

## News from the Home Field.

## A FORM OF PETITION AGAINST THE PROPOSED SISTER'S MARRIAGE BILL.

## Petition:

- To His Excellency, the Right Honorable Sir John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, Kt. G. C. St. M. and St. G., Marquis of Lorne, etc.;
- To the Honorable the Senate of Canada;
- To the Honorable the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled;

The Petition of the Church of England in the Rural Deanery of —, in the Diocese of —, Humbly Sheweth:

That Whereas, a Bill is about to be brought before (1) Parliament, (2 and 3) your Honorable House, proposing to legalize marriage between a man and his deceased wife's sister; and

Whereas, such marriages have been deemed from the earliest ages of Christianity to be contrary to the law of God contained in the Holy Scriptures;

Whereas, they are strictly forbidden in the Table of Affinity annexed to THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER;

Whereas, the proposed Bill, if passed, will lay a burden on our consciences, by bringing the laws of the country into conflict with the laws of God;

Whereas, we believe such marriages would be injurious to morality, and would lead to serious social evils;

Therefore we do earnestly beseech (1) Your Excellency, (2) Your Honorable Gentlemen of the Senate, (3) Your Gentlemen of the House of Commons to refuse your assent to the said proposed Bill. And your Petitioners will ever pray, etc.

## DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

COLLECTIONS, SUBSCRIPTIONS, and DONATIONS, received at the Diocesan Room, for the week ending January 21st, 1882.

## GENERAL PURPOSES.

Bishop's Chapel, per the Lord Bishop, \$70.83; Maitland, per Rev. A. D. Jamison, \$99.71; Parrsboro, per Rev. Dr. Bowman, \$40.00; Cole Harbour, per Rev. W. L. Currie, \$4.11; Bishop's Chapel, per the Lord Bishop, \$7.00; Dartmouth, per Rev. J. L. Bell, \$1.80; Antigonish, per Rev. A. C. McDonald, \$37.50; Liverpool, per Rev. Dr. Nichols, \$66.; Rev. J. P. Filleul, \$3.04; Liverpool, Rev. Dr. Nichols, \$1; Digby, Rev. John Ambrose, \$2.15.

## WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.

Maitland, per Rev. A. D. Jamison, \$15.38; Albion Mine, (not acknowledged before), \$3.50.

JOHN D. H. BROWNE, Clerical Secretary.

HALIFAX.—*St. Mark's and St. John's*.—The Christmas decorations in these two Churches are far in advance of any former year. It would take up too much space to attempt to give a detailed description of them. Suffice it to say, that they are greatly admired on all sides, and much credit is due to the ladies and gentlemen of both congregations who have accomplished their labor of love in making beautiful the place of God's sanctuary so tastefully and effectively. During Christmas week, the Sunday School scholars at St. John's Village Church were called together to partake of a sumptuous tea, to which they did ample justice. After the tables were cleared, a Christmas-tree, laden with beautiful presents, and brilliantly illuminated, gave great delight to both young and old. Mr. G. R. Harrington acted the part of "Santa Claus" to perfection, the Rector handing him the presents for the children, whose faces beamed with pleasure. The Rev. H. J. Winterbourne was then presented with a purse of money from the congregation, and a useful paper-weight from the scholars. The children next sang their Xmas carols, and gave their recitations under the able leadership of Miss Wilson, the audience being agreeably surprised at the creditable manner in which they performed their various parts. After a brief address from the Rector, and the singing of the National Anthem, all dispersed to their respective homes well pleased with the evening's proceedings. Special mention should be made of the kindness of Mrs. Wilson, of Gottingen street, and several ladies of the Parish, who were so indefatigable in their exertions to make the tree a success; and also of the Sunday School teachers, who were most kind and attentive to the want of all. We must not forget to mention that last Sunday Miss Wetmore, the efficient organist of St. John's, was presented with a purse of money, accompanied by an address from the congregation of the Village, in recognition of her voluntarily services so fully appreciated by them. The Rector was also the recipient of a silver paper knife and pen, accompanied with an address from the members of St. Mark's choir.

*St. George's*.—The Rector-elect, Rev. Canon Partridge, B. D., preached an eloquent and scholarly sermon before a crowded congregation on Sunday evening, making a most favorable impression upon his hearers.

