

St. George's; Rev. Alex. Williams, St. John's; Rev. C. B. Kenrick, St. Stephen's; Rev. Canon Belt, Burlington; Rev. T. R. O'Meara, St. Philip's; and Rev. J. Scott Howard, St. Matthew's.

### DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

**GUELPH.**—Very considerable feeling has been aroused here by the proposal to take a portion of the Church and Rectory grounds for the purposes of the Guelph Junction Railroad. Every one recognizes the benefits conferred upon the community by increased railroad facilities, and that expropriation of private property for this and other public purposes, however annoying and painful to individuals has to be allowed and endured. But whilst this may be so as regards purely private interests and private properties a difference ought to be made in regard to those which have been set apart for religious purposes; and which are at least *quasi* public in character. There would appear to be no justification for the expropriation of any part of property appropriated to the service of God except *absolute and irresistible necessity*; and this scarcely ever can exist. It is for the most part mere *interest* which leads to interference in these cases; as, if there were the will, in most instances, the railway could find other places whereon to place buildings and make shunting grounds.

St. George's Church and property here are said to be one of the finest in Canada and to be worth at least \$75 000. The site was selected largely in order to secure privacy and freedom from secular disturbances, and only nine years ago the Church was dedicated for all time to the glory of God; and the proposal now to invade this privacy seriously impair if not destroy the enjoyment of the Church for religious purposes,—and that when other routes might be taken—is not only annoying but seems to be such a needless desecration of Church property as should be opposed by every legal means, and in which opposition the parishioners ought to have the sympathy of all.

Archdeacon Dixon in his sermon on Nov. 13, strongly opposed the expropriation of any part of the property, and in this connection referred to the desecration of Sunday by the railroad companies as follows:

For the Sundays, peaceful repose in stores, and offices, mills and factories, and foundries, does not extend to railroads. Sunday with them is a day of hurry, and rush, and noise, very like if not worse than any other day, and if the proposed railway company secures the trade they anticipate they will carry it, no matter how offensive it may be to us; and if it suits the convenience of traffic will shunt their cars under our church windows on the Lord's day as much as on any other day of the week. It would evince much credulity in us to imagine that any religious sentiment or reverence for the sanctity of our worship would hinder them a moment. I have read much concerning railroads and their management: but have failed to find the ghost of a shadow of respect for God's Sabbath or ordinances, or reverence for His worship. Many directors are no doubt personally God fearing, Christian men, but to corporations all reverence for God and respect for His Sabbath are unknown and undefined quantities, to be carefully eliminated from our estimates of what they will or will not do; knowing that one of the greatest railroad millionaires in New York, a professed Christian, declared in language too coarse to be used here that their sole rule of existence was to make money for the stock holders. But I have been