

Cumberland, Merrickville and Burritt's Rapids, and lastly Morrisburgh. At the time of his death he was Rural-dean of Stormont, comprising the united counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry, and Prescott and Russell. He was canon of St. George's cathedral, Kingston, and had for many years been delegate to the synod of the ecclesiastical province of Canada. Although his literary abilities were of no mean order, his retiring disposition prevented him appearing before the world as an author. He, however, published a treatise on Lay Baptism, and a work of his on Baptismal Regeneration is now being prepared for publication, which has been pronounced unanswerable by able critics, both here and in the United States. The pall bearers were the Rev. Messrs. Lewin, Clempson, E. P. Crawford, A. C. Nesbitt, G. W. White and H. Austin, by whom the body was carried to the church, the clergy singing the familiar hymn "Nearer to Thee" as a processional. The Rev. F. Prime and Rev. G. S. Poole, receiving the body at the church gate.

The funeral service was said by Rev. J. R. Serson, the lesson being read by Rev. W. J. Muckleston. The celebrant was the Rev. Arthur Jarvis, who for the last six months has done duty as *locum tenens* in the parish—the Rev. W. J. Finlay and Rev. W. Wright two of Canon Forest's sons in the gospel acting as epistoler and gospeller respectively. After the service the body was taken to its final resting place in the family burying ground at Burritt's Rapids, a number of parishioners of the deceased, and several of the diocesan clergy proceeding thither to do the last offices of respect for a beloved pastor and a faithful brother.

Diocesan Intelligence.

MONTREAL.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

MONTREAL.—Christmas celebrations were as usual. Nothing new in the way of decoration has received notice in the press, and except one goes around to visit each church it is not easy to give details. In the country, the day falling on Sunday, larger congregations were found. There was little, we might say no inducement to spend the day driving. We have had, as to weather and roads a most exceptional Christmas. Carols that mentioned snow-clad fields, seemed out of place, for not a vestige of snow was to be seen. In the city the day was delightful, both for walking and driving. Roads clear, smooth, and dry: the air clear and balmy, and the sun shining. The River St. Lawrence as free as in November from ice, the ferries plying as usual. Judging from the items that appear in our city papers concerning country places, our Church people are improving on the Christmas festival every time it comes round, by increased benevolences to their Church, clergy, and Sunday-schools. Christmas trees for the latter were seemingly everywhere, and they more or less bore gifts for the pastor.

The Rev. Mr. Lumin, of Glen Sutton, received a purse of \$23; the Rev. W. R. Brown, a fine wolf-skin robe for sleigh; and the Rev. John Ker, of Durdam, a set of harness richly mounted.

St. Martin's.—The choir and congregation presented, through the rector, the Rev. J. P. Dumoulin, a substantial purse of money on Saturday, Dec. 24th, to their organist, Mr. R. R. Stevenson. Mr. Dumoulin expressed the esteem in which Mr. Stevenson was held by all the members of the choir and of the congregation.

St. Stephen's church, of this city, received great attention as regards its decorations; and the music was of the usual good character. The other churches were all elaborately arrayed in festal dress. Some of them would require specially detailed reports. The cathedral has always been an exception, decorations from the first occupancy of the building having been deprecated, as they might tend to injure the delicately carved work that is found on every pillar.

The Rev. R. D. Irwin is acting as curate for the Rev. C. Bancroft, rector of Knowlton.

Christmas vigil was observed in many of our country churches, and the feasts of SS. Stephen and John, and the Holy Innocents, received more notice this year, than in the past, services being held in the morning or evening of each of those days in an increased number of parishes.

SWEETSBURGH AND COWANSVILLE.—The parishioners of these places presented the rector with a well filled purse of money, showing thereby their esteem and appreciation.

The feast of the Circumcision with its important lessons and analogies, by reason of its falling on Sunday, had the attention of a larger number drawn to it than it generally has. The religious feast being overshadowed by the secular feast of New Year, the house of feasting was attended to rather than the house of God.