WALTON.—*St. Matthew's Church* is again handsomely decorated, and I thought a description of the work might be acceptable. On the ratabe is a beautiful cross (on pedestal) covered with irregular-

ly indented tin-foil, and around it is gracefully entwined a wreath of white waxed flowers—jasmine, lily of the valley; fuchsias and roses, and some evergreen vines from the adjacent woods. This cross was the work of Miss Ella Parker, and is one of the neatest and most lovely pieces of work we ever had, and it bears the closest inspection. Over the altar, in the apex of the centre window, is a new and most attractive symbol. By day it is a plain silver star set in a mass of green, but by night this decoration is changed into a transparency, for the emblem is so constructed as to admit of illumination. Over the windows, on a red ground, runs the text, "The Word was made Flesh." On either side of the altar is a banner; on each chancel wall is a Maltese cross. At the entrance to the chancel are three Gothic arches, covered with red, and both they and the chancel rail are entwined with wreathing. Over the chancel arch is the text, "We have seen His star in the East," &c. The pulpit and prayer desk hangings are white satin, with cross and I. H. S. worked in gold lace. Over the former is a scroll, on which are the words "Lord of Lord"; over the latter, a similar one, with "King of Kings." Over each of the six window (which are trimmed) are Church emblems. On the West end, over the windows, is a large cross on red shield; on either side a banner, with "God of God," and "Light of Light," and under, "the sword and cross keys;" over the chancel door a "Chi Rho," and over the entrance door an "Alpha." The festooning is particularly graceful, and runs all round the church, and is also caught up to the roof from the centre of the diagonals of the four bays into which the building was divided. All the ground work of texts, &c., is scarlet, the edging hemlock, and the letters rice or tin-foil. The whole effect is most pleasing, and the willing workers deserve the greatest credit for the taste displayed in the adornment of the Temple of God, "Who as at this time was born of the Virgin Mary."

WEYMOUTH.—To go into details about the decorations of the churches in Weymouth, would be to repeat much of a character similar to what has before been so well said by others, when referring to their own churches. Suffice it to say that our young people devoted much time, and evinced no little taste and skill in rendering the House of God beautiful and attractive at Christmastide. A large number of the parishioners of the Rev. P. J. Filleul assembled at the Rectory on the 19th December. It was most pleasing to observe so many young members of the flock among their seniors. After spending two hours or so in pleasant converse, and in various other agreeable ways, the numerous company returned to their homes, leaving substantial tokens of affectionate regard for their pastor and family, and expressing the great pleasure and gratification which their visit to the Rectory had given them. The contributions from this parish to the B. H. Missions shows an increase of \$26 more than last year, and this is exclusive of \$23.30 remitted last June, in response to the Bishop's appeal. But an account of doings in Weymouth would be incomplete if it failed to refer to the following. A worthy captain, residing among us, was lost and all his crew in the autumn of last year, while sailing between Cape Breton and Newfoundland. He left a widow and six young children. The poor woman's state of mind can be better imagined than described, when, after weeks and months of agonizing suspense, she had at length to surrender all hope of her husband's safety. But to add to the anguish that rent her heart, her house and surroundings was mortgaged for \$175, an amount which her husband would soon, by his industrious and prudent habits, have cleared off. The case was clearly one appealing to the sympathies of the benevolent. Accordingly Mr. Sterns Jones, in a most praiseworthy and disinterested manner, took the matter in hand and met with cheerful response in Weymouth, Clare and St. Mary's Bay. And so, on New Year's eve the good woman's heart was cheered and gladdened when she learned that her home and land was now free from any pecuniary incumbrance. To use her own words: "I now have the heart to work for the maintenance of myself and family!" Great is her thankfulness, and many are the benedictions she invokes on all, who on tendering her aid, must feel that they have simply done what it was their duty to do:—"Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction and to keep himself unspotted from the world."

NEW GLASGOW.—The Church people here intend holding a festival on February 2nd (Purification.) There will be a table for the sale of fancy goods, and any contributions towards furnishing table will be thankfully received by A. O. Pritchard, Esq., the Lay Reader, New Glasgow, or by Rev. D. C. Moore, at the Rectory, addressed to *Stellar-ton*.

RIVER JOHN.—Our correspondent, in sending the account of the consecration of the new church, was led into an error which does injustice to an excellent parishioner, Mr. David Mingo, who is a most generous member of the congregation of Holy Trinity, on the Back Road. It was he who made and presented the prayer-desk to the Mother Church. Mr. Robert Beer made the altar. The ash lectern, in keeping with the other furniture, was the present of George H. Elliott, Esq., Barrister, of Pictou, only surviving child of the late Rev. Charles Elliott, first rector of the entire parish.

