

midnight Sunday, and all repairing on Sunday has been stopped. To make the opportunity still more beneficial, freight engineers are allowed the use of their locomotives to take them home for the day. *The results have proved so satisfactory that the directors are now arranging to make these experimental changes permanent and to extend them.* That a large corporation like the Pennsylvania Railroad should have been willing to try the experiment of Sunday observance, after years of violation of that day, is a most hopeful sign of the development in moral tone. That after trying the experiment it has found the result so satisfactory that the change is to be extended and made permanent, was not unlooked for by those who had examined this subject in its physical and social as well as moral bearings. Such a fact as this is one of those practical arguments that are *wholly unanswerable.*

A NOBLE EXAMPLE.—Mr. Amos A. Lawrence, already widely known for his munificent gifts to the Episcopal Theological School, Cambridge, Mass., (where his son, Rev. Wm. Lawrence, is now Professor), and to all good works, has given the parish a valuable piece of property, the income of which is to be applied to keep the church buildings in thorough repair, and any surplus to be used in the charitable work of the parish. Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence offer an example well worth following, of giving *during their lifetime*, of the means of which God has blessed them, and thus making sure that their intentions are carried out as they would have them, instead of being generous, as too many are, at the expense of their heirs, and often enriching the lawyer instead of the church. (We wonder if there were any "Gault" limitations in this gift.—Ed.)

FAMILY PRAYER.—Canon Liddon, in one of his striking sermons, enforces the value of this most important and most neglected duty:—

There is one mark of a household, in which God is known and loved, which is too often wanting in our day—I mean the *practice of family prayer.* Depend upon it, the worth of a practice of that kind can only be measured by its effects during a long period of time; and family prayers, though occupying only a few minutes, *do make a great difference to any household at the end of a year.* How, indeed, can it be otherwise, when each morning, and, perhaps, each evening, too, all the members of the family, the old and the young, the parents and the children, the master and the servants, meet on a footing of the same equality before the Eternal, in whose presence each is as nothing, or less than nothing; yet to whom each is so infinitely dear that he has redeemed by his blood each and all of them? How must not the bad spirits that are the enemies of pure and bright family life flee away—the spirits of envy and pride, and untruthfulness and sloth, and the whole tribe of evil thoughts, and make way for his gracious presence in the hearts of old and young alike, who, as he brings one by one nearer to the true end of our existence, so does he, and he alone, makes us to be "of one mind in a house," here within the narrow precincts of each home circle, and hereafter in that countless family of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, which shall dwell with him, the universal parent of all eternity.—Canon Liddon.

AN ANCIENT "GRACE BEFORE MEAT."—The following beautiful form of grace, entitled "A Prayer at Dinner," is found in the "Apostolic Constitutions" (vii: 49), the date of which is probably the latter part of the third century (A. D. 260-300). It is literally translated as follows: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord (Psalms cxix: 12), that nourishest me from my youth (Gen. xlviii: 15), that givest nourishment to all flesh (Ps. cxxxvi: 25). Fill our hearts with joy and gladness (Ac. xiv: 17), that al-

ways having all sufficiency, we may abound unto every good work (Cor. ix: 8) in Christ Jesus our Lord (1 Co. xv: 31), through whom to Thee be glory, honor, dominion forever. Amen." (1 Pet. v: 2.)

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

Gathered specially for this Paper by Our Own Correspondents.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALFWAY COVE.—On Sunday afternoon, July 25th, the new church at Halfway Cove was consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Nova Scotia. Four o'clock p.m. was the time appointed for the service, and a little after that time the Bishop arrived, accompanied by Rev. Rural Dean Hamilton. A large congregation were gathered at the church to receive them. After robing in the vestry, the incumbent of the parish, Rev. W. J. Arnold, and his churchwarden, Mr. John G. Henderson, then read the petition, and the Bishop, after replying to it, proceeded with the consecration service. The conduct of the congregation was a pleasing attestation to their interest in the solemn service. The Bishop's address was a very clear setting forth of the Church's views concerning the dedication of her sacred buildings. He also complimented the congregation on the completion of their church, and expressed his satisfaction with the internal arrangements of the different parts. Seven candidates afterwards received the rite of Laying on of Hands.

On Monday, the Bishop, with the incumbent and Rural Dean Hamilton, went to Cape Canso, where a new church has been put up, and is at present roughly seated, service being held in it since last Christmas. The Bishop was kindly entertained by W. B. Colloy, Esq., of the Commercial Cable Company's staff. In the evening a good congregation assembled in the church for service. One child was baptized by the bishop, who afterwards gave a suitable address, and then preached a powerful sermon, which was highly appreciated by the people. This was the first visit of an English Bishop to Canso.