The Watchnight service established under Bishop Oxenden in the cathedral, was observed on the Saturday night. Canon Baldwin preached the sermon at the closing of the old year, and Bishop Bond gave an address at the opening of the New Year. We wonder that it does not occur to the promoters of this service that it would be a most appropriate thing to have a celebration of the Holy Communion in the first hour of the New Year. In its lowest view, that of a pledge of love that Christians have one to another, nothing could be more suitable; only in the case of so doing the feast of the Circumcision would be brought into notice, whereas now it is the New Year only that receives attention.

LA CHUTE.—The Sunday-school of the beautiful little church of St. Simeon held its first Christmas tree in Victoria Hall, on the evening of Dec. 27th, St. John the Evangelist's day. After the opening hymn and collects, the young people dispersed through the hall, and spent a merry hour in the indulgence of some of the old fashioned games which abound in innocent mirth and harmless enjoyment. Refreshments were then handed round, and brief addresses were delivered by the Rev. H. J. Evans, and other gentlemen. Then followed the great event of the evening, the unveiling of the tree with its many beautiful fruits and brilliant waxen lights, and the distribution of prizes to the expectant little ones. Each scholar was gladdened by the presentation of numerous, pretty, and useful gifts; and as the names were called and the owners stepped forward in response, the bright faces, eager looks, and outstretched hands, made a tableau not soon to be forgotten. Among the many surprises none was more complete than the gift of a magnificent fur cap and a costly surplice "from the congregation of St. Simeon" to their beloved rector, Rev. H. J. Evans, and an elegant toilet set to Mrs. Evans, from her Sunday-school class. The happy gathering was brought to a close by the pronouncing of the benediction by the Rev. H. J. Evans.

FRELIGHTSBURG.—Christmas-tide has been one of Christian joyfulness in this historic parish. Old Trinity two years since, with all its associations, as the first in the eastern townships, gathered for the last time its accustomed multitude in the festive garb, with which through long years it greeted a world's remembrance of a Saviour's Nativity. It is numbered with the past, but the seeds were in it of a resurrection to renewed life and an uninterrupted mission of love to souls and testimony for Christ. Its founder, of revered and pious memory, is to live over again in generations to come in the reiteration of the Old, old Story, with the Sacraments, means of grace and ordinances derived therefrom. Unable last year to assemble within the walls of the Bishop Stewart Memorial Church, still almost under its shadow carol and anthem resounded the angelic message.

This year fresh joys came to those who through prayerful expectancy and sacrifice had again "found out a place for the temple of the Lord, a habitation for the mighty God of Jacob" within its solid foundations and enduring walls, were repeated the former Advent calls, and under the activity of zealous souls—wreaths, symbols, and inspired announcements, prior to Christmas-eve, in figurative and living green. "beautified the place of the sanctuary." Living voices too, both young and old had anticipated the reflection thus made of the glad tidings which should be to all people. Through these and large and well-ordered congregations both on Christmas-eve and Christmas day, expression was given to the earnest devotions of such as realize the fact, and remembrance of "the consolation of Israel." Glad-some hearts and happy voices joined in carol, canticle, and chorus, that Christ our King was born. On the festival of the Holy Innocents, the Sunday-school festival took place. The spacious Memorial Hall was filled, and in its commodiousness secured a flattering verdict of the wisdom of the promoters. At about half-past six the service began with the band and inquiry, "Little children can you tell," &c., answered by the entire Sunday-school and Bible class arranged before the chancel. At the concluding verse they advanced in double column within the chancel, and occupied seats therein. Then followed the ante-Communion service and public catechising, which proved their familiarity with the elements of Christian faith, to be learned and understood for the soul's health, and as preparatory to the public profession of the Saviour's name in Confirmation. The replies of the scholars were given with distinctness and correctness, and afforded happy augury to the possible future to each, founded upon such a beginning, if

