

to the All Saints' branch of the Ministering Children's League last week gave a Christmas tree entertainment to about 30 poor little children, which was as much enjoyed by the little givers as by those whom they entertained. It was a beautiful sight to see the bright, eager faces of the Ministering Children's League children as they themselves waited on their poor little guests at tea, and gave them the presents from the tree with their own little hands, and thereby exemplified the Scriptural lesson of its being more blessed to give than to receive.

ST. PETER'S. The annual meeting of the Ministering Children's League was held Monday afternoon in the school house, Rev. Archdeacon Boddy presiding. The chairman read the secretary's annual report of the Church of England branches of the society. The report showed that there were 13 branches in the diocese of Toronto, having a membership of 583. There are 40 branches of the league in the Dominion with a membership of 1,865. The society supports two cots in the Hospital for Sick Children and one bed in St. John's Hospital by contributions from the children. Rev. Professor Lloyd addressed the elder members of the society, and Rev. Mr. Street Macklem spoke to the children.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew.—A convention of the Canadian Chapters will be held in Toronto on either the 24th, 25th, and 26th of January, or the week following. Chapters are requested to elect as many delegates as possible at once, and forward their names to the secretary, Mr. Baillie, 26 King street East, Toronto, in order that the Toronto Chapters may know how many to provide hospitality for.

Miss Lizzie A. Dixon acknowledges with thanks two dollars from Mr. H. Worden, for Rev. J. G. Brick's mission at Peace River.

WESTON.—By the death of Thomas Young Savage, St. Philip's church has lost one of her most attractive members. The deceased gentleman was churchwarden for about seven years.

NIAGARA.

The Constitution and Canons.—The committee appointed at the last session of Synod to revise the Constitution and Canons is making progress. Two meetings have been held, the first to organize, when it was arranged that a fortnight should be given for the members to send to the secretary their proposed changes. The result is some 17 pages of printed matter. At the last meeting held on the 22nd inst., it was unanimously agreed that changes should be recommended in the manner of appointing the standing committees. At the present time the members of the standing committees are appointed by the Bishop. His Lordship is not a member, but has the right of veto. It is proposed to alter this, giving the Synod the power to elect a portion of the members, lay and clerical, making the Bishop a member *ex-officio* of the said committees, but taking away his veto power (in committee). From the second to the ninth Articles of the Constitution have also received attention. All seven articles deal with lay-representatives to Synod. By a close vote it was decided to propose that the lay-representatives should be allowed to communicate in any Anglican Church, while they must be habitual worshippers in the parish church which they represent. It was also agreed to recommend that both males and females should be allowed to vote for lay-delegates, provided they are of the required age, etc. Provision will also be made for organizing a new congregation and holding its first vestry-meeting. The next meeting of the committee will be held on the second Monday in January, when the "Patronage" question will no doubt receive attention. There are no less than seven amendments on the notice paper. (1) Rev. W. J. Armitage, St. Catharines, desires when a parish is vacant that the parishioners shall have 12 months to elect a clergyman in full orders of the Church of England, or any branch thereof. If no election be made within 12 months, then it shall be lawful for the Bishop to make the appointment. (2) Wm. Bell, barrister, Hamilton, proposes that a committee of five be appointed at a meeting of the vestry of the vacant parish, said committee to have three months to make an appointment. Should no appointment be made by the committee within three months from the happening of the vacancy, His Lordship the Bishop shall have the right to make such appointment. (3) W. F. Burton, barrister, Hamilton, proposes that the patronage of rectories and parishes be placed in the hands of the church wardens and congregation of each parish, subject to the approval of the Lord Bishop of any appointment to be made. (4) A. Gaviller, Esq., that the vestry shall have six months to elect a clergyman in full orders of the Church of England, or any branch thereof. A two-third majority of votes of the vestry present at the meeting shall be required. It shall be lawful for

