

## PARISH NOTES.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 1, 1891.

## THE RECTOR'S COLUMN.

Since our last issue, Easter Sunday has come and gone, and that great festival of the Christian Church was celebrated duly in our Church by hearty, devout, and well-attended services. The number of communicants (46 at the earlier, 178 at the later service), was an increase upon last year. And yet we feel that a larger number still should be ours. More than three years ago, a leading member of the Church, writing to the present Rector, estimated the roll of communicants at "nearly 200." Since then there have been two confirmations—in 1888 of eighteen, and in 1889 of sixteen candidates, and not a few communicants have joined the congregation. While, therefore, earnestly deprecating any eager rivalry in the matter of mere numbers, and rejoicing that our ecclesiastical law does not make the participation at the Lord's Table a condition of voting in the secular matters of Church management, it is right to remind ourselves that, as loyal members of our "Pure and reformed portion of the Universal Church," we should give heed to her distinct exhortation:—"That every parishioner shall communicate at the least three times in the year, of which Easter to be one." This is a statement of a *minimum*; and we doubt not that all those of riper years will find that their spiritual wants require a more frequent reception of the Sacrament ordained by Christ.

The offertory on Easter Sunday morning, as at Christmas, was given to the Sunday School building fund, at the desire of the Vestry. Probably this led to a diminution of the amount, as all present had contributed already in other ways.

1888.—Christmas Day,	- - -	\$148 29—Poor Fund.
1889.—" " "	- - -	144 68—" "
1890.—" " "	- - -	114 25—Building Fund.
1891.—Easter Sunday,	- - -	100 10—" "

As soon as the pressing necessity of paying the current debt on the Sunday School is past, we do not doubt that the contributions, returning to the old channel, will attain their former level.

The annual Easter meeting was held on the 3d March, and it needs only to be said that the failure of the editor's appeal in the last issue to draw a larger number of Church members,

can be regarded in two ways. Very possibly the absentees desired to express in this silent and unobtrusive way, their complete approval of the present government of the parish. But, in any case, they lost the opportunity of listening to a brief but interesting discussion upon the proposed fusion of the Synod and Diocesan Church Society, a matter of considerable importance for the welfare of the whole Church. The Vestry includes now two new members, Mr. George E. Fairweather and Mr. Arthur T. Thorne, who took the places left vacant by the resignation of Dr. Hatheway, after many years of helpful service, and the much regretted ill health of Mr. C. H. Fairweather, which had prevented him altogether from attending the meetings.

The first Vestry meeting was held on Wednesday, April 8th, and among other business it was decided to make the Music Committee once more as it was before 1888,—a "Committee of the Vestry, with power to add to their number." The department of music in our Church work is now so important, and is connected with so considerable an expenditure, that it is obviously needful that it should be in complete "touch" with the Vestry, so as to avoid the loss of time involved in the sending back of reports for amendment. Still, we feel sure that, in purely musical matters, the counsel of our musical experts and representatives from the Choir will be as fully utilized and followed as during the three years past, since our present excellence of results furnishes a proof that the system of a "General Committee," adopted in 1888 at the Rector's request, has been of considerable benefit to the Church. At the first meeting of the new Committee, it was resolved that the following members of the choir and congregation be added to their number: Mrs. J. R. Armstrong, Mr. G. L. Robinson, Mr. G. C. Coster, and Mr. F. H. J. Ruel. It is impossible for the writer of this column to mention this last name without expressing how great a debt is due to Mr. Ruel's energy as Secretary of the committee for three years past.

At a meeting of Sunday School teachers, held on Wednesday, April 8th, an important resolution was unanimously passed, which we hope will finally settle a matter of much practical concern. It was resolved that all teachers pledge themselves to send, if needful, leaflets to absent pupils; but, at the same time, all such absentees and their parents are expected to assist the teachers by calling for the leaflets, if possible, and explaining their absence. We may remind teachers also of the necessity of marking attendances very carefully, since upon this depends the desired accuracy in drawing up statistics of attendance. It is cheering to report that the numbers of those who attend regularly are steadily increasing. Two new teachers have been appointed by the Rector, in Miss DeForest and Dr. H. C. Wetmore, who will considerably strengthen our working staff.

After the successful efforts of Passion Week and Easter-tide, the Choir have not attempted any important work; but they are preparing to give shortly one of the grandest anthems of the older English school, Boyce's *'Where shall wisdom be found?'* Of this splendid composition, so consummate a judge as Dr. Stainer remarked that he knew of no finer work