heeded. The inspiring carol, "Hark to the Merry Bells," was then pleasingly rendered in duet, solo, and chorus, followed by the Collect, Epistle, and Gospel for the day. After a brief address, and during the singing of the carol, "Christmas Treasures," two young ladies of the Bible class presented the offerings of the Sunday-school at the altar, amounting to \$8.09 collected in a little over two months towards a stained glass chancel window. With the lively strains of Hopkins's Christmas carol, in double file the entire school marched through the centre aisle to the west end of the hall, where now illuminated, and before but slightly concealed, stood in all its glories of attraction to youthful eyes, the Stewart Memorial Sunday-school Christmas tree of 1881. To this a general contribution has been made from near and far, including Mrs. N. S. Whitney, Montreal, whose thoughtfulness added much to the completeness of the display. The committee (Miss Reid, Mrs. Parker, Miss Chamberlin, and Miss Hibbard) managed admirably.

ONTARIO.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

BROCKVILLE.—At the missionary meeting at St. Peter's, on Sunday, Jan. 29th, at 7 p.m., addresses were given by the Lord Bishop of the diocese, and the Deputation: Rev. Dr. Clarke, of Belleville, and Rev. T. Garrett, of Ottawa.

DUNCANVILLE.—There was a very pleasing Christmas-eve gathering here in connection with the Sunday-school of St. Mary's church. Mr. Jas. Keays, Registrar of the county, occupied the chair, and after introductory remarks by the Rev. J. F. Fraser, the incumbent, a good programme of music and recitations was carried out by the young people. The crowning feature of the evening, however, was the distribution by Santa Claus of an immense number of gifts from the loaded Christmas-tree. Neither old nor young were forgotten, and the parsonage Christmas-dinner was kindly and substantially remembered. This congregation is inclined to be active and progressive, and it is to be hoped it will not be long before a new church is built, or at least the old one very considerably improved.

The Bishop of Ontario has appointed the Rev. Canon Pettit, Rural-dean of Stormont.

EGANVILLE.—The Christmas services and festivities in this parish have been unusually successful. Christmas morning St. John's church was crowded and the services especially bright and hearty. The new organ, recently purchased, contributed to the result. Holy Communion, to a large number of devout communicants, was, of course, administered. Three Christmas trees have been provided, one at Lake Dora, out-station, one at St. John's Church, and one at Scotch Bush, out-station. They were all well laden, and the Sunday scholars of the station were all remembered. The incumbent was presented with a fine fur coat at one, a well-filled purse at another, and several gifts at another, while equally generous tokens of kindly feelings were hung on for Mrs. Mills.

ARNPRIOR.—A bazaar in connection with Emmantel Church was held in the Town Hall, on the 19th and 20th of December. The amount realized, after paying all expenses, was \$330. This is to be devoted towards the liquidation of the debt on the rectory. The \$1,000 debt contracted three years ago will thus be reduced to the small balance of \$100.

MERRICKVILLE.—On Thursday evening, the 29th ult., a Christmas festival under the auspices of Trinity Church Sunday-school was held in the Town Hall. The Jacob's ladder, loaded with books and presents for the children, presented a magnificent appearance. The children of the Sunday-school and choir sang several hymns and carols in a most creditable manner. A very interesting part of the entertainment was the presentation by the incumbent, in the name of the Sunday-school teachers, of a concertina to Mr. John McGuire the indefatigable superintendent of the school. Although the evening was very wet, the sum of \$30 was realized for the library. The offerings on Christmas-day in the parish amounted to the handsome sum of \$61.00 (sixty-one dollars.)

PERTH.—The services at St. James' church on Christmas-day were largely attended. The rector, the Rev. R. L. Stevenson, officiated. The decorations were of quite an ecclesiastical character, and occupied several of the ladies during the greater part of the preceding week. As the result they were in good taste, effective, and church-like. Many partook