

Lent, as days of special prayer and fasting. In doing this she bids us seek a more complete self-mastery, and a closer walk with God. That it is the duty of Churchmen everywhere to obey this injunction, there ought to be no doubt or question whatsoever. True loyalty to the Lord should involve obedience to the Church which He has founded and through which He deigns to manifest Himself to men.

That it is our wisdom as well as our duty a very little reflection should serve to teach us. Who does not know something of the deadening influence of the world and its business and its pleasures? Who among us has not deplored the fatal ease with which ardent enthusiasm may be turned into indifference in the service of the Lord? Revivals, evangelistic efforts, weeks of prayer and self-denial, parochial missions all bear witness to the need of an occasional rousing of the spiritual man. It is no new discovery. The Church has known it all through the ages and has made provision with her usual wisdom. Lent is her annual season of refreshing; her ever recurring attempt to shake herself loose from the trammels of worldliness and sin; her effort year by year to fan into a brighter flame the fire of devotion which burns within the hearts of her people.

But surely at such a time as this, it is in a special sense, our duty and our wisdom to observe and profit by the appointments of Lent.

Our Diocese is passing through an unusual experience of trial. We are in straightened places financially, and know not where to turn for help. How can we fail to find in the season of Lent a blessed opportunity of relief? It suggests that when we are in doubt where to turn, we may always turn with confidence to God. It offers itself as a glorious opportunity of laying our cares before the Supreme Disposer of men and things, and we should as a Diocese be quick to avail ourselves of it, believing that as we humble ourselves before our Heavenly Father He will comfort us and show us at least the direction in which we ought to go.

In every parish I trust there will be, (1) if not daily, at least some special week day services throughout the season of Lent, (2) some self-denial and giving of the result to the Mission Fund, (3) on the Second Sunday in Lent an offertory on behalf of the Mission Sustentation Fund, (4) a more general and frequent observance of the Holy Communion, (5) at every service the offering of the following prayer:

O LORD JESUS CHRIST, who didst charge the apostle to preach the Gospel to every nation, profer, we pray Thee, all missions in every part of the world, but especially this Missionary Diocese of Algoma. Grant us whatever may be needful for our work. Pardon our shortcomings. Give us greater zeal for Thy glory. Make us more ready and more diligent, by our prayers, by our alms, and by our examples to

spread abroad the knowledge of Thy Truth, and by Thy merciful guidance lead us safely through all our trials and dangers and use us to the quickening of many souls through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *And I trust that the Holy Spirit will be present and will be the power of God and will be the power of God.*

And (6) let Holy Week be a week of special self-abasement and humble following of the Blessed Master through all the bitter details of His final sufferings and death.

So may we hope to catch more of His spirit and look forward to an Easter full of blessings and big with the promise of still greater days to come.

GEORGE ALGOMA.

Temiscamingue Mission.

REV. I. HICKLAND, DEACON IN CHARGE.

DEAR MR. EDITOR—I herewith furnish you particulars of how we spent our Christmas in the "Temiscamingue Mission." On Christmas Eve there were between sixty and seventy persons, including the children of the Sunday school, and some of their parents, assembled in the schoolhouse at Haileybury to witness the distribution of the gifts suspended on the Christmas tree. There was first a shortened form of divine service and afterwards a suitable address, especially delivered to the children, urging them to a systematic study of the Holy Scripture, and pointing out the great and permanent blessings and advantages which would assuredly follow on such a work. Mrs. Aird came up the lake with her two grandchildren and with the forethought and consideration of a true and experienced mother, she did not come empty-handed, but brought a well-filled basket of assorted pastry. Mrs. Cobbold, that generous, kind hearted and practical lady, was also in the van of the entertainment, and with a goodly supply of eatables soon satisfied the appetites of all. Mrs. Probyn was also in attendance, keeping a maternal eye over the little ones. Mrs. Farr presided at the instrument and soon after nine o'clock all dispersed, apparently much gratified with the "Yule tree of 1897."

Divine service was held at Haileybury on Christmas morning, but owing to the inclement day there were not many present. I proceeded direct to Liskeard and held the Christmas service at 7 p.m. There were a good many persons present, and the services of the clergyman were not forgotten, especially by Mr. Murray and the local magistrate, Mr. John Armstrong. The former gentleman subscribed ten dollars towards that object. The next morning, Sunday, the 26th, I held the usual service at Liskeard, and after it was over I was obliged to proceed to Dawson's Point and refuse to partake of the hospitality of Miss Beavis in her sumptuous feast. She knew my arrangements and of course all was pardoned and sympathy was freely expressed. I had only about an hour

to keep my appointment some six miles distant and wade through nearly two feet of snow. This task was too herculean, and as nature has not furnished those angelic emblems—wings

the people waited patiently and expressed their laudations at my pedestrian achievements, though I was an hour behind the time appointed. Here I found over twenty faithful church people, some of them having travelled about ten miles with their little ones. After service had ended we distributed the contents of the Christmas tree amongst the children and their parents. All had been very judiciously selected beforehand by Mrs. Dawson, Mrs. Bateson and myself. It was now 7 o'clock and we all retired from the school to Mrs. Dawson's house, where an abundant supply of refreshments were served. About 9 o'clock the sleighs were prepared and plenty of covering kept the little ones comfortable. Mrs. Phillips brought her baby about ten miles for Holy Baptism and left in a blinding snowstorm with her sacred charge. One and all were highly delighted, and I do not think I have ever seen a more cordial and pleasant gathering, everyone vieing with each other for who would be most kind, courteous and good-natured. Thus ended the first "Christmas tree" held at Dawson's Point.

On Tuesday, the 28th of December, we held our Annual "Christmas tree" at Liskeard. The programme was very extensive and the several parts well performed, especially the readings, recitations and singing by the children. The school was packed and temporary seats had been very wisely constructed overhead for the juveniles. There were, I think, about one hundred and twenty inside and I suppose some outside unable to obtain admission. After the usual preliminaries and a short address from Rev. J. Hickland, the distribution of prizes to children commenced. This part of the work took over an hour; while doing so Mr. and Mrs. Norris and family and two other friends from the Hudson Bay Post at Baie des Peres arrived after a drive of twenty miles. We all gave the strangers a hearty welcome and made room for Mrs. Norris and her two little ones behind the bema. One of the most pleasing features in the programme was the presentation of a beautiful artistic table by the children to their teacher, Miss Beavis. It was made by Mr. Nichol, a local cabinet maker, and reflects no small credit on his knowledge of this branch of his trade. The present was altogether unexpected and it evidenced the reality of the friendship which exists between Miss Beavis and her Sunday school scholars. We had no Christmas tree at Baie des Peres, owing to the state of the lake, but a proportionate share of the gifts so generously granted by the Woman's