the Bishop to make a suitable appointment to the vacant parish after a vacancy of six months, should no election be made by the parishioners. (5) E. Kenrick, barrister, Ancaster, proposes that the Bishop shall in the case of such rectories and parishes contributing less than \$600 a year towards the clergyman's stipend, make the appointment after consulting the wardens and delegates of the vacant parish. (6) In other cases, the Bishop shall make no appointment without the consent of a Board of Concurrence, to be elected at the annual vestry each year in each parish. (6) Rev. R. Ker, St. Catharines, proposes that an advisory committee of five shall be elected by the congregation on a vacancy occurring, whose duty it shall be to make immediate inquiry for a suitable clergyman. Said committee to report back to the congregation. If the name so reported shall prove acceptable to two-thirds of the meeting, the committee shall present the name to the Bishop, who shall duly appoint and institute. After six months the Bishop is to have full power to fill the vacancy. In the case, however, of missions, the Synod is to elect three nominators, and these with three elected by each mission, shall constitute a Board to fill vacancies. (7) F. E. Kilvert, barrister, Hamilton, proposes that the patronage of rectories and parishes shall be in the hands of the wardens and delegates, who shall within six months after a vacancy occurs nominate a fit and proper person, and the Bishop shall, without delay, appoint such nominee. The Bishop to have power to appoint after the expiration of the six months. It is not expected that any one of these proposed schemes will be adopted.

THOROLD.—On Christmas the congregation of St. John's church were pleased to find a new pulpit occupying a place on the extended chancel platform. This useful piece of ecclesiastical furniture is the gift of Mr. F. T. Walton, mechanical engineer of the Welland Canal. It is the product of his own handiwork, and reflects his well-known skill. St. John's has now fulfilled the 83rd canon of 1603. The decorations this year were peculiarly artistic and tasteful. The music was very fine, the choir being larger than usual. The attendance at both holy communion and morning prayer was good, and the offertory collections amounted to a larger sum than has been received by the rector since he took charge of the parish. He and his assistant, Rev. W. J. Pigott, now hold five services every Sunday within the parish.

GUELPH.—Much zeal has been shown in the decorations of St. George's church, which were greatly admired, evincing refined taste as well as a great amount of labour in bringing everything to such a state of perfection. The font and pulpit were very attractively adorned as well as the whole chancel. There was a good attendance at the early communion Christmas Day, including many of the lately confirmed. At the eleven o'clock service there was a full congregation and the service was very hearty. On Christmas morning the Rev. Mr. Seaborn was agreeably surprised by a member from the Bible Association calling on him and presenting him, on their behalf, with a very beautiful communion set, for use in private administrations.

Farnham Church.—This Mission Church was very prettily adorned. A graceful arch of evergreens stands at the entrance of the chancel, while the rails are draped with wreaths of English ivy. The walls also were decorated with evergreens.

CAYUGA.—The annual Christmas-tree entertainment for St. John's church Sunday school, was held on Dec. 19th, the town hall being crowded to excess with a highly interested audience. Several carols, kindergarten and other amusing songs and recitations, with appropriate scenery and costumes, were rendered by various members of the Sunday school, and these were followed by the distribution of a large number of gifts from a heavily laden tree, Mr. A. K. Goodman, L.L.B., acting as Santa Claus with his accustomed ability. The service on Christmas morning was largely attended, and the collection amounted to the liberal sum of \$31.70; many gifts in kind were also sent in direct to the Parsonage. At the grand tea on Thanksgiving Day, sufficient was realized, in addition to the harvest thanksgiving collection in church, to pay off the whole of the indebtedness on the new organ, the balance due in January last, viz., \$300, with interest, having all been provided in less than ten months. The "Willing Workers" society has now undertaken to furnish handsome seats for the choir, more in harmony with the attractive appearance of the organ than are the present ones. The "Women's Auxiliary" has also recently despatched a bale of goods to the North-west, valued at \$30. Not a single death has taken place in any of the families of this parish during the past year, nor has the Incumbent officiated at a funeral for nearly fourteen months, except that of a child brought from a distance for burial.

HURON.