The Bishop left Canso by the steamship Rimouski for Arichat at six o'clock on Tuesday morning, well pleased with his visit to this part of his diocese.

The Rev. Mr. Arnold is to be congratulated on having such a large, well trained congregation, for we must say that life and progress characterize the work of the Church in this Mission.

SHIP HARBOR.—The parish of Ship Harbor has not frequently of late been mentioned in the columns of the CHURCH GUARDIAN. The Church, however, in that place is alive and doing quiet work, nevertheless. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese visited us last month, and gave us kind words of encouragement not soon to be forgotten. His Lordship spent three very wet days in this parish, and in spite of the rain, which came down in torrents nearly all the time, did considerable work.

St. George's Chapel, Musquodoboit Harbor, was the first scene of his labor. Some of the good people here had never had the pleasure of a sight of the Bishop, and expressed themselves to "the poor darling man" to that effect in a quaint way. The new chapel was consecrated, and six candidates received the Apostolic rite of the Laying on of Hands. The Bishop expressed himself very much pleased with the chapel, and spoke very kindly to the people of Mr. Lowry, their late pastor.

The next day, St. James', Jeddore, and St. John's, Oyster Ponds, were visited. But oh! what rain. The Rector and Bishop managed to reach St. James', as announced, at 10.30 a.m., but found not a single sign even of a ser-

vice—not a person being present, and the doors locked. Nothing daunted, the good Bishop pushed on. There was not, however, much push in the Rector just at this time, as he thought of the labor bestowed on the large number of candidates who were to have been presented at this service. He fears his courage was much dampened, and that he was anything but a pleasant companion, until Oyster Ponds was reached, and a sign of the raining ceasing. It did cease a little, and after dinner and a greatly needed drying and rest, at 3 p.m. the service commenced at St. John's. There was a very good congregation present, and much to the credit, may it be said, of the Confirmation candidates, some of whom had walked six miles, in many places ankle deep in water, 22 were presented and received the sacred rite. The service was a long to be remembered one. His Lordship's address to the candidates was very touching, and drew tears to the eyes of hardy fishermen, whom, to look at, appear impregnable.

The Rector's spirits after this service revived rapidly, and, amidst the most drenching though at the same time glorious rain, tacked up and drove home ten miles to the rectory, where the Bishop—not to say a word about his luggage—the Rector fears, found himself slightly damp.

Sunday morning opened up bright and clear, though it did not remain so. The parish church was unusually bright and festive looking. The floral decorations were just perfect, having had the benefit of a young lady's skill and taste from the city. The floral cross especially called forth the admiration and praise of the Bishop. Flowers and roses were very abundant and most artistically arranged. Service commenced at 10.30, by consecration of a new addition to the churchyard. Immediately after this service came the consecration of the new chancel. Morning Prayer, now commenced, when sixteen candidates were presented for confirmation, all of whom remained to Holy Communion. There was a very large congregation present. His Lordship addressed the candidates and congregation most lovingly, and especially dwelt on the fact that at the last visitation the late Rector (Rev. Robert Jamieson) and Curate (Rev. James Lowry) were both present. The former, after a life-long labor, had entered his well-earned rest. The latter, from incessant work amongst them, had been obliged to seek health in a milder climate. His Lordship, after having complimented the present rector and people on the great improvements and neat appearance of the church, both outside and in, brou ht his most welcome visit to a close.

The Rector of Ship Harbor takes this opportunity of thankfully acknowledging the sum of \$40 collected in Halifax by Miss Jamieson for the repairing fund of St. Stephen's Church, which, together with the sum of \$212 clear of all expenses realized from the late bazaar, places the Church again free of debt.

RAWDON.—On August 1st the congregation worshipping in the parish church had the pleasure of listening to the strains of the new organ, for which all have been working for several months past. It is a reed organ by the Dominion Company, and appears to give general satisfaction. The old one, a Mason & Hamlin, has been placed in the new hall at Pleasant Valley, where it was used for the first time on August 8th, and where it will add to the attractiveness and, let us hope, the heartiness of the worship.

The pretty little church at Lakelands, a small Mission attached to this parish, is undergoing a course of improvement, by having the chancel repainted and carpeted. We are expecting the arrival of a new altar cloth, the gift of the Kilburn sisters, for this church, which, with the improvements just mentioned, will make this one of the prettiest country churches in the diocese.