke eloquently and faithfully to all assembled. The singing on this occasion also was very good, the hymns being all taken from hymns A. & M. During the taking up of the collection, No. 365, A. and M., "O Lord of Heaven and Earth, and Sea," was very nicely rendered. His Lordship left the Parsonage the next

morning, and was driven to Valleyfield, a distance of twelve miles, by the Rev. A. D. Lockhart, and after calling with him upon several Church families connected with the Mills in that place, with a view of placing a resident Clergyman there, the Bishop crossed over to Coteau Landing, accompanied by the Rev. T. A. Young, Incumbent of that place, who came to Valleyfield to meet him.

THANKSGIVING.—His Lordship the Bishop struck the right key in the harmony of the Church throughout his diocese, by appointing the first Sunday of October, as a day of Thanksgiving. In the rural parts, it was the regular day for the celebration of the Holy Communion. The day happened to be very pleasant, which gave an opportunity of having full Churches—full choirs, and consequent hearty Services. The harvest was gathered in, and it was a bountiful one, so the people must have felt that they had great reason to thank God. And so far as I have been able to gather the thanksgiving has been unusually well attended with earnest demonstrations of sincerity. A look into one of our country Churches, might give some idea of how they were all prepared for the festival occasion. As you entered, the first object that would strike your attention was the altar. A large cross above it in the chancel trimmed with selected leaves, and bunches of wheat at the head and arms, vases of nicely assorted flowers on the altar with dishes of choice fruit. Outside the chancel rail was a table laden with the products of the fields, pumpkins, turnips, squashes &c., around the body of the Church were wreaths, festoons &c., &c. There are about sixty people present to enjoy the service. All enter into it heartily. The responding is general, and the singing congregational though led by a choir. This is not a model church by any means, but simply a specimen.

MONTREAL.—On the 5th inst., being the Sunday appointed for special Thanksgiving to God for the beautiful harvest, the churches in the city were suitably decorated, and the services in accordance with the requirements of the occasion. The Bishop preached in St. Martin's Church at evening service. His Lordship also preached in St. James' Church at the afternoon litany service, in both cases to very large congregations.

Trinity Church.—The Rev. Mr. Craig, formerly rector, preached his farewell service in this Church on Sunday evening 5th inst. Mr. Craig, is going to Niagara, to a place called Stoney Creek. While in this Diocese he made many friends, who regret his departure.

DIocese OF FREDERICTON.

CHATHAM RURAL DEANERY. The clergy of the Rural Deanery of Chatham, met in the Parish of Derby on Wednesday and Thursday 24th and 25th, ult., there were present the Revs. A. F. Hiltz, Rector of Derby and Blackville, H. H. Barber of Newcastle, D. Forsyth, R. D., of Chatham, W. B. Armstrong, of Welford, E. P. Flewelling of Baie des Verts, T. W. Jones of Richibucto.

On Wednesday evening a Missionary meeting was to have been held in St. Peter's, Derby, but unfortunately the weather was unfavourable. However, a few of the parishioners met at the appointed hour with the Clergy and instead of the Missionary meeting, Evensong was said, all present enjoying the service completely. On Thursday morning at 11 o'clock, there was Morning Prayer with the celebration of the Holy Communion, and sermon by the Rev. W. B. Armstrong. In the afternoon the Deanery Chapter met at the Rectory, and after routine business, Chapter III, 1st. Tim. was read in the original and discussed. Afterwards the clergy were hospitably entertained at tea at the house of F. Crocker, Esq., and at half past 7 p. m.,

there was evening service at St. Peter's with a sermon by the Rev. J. W. Jones. We are glad to notice several manifested tokens of progressive work in the Church in the Parishes of Derby and Blackville and have no doubt that further improvements will follow at an early day.

The next meeting of the Deanery will be held in Newcastle in January next. Subsequent to the meeting of the Clergy at Derby, the Revd. Messrs Armstrong and Jones visited the Parishes of Newcastle and Chatham, on Friday evening, the 26th there was evening prayer and a sermon by the Rev. Mr. Jones. After the Service Mr. Armstrong proceeded to Richibucto and on Saturday evening Mr. Jones set out for Welford. Thus ended a pleasant and profitable re-union of the clergy.

OFF FOR FREDERICTON.—The afternoon of Monday, October 6th, saw us en route for the "Celestial City," to attend the Special Session of the Synod. It is only a very few years since a journey to the capital in the old stage coaches was an undertaking not to be lightly thought of, and occupied more than half the time of an Ocean voyage: but now we were whirled along in luxurious cars to St. John, over a road that is not excelled on the Continent, and at a rate of speed which the Old Loyalists never dreamed of, as they felled the trees in the Counties of Kings and Westmoreland. Remaining over night in St. John, we took the train in the morning for the "Celestial City" and arrived at the hospitable house of the Chief Justice of the Province. Fredericton has many a son of the Church of whom the Diocese may be proud, but none of them is more respected for sound Churchmanship and devotion to the Church's interests than Chief Justice Allen. And we may say here that the hospitality and kindness with which the clergy are treated by the people of Fredericton are beyond all praise, and deserve as they receive grateful acknowledgment. During the afternoon, we paid a visit to the University in company with a clerical Brother, to see two students from our respective parishes. We could not but admire the commanding site of the building, the beauty of the grounds, and the neatness and order displayed in and about the College. The institution is prosperous; there are about 50 students at present pursuing their studies there, of whom 19 are in the Freshman Class. On our return we attended Prayers at the Cathedral; and as we looked at its fair proportions of stone, its elaborate interior, and listened to the sweet chiming of the bells, our thoughts wandered away from the wooden churches of New Brunswick to those ivy mantled fanes of the Old World, which are found in every hamlet, where the chimes ring in the daily evening, and the grey towers proclaim the stability and antiquity of England's Church. In the evening, we attended an informal conference of Clergy and Laity interested in the Temperance work of the Church, when it was agreed that, in the present state of business in the Synod, it was best to arrange merely for a Temperance Conference some months later on, to discuss the Temperance question in its relation to the Church of England; and a Committee was appointed to carry out this arrangement, with the Rev. Foster H. Almon, the veteran Temperance worker, as Chairman. As we met friend after friend, we found that the proposed Canon was the one absorbing topic of the hour. All kinds of rumours were flying about, and we went to rest with the "Canon" on the brain, awaiting the developments of the morrow.

SESSION OF SYNOD.

On Wednesday morning, the Holy Communion was administered to a large number of the Clergy and Lay Delegates, at 8, A. M., in the Cathedral.

The Synod assembled at 9.30, A. M., in the Odd-Fellows' Hall. His Lordship the Metropolitan took the Chair, and, after Prayers, the Roll was called, and a quorum of Clergy and Lay Delegates were found to be present.