Mr. Brown, the well-known silversmith of Granville St., Halifax, presented the silver box for the bread used in the Blessed Sacrament. It ought also to be named that the chancel is well carpeted, in good church pattern, the money to purchase the carpet being collected by the excellent wife of the rector, without whose energetic aid even his energies must have flagged, and whose hospitalities at the rectory made the visit to Bishop and clergy most thoroughly pleasant. Many thanks are due also to Jas. Kitchen, Esq., John MacKenzie, Esq., John Henry, Esq., J. McDonald, Esq., and their families, for warm hospitality, as well as to the never failing hostess of the Waverly, Pictou.

## DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

PERSONAL.—The Metropolitan has been spending a few days in Sussex at the Rectory, and preached in Trinity Church. He attended the Board of Home Missions on the 16th. The Bishop Co-adjutor preached in Trinity Church, St. John, on the 22nd, when the new organ was formally opened. We shall give full particulars in our next issue.

DORCHESTER.—On Sunday, 15th inst., the Rev. J. Roy Campbell was duly inducted Rector of this Parish. The retiring Rector, who is Rural Dean of Shediac, took part in the service, at the request of the Most Rev. the Metropolitan, reading, before the congregation, his Lordship's mandate, addressed, as by law required, to the Church Wardens, who, on their part, placed in Mr. Campbell's hand the key of the church, and inducted him "into the real and corporal possession of the benefice." Mr. Campbell then tolled the bell "twice or thrice" in token to the parishioners of his induction. The service for the day was then said by the retiring Rector, the proper psalms, lessons and prayers authorized by the Provincial Synod of Canada being used; the special prayers in behalf of the new Rector being, I think, very earnestly offered up. The Rector then delivered to the large congregation a wise and timely discourse, well suited to the occasion, from the text 1 Thess. iii. 11, 12, 13, and afterwards celebrated the Holy Communion. At the evening service the Rector again preached, addressing the congregation (extemporaneously) in a very earnest manner. The choir attended in good number, and the singing was earnest and hearty, Miss Hanington kindly and efficiently supplying the place of the organist, who was unable to attend. The Rector gave the final benediction and thus ended what I may call "a good day,"—a profitable day, let us hope,—a marked day in the annals of the Parish. May the blessing of the Divine Head of the Church descend abundantly upon Pastor and people in this promising and important Parish.

ST. JOHN.—*St. Paul's (Valley Church)*.—The annual meeting of the St. Paul's Church Sewing Society took place at the house of the President, Mrs. W. H. DeVeber, on Monday, 16th inst. There was a large attendance, 46 ladies being present. The Secretary reported that the Society had realized during the past year \$350, of which \$300 had been given towards the debt on the Church. This Sewing Society has been in operation for 16 years. During this time, it has made \$4,400. Of this sum, \$1,350 have been paid for the west window, \$1,250 for an iron railing round the Church, and \$1,400 have been given towards the debt on the church. This debt, which amounted to \$15,000, in round numbers, when the church was consecrated 10 years ago, is now reduced to \$1,500.

ST. JOHN.—The *St. John Globe* says:—"The Mission Chapel on Paradise Row will be opened in the latter part of January or early in February. Rev. J. M. Davenport, of London, Eng., who is to assume charge of the chapel, is expected to leave Liverpool for Halifax on Wednesday next, taking the same steamer as the Governor-General." [Mr. Davenport has since arrived in St. John].

THE Boards of Foreign and Domestic Missions met on the 12th.

ST. STEPHEN.—The Rev. T. E. Dowling has been visiting St. Stephen, and preached in Christ Church. Rev. H. H. DeBlois has entered on his work in connection with Trinity Church. His New Year's Eve address is printed, by request, in the *St. Croix Courier*.

## DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

(From our own Correspondents.)

MONTREAL.—*St. George's*.—Last Sunday evening, the Rev. Dr. Sullivan delivered the last sermon of his very interesting course. The subject was "Recognition in the Future Life;" and it was treated in a very able and satisfactory manner. He expressed himself as strongly in favour of the doctrine, and pointed out that it formed a part of all the religious systems of the world. As it is universal, it must have its root and ground in the nature of man, and this furnishes a strong probability that the doctrine is true. Dr. Sullivan then referred to a number of passages, both from the Old and New Testament, in which this doctrine is taken for granted, and then considered several serious practical difficulties which this doctrine at once suggest. These sermons upon the immediate state, the general Resurrection, Heaven, etc., have

been listened to with a great deal of interest. Although these subjects are in a great measure speculative, yet they are of such vital importance that it is of great advantage to have the line drawn between what is unwarranted and fanciful on the one hand, and what is based upon Revelation and reasonable inference on the other by one who is so able to do it as the Rector of St. George's.