GALT.—A memorable event in connection with the history of this historic parish took place on Sunday, December 21st, in the opening of a new church at Preston, a rising village three miles out of town. In addition to mission services regularly held at Hespeler every Sunday afternoon, the rector, with an eye to the future and for the extension of the Church, opened services under somewhat discouraging circumstances just three years ago in this village. With the valuable assistance of lay-readers, services have been kept up, steadily growing in interest, until now a handsome church occupies a commanding position and is filled with devout worshippers. The church, dedicated to St. John, is a very neat and attractive building of gothic design and thoroughly furnished throughout. Valuable gifts were presented, such as organ, chancel-carpet, matting for the aisles, linen, altar cloths, bible, service-books, markers, hymn-rack, etc., etc. The Sunday-school of Galt gave, at a cost of \$55, communion-table, lectern and prayer-desk; the Preston school, two very handsome chairs, and Rev. Rural Dean Mackenzie, rector of Brantford and formerly of Galt, an alms-basin of solid brass of exquisite design, and engraved to the memory of the late Very Reverend Dean Boomer, LL.D., for 33 years rector of this parish. The Rev. J. Ridley, the present rector, has now the satisfaction of seeing both these mission stations formed into a separate parish, and under the charge of a clergyman specially appointed to minister to the people. The Rev. T. Kingsmill, the incumbent, enters upon the work under most auspicious circumstances. The opening services on Sunday, 21st December, were very encouraging. Large congregations filled the sacred edifice to its utmost capacity. The Bishop of Huron preached both morning and evening, and was assisted in the services by Rev. J. Ridley, rector of Galt; Rev. T. Kingsmill, the incumbent, and Mr. E. Softley, divinity student, of Toronto. The Holy Communion was celebrated at the mid-day service, at which there were some 30 communicants. The offertory amounted to the noble sum of \$121. Not a cent has been raised by any indirect method since the mission was started, and the result clearly shows the wisdom of the procedure. Divine service will now be held regularly every Sunday, both morning and evening, and at Hespeler in the afternoon. We hope the time is not far distant when a similar building will be erected in the latter place, and opened under the most auspicious circumstances. The Galt Chapter of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood was favoured with a visit from the secretary of the Canadian Council, Mr. F. Dumoulin, of Toronto, on Monday, 22nd ult. There was a large attendance of members and a most interesting and profitable meeting. Mr. Dumoulin entered heartily and fully into all the practical details of the order and suggested lines of work, which will at once be taken up. Visits of this kind are of incalculable benefit, and in Mr. Dumoulin the Council has certainly a secretary eminently fitted for the position, and whose consecrated energies will prove most beneficial to the growth and prosperity of the brotherhood, in enlisting the sympathies and securing the co-operation of the young men of the Church.

MOORETOWN.—At a Christmas tree entertainment on Christmas Eve, in Trinity church, Mrs. Armstrong, wife of the Rev. Dr. Armstrong, was presented with a beautiful rocking chair elegantly upholstered, and also with a purse containing a good sum of money. The presentation was made on behalf of the congregation by Mrs. Joseph Featherstone and Mrs. John G. Hyde.

NEW HAMBURG.—St. George's Church.—The Christmas Eve service consisting of the shortened form of evensong, commenced at 8 p. m. The Sunday school children occupied the chancel with the choir, and with them led the chants, hymns, carols, etc., very nicely. The Rev. Mr. Edmunds gave an instructive address. The offertory was taken up by two of the younger boys, and during the presentation "All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given Thee," was sung. On Christmas morning the Church was well filled. The decorations were simple and tasteful, and except the light wreathing of the chandeliers, confined to the chancel. The altar vases were filled with English holly, and a few tall lilies in bloom placed within the sanctuary and at the chancel steps, gave an effective finish to the decorations. The musical parts of the service were well and correctly led by the choir. The Rev. Mr. Edmunds preached from Luke ii. 13-14. The Christmas gifts to the church are a handsome oak credence table and hymn tablets from Mr. S. G. Holley. The Sunday school children have filled the small windows in the tower porch with leaded stained glass. A scroll on the top of the windows bears the text: "Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise," and beneath: "St. George's church, built A.D. 1888; Vane and these Windows gift of Sunday School." The polished