

On the following day a Sunday School Convention was held in the same place at 2.30 p.m. There were present the Ven. Archdeacon Whitaker of Toronto; Rev. Rural Dean Stewart, of Orillia; Rev. Rural Dean Lett, of Collingwood; Rev. Canon Morgan, and the Rev. Messrs. Anderson, of Penetang, Porter, of Craighurst, and Harris, of Medonte. An essay was read by Rev. Jos. Fletcher, of Shanty Bay, on the subject "The Sunday School is the place in which to train the Children for the Church." Rev. Thos. G. Porter then read a paper on "How best to keep the young faithful to the Church after leaving the Sunday School," which drew forth considerable discussion from all, after which the Convention adjourned. We understand that another convention will be held some time in June or July, in Collingwood.

EAST SIMCOE.—On Tuesday, the 16th January, the Rural Dean of East Simcoe commenced holding the Annual Missionary Meetings in East Simcoe. The first was held in St. George's Church, Medonte, Rev. Mr. Harris chairman, and Rev. Rural Dean Stewart and Rev. G. A. Anderson, of Penetanguishene, addressed the meeting.

CRAIGHURST.—On the evening of the 16th Jan., a Missionary Meeting, Rev. T. G. Porter, Incumbent, in the chair. There were also present Rev. Rural Dean Stewart, of Orillia; Rev. Canon Morgan, Barrie; and Rev. G. A. Anderson. Miss M. Craig presided at the organ.

WAVERLY.—The Meeting was held in St. John's Church on the 17th, at 2.30 p.m. Rev. Rural Dean Stewart, Rev. Mr. Anderson, and Rev. Mr. Porter, the Incumbent, addressed the meeting.

MIDLAND.—On the 17th Jan., a Meeting was held in the new church building. The Sunday School choir sang some very appropriate pieces very well. Rev. Messrs. Stewart, of Orillia, (the Rural Dean); Porter, of Hillsdale, and Anderson, the Incumbent, addressed the meeting.

PENETANG.—The Missionary Meeting was held on the 18th. The Rural Dean and Rev. Mr. Porter addressed the meeting. The deputation were the Rev. Rural Dean Stewart, of Orillia, Rev. Thos. G. Porter, of Hillsdale, and Rev. G. A. Anderson, the Chaplain of the Reformatory and Missionary of Midland and Wyebridge.

WYEBRIDGE.—On the evening of the 18th Jan., the speakers were Rev. Mr. Stewart, of Orillia, and Rev. Mr. Porter, of Hillsdale. Rev. Mr. Anderson, the Incumbent, occupied the chair.

ORILLIA.—A very interesting meeting was held here on Monday the 22nd. The school room was well filled by an attentive audience. The Ven. Archdeacon Whitaker, Rev. Canon Morgan, of Barrie, Rev. G. A. Anderson, of Penetanguishene, and Rev. Mr. Porter, of Craighurst, addressed the meeting. Rev. Rural Dean Stewart occupied the chair. The choir sang some beautiful Anthems.

MARKHAM.—On Thursday evening, March 8th, the residence of the Rev. A. Hart, Incumbent of Grace Church, was stormed by a large surprise and donation party. The affair was cleverly planned and successfully executed. It was an entire success and a thorough surprise to the clergyman and his wife, they having only a day or two before taken possession of their house. The night was one of the worst of the season, steady rain, icy under foot, and very dark, which prevented anyone being present who lived outside the village. Notwithstanding, a party numbering seventy persons assembled well supplied with choice edibles, and proceeded to enjoy themselves according to their several tastes. After supper Miss Burk was called upon, and read the following address:

Markham, March 8, 1877.

REV. AND DEAR SIR: Allow me on behalf of the members of Grace Church, Markham, to ask your acceptance of this purse and the sum enclosed. Although, sir, the sum is but small, it shows that there exists the feeling that should be between a pastor and his flock. You have made yourself many warm friends here, owing, no doubt, to the kindness and consideration which you and Mrs. Hart have ever evinced since you came among us. Our united prayer is that you may long be spared to continue your labours of love among us; and when we are called upon to pass away may we meet in that upper and better world.

Mr. Hart briefly replied, thanking those who

were concerned in getting up the address, for the kind manner in which they referred to Mrs. Hart and to his labours among them first as a student and latterly as their clergyman.

He also thanked them for the substantial expression of their esteem in the shape of the purse and other articles. He said that he did not value them so much on account of their intrinsic worth, although they were most opportune, but as an evidence that his work as their clergyman was appreciated, and his love for his people was reciprocated.

At a late hour the party separated after spending a very pleasant evening, leaving tokens of their visit in several useful articles besides the purse, which contained thirty-four dollars.

NIAGARA.

(From our own Correspondent.)

HAMILTON.—On Tuesday evening, March 6th, the first lecture of the Church of England Institute was given by the Lord Bishop of Niagara. The subject was: "Was St. Peter ever at Rome?" Mr. Burns, President of the Institute, occupied the chair, and the room was well filled by a most appreciative audience. Of the lecture, the *Times* speaks in the most eulogistic terms, thus concluding its report: "There was no wasting time in brilliant generalities. Few ornaments were there, no fine frenzy, but steady, resolute sticking to the truth." The conclusion to be drawn from the lecture was that St. Peter probably went to Rome during the end of his career, and there suffered martyrdom: but that it is inconsistent with history and the Scriptures to suppose that he was in any true sense its Bishop at all. After the lecture a vote of thanks was moved by the Very Rev. the Dean, seconded by Judge O'Reilly, and carried unanimously. The benediction was then pronounced by the Rev. Canon Hebden, and the meeting dispersed.