CATHEDRAL.—The annual meeting of the Sunday School of Christ Church Cathedral was held on Tuesday evening last, at which the officers for the present year were elected and other business transacted. A lengthy discussion took place as to the best method of encouraging the children to contribute liberally to mission work and to other purposes. In order to create a general interest in the work a treasurer was appointed in each class. Under the able Superintendent, Mr. Kirkpatrick, and his efficient staff of teachers, this school is doing a noble work, and will soon be able to dispute with St. George's for the honour of being the first among the Church schools in the city. There is in connection with the school a Young Men's Bible Class, conducted by the rector, the Rev. Canon Baldwin; a very large Ladies' Bible Class, under the charge of Mrs. Baldwin, and on Friday afternoons the rector conducts, in the Synod Hall, the largest Bible Class in the city, in which he discusses the lesson for the following Sunday in a most interesting and instructive manner. On one Sunday in each month the teachers and officers of the school meet together at the close of the school for prayer that their efforts may be owned and blessed of God.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS.—It has been customary for several years in Montreal to devote the first month of the new year to the consideration of the subject of Home Missions in a series of missionary meetings held in connection with each of the city churches. The Bishop of the Diocese presides at each of the meetings, and our faithful treasurer has made it a point to be present at nearly all the meetings, to make a detailed statement of the financial condition and wants of the diocesan mission work. These meetings are being held during the present week. On Wednesday evening a reunion meeting, representing the parishes of the Cathedral, St. George and St. James, was held in the Synod Hall. The Bishop gave the opening address, in which he appealed for a more liberal support of the country clergy, who are carrying on the mission work at great self-sacrifice. The Treasurer of the Diocese then followed with a detailed statement of the various diocesan funds, comparing the condition of the various funds with that which existed eight years ago, when he entered upon the office of Treasurer. He pointed out that the collections for missionary purposes had increased only seven hundred and fifteen dollars during the eight years (viz., \$7,228 in 1873 to \$7,943 in 1881); that the number of clergy receiving aid from the mission fund is the same now as in 1873, viz., thirty-seven. He stated that the Sustenance Fund, which was originated by Bishop Oxenden in 1872, now amounted to \$78,000, and urged the great importance of increasing this fund. The Widows and Orphans Fund is in a very satisfactory condition, but the Superannuation Fund does not meet with the general support of the clergy, and is therefore wholly inadequate to meet the drains that are likely to be made upon it. The Treasurer stated that the Diocesan funds amounted in all to about three hundred thousand dollars, which were invested in good securities. He maintained that the Mission Fund would never be in a satisfactory condition until some means were adopted to increase the number of contributors to this fund. He urged the subject the more strongly as it was probably the last time he should have the opportunity of addressing them as Treasurer of the Diocese. The Treasurer's earnest appeal was listened to with great attention. His retirement from the office of Treasurer, which he has filled so ably and faithfully, and with so much satisfaction to the Synod, will be a great loss to the Diocese at large. The Treasurer was followed by Mr. Thomas Simpson, who urged that the country clergy ought to have some benefit of the wave of prosperity which is now affecting every part of the country. Rev. J. P. Dumoulin then delivered a most eloquent address, reviewing the periods of great missionary effort in the history of the Church, and maintaining that each period has been preceded by a long interval of preparation. He regarded the present as a period of preparation, in which the materials were being arranged for another great missionary triumph. Perhaps the final step in this preparation period will be the conversion of the Jews, who might then be used by God to bring about a greater missionary triumph among the Gentile nations than the world has ever seen. Mr. L. H. Davidson then followed in a short address, in which he said that, as a Churchman, he was ashamed of the small number of contributors to the Mission Fund, and also of the small amounts contributed. He urged the congregations to avail themselves of ladies' auxiliaries and of children's collections in order to reach all the members of the church.

ST. ARMAND'S EAST.—On the 8th and 15th last special sermons were preached in the historic Parish of St. Armand's East (Frelisburgh) with reference to the 20th anniversary of the present Rector's ministry in that Parish, founded by the Hon. and Rev. C. S. Stewart, D. D., sometime Bishop of Quebec.