On Thursday evening, March 8th, a meeting was held in the Cathedral School Room to consider the propriety of introducing some alterations in the mode of conducting the services. It was decided to have a choir, of men and boys, in surplices, but that there should not be a choral service. "Layman" writes a very comprehensive letter to the *Spectator*, in which he shews the antiquity of an intoned service, and the general benefits that may accrue from its adoption. His quotations from the Fathers and others in support of the antiphonal singing of the psalms are unanswerable. The only question to be considered is, whether it be prudent and proper to introduce such a manner of worship in any particular church. In a cathedral, or even in a city church, where the great majority of worshippers are of the educated class, and therefore capable of forming rational ideas concerning the doctrines or service of the Church, it seems singularly fitting that the service should be conducted in a manner sanctioned by the most ancient usage of the Church: yet it is only too true that every pastor must be fully alive in all that he does, lest his "good be evil spoken of," or indeed lest he "put a stumbling block or an occasion to fall in his brother's way." There are always some who will find a ground of quarrel in a surpliced choir, just as there are many who become disheartened by the coldness of a choir in an isolated loft. It strikes me that if our cathedral authorities do not allow their present effort to rest with the mere outward show of having a surpliced choir, but bend their energies to ensure thorough congregational singing, they will be met with the voice of general approval. After all, the great question is not which form of worship is the most ritualistic or which the most puritan: but which does the most good. If a choir, that operatically—and perhaps faultlessly—performs a few choice selections, appreciated by few and followed by none, be the best adapted to secure devotion, by all means let us have it; but if, on the other hand, a choir, on the same level with the congregation, can better lead an assembled crowd to raise their voices in a hearty and united outburst of praise, none can deny the superiority of it. Let those who have heard both say whether a choir upstairs or one downstairs is the better. But say some, even granting that a choir should be downstairs, and that it should consist of men and boys, why should they have

surplices? Why should they not be dressed as others of the congregation? To these questions I find an answer in a recent sermon of the Rev. H. Holland: "With respect to the choristers themselves," says he, "it possesses the obvious and important advantage of removing, for the time, distinctions which might otherwise be painfully felt, putting any one who of necessity may be poorly clad on the same footing in this respect with their fellow-choristers. It has also been found, by universal experience, to dispose them to greater reverence of demeanour." And he goes on to show how the custom has the sanction both of the Old and New Testaments.

ERALC.

HURON.

(From our own Correspondent.)

ONONDAGA.—The Rev. Dr. Armstrong has been holding special services in the Mission Parish of Onondaga. He was assisted by the neighbouring clergymen, Revs. Canon Townley, J. Chance, R. J. Roberts, A. C. Hill, Geo. W. Racey, R. O. Cooper, A. Anthony, and by Rev. W. Bett, of the Diocese of Niagara. Service was held twice daily in Onondaga, and once daily, part of the term, in Middleport. The Mission has been very successful. The congregations were large, notwithstanding the bad state of the mud roads, and the solemn earnestness that characterized the meetings, bore testimony to the good work. The prayers throughout the services were, with the exception of two, those of the Prayer Book. The observance of the Lenten season is no longer limited to isolated cases in large towns; and it is now made manifest that our Church ordinances and incomparable liturgy, if carried out, need not any additions.

INGERSOLL.—On last Sunday, the third of Lent, his Lordship the Bishop of Huron held confirmation services in St. James' Church, Ingersoll, when the Rector of the parish, Rev. Canon Hincks, presented a class of thirty candidates for the apostolic rite of the "Laying on of hands." The prayers of morning service were said by the Rector, the morning lessons read by Rev. J. W. Bonham, and the ante-communion service said by the Bishop. After the Nicene Creed and the singing of the hymn, "Thine, thine for ever," the confirmation, not the least interesting and solemn of our church services, took place. The Bishop's address to the catechumen, earnest, solemn, and impressive, must have left on their minds an impression not to be effaced. After the confirmation he preached, as is his wont, an appropriate and forcible sermon from the text, "What is your life?" (St. James iv. 4.)

At evening service the Rev. Mr. Bonham preached, his text being the 9th verse of the 68th Psalm: "Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain; whereby thou didst comfort thine inheritance when it was weary." Mr. Bonham, the readers of the *DOMINION CHURCHMAN* will remember, in lectures in St. Paul's in this city, gave a most interesting account of the Evangelistic work in connection with the Church in the old country—"The Revival of the Church of England in England." Of a similar character was his discourse in St. James'.

Mr. Bonham preached again in this city on the 7th inst.,—this time in the chapter house. In speaking of the work of the Evangelists, he pointed out their peculiar mission in connection with the Church, and that of the parish minister, to whom was committed the ministering to those immediately within the parish or congregation, while the mission of the Evangelist is to those without—it is to go into the lanes and highways and compel people to come—it is auxiliary to regular parochial work.

GRAND RIVER RESERVE.—We have great pleasure in publishing the following circular:

NEWPORT, P. O., Ontario, Canada. Dear Sir: The great want of Church accommodation for the Indians of Grand River Reserve is a serious hindrance to the success of our Missionary work. According to the Census there are 1084 Indians belonging to the Church on the Reserve, and there are also 478 Indians who are yet Pagans, but we have only available Church accommodation for 550 persons; so that nearly one-half of the members of the Church are destitute of a place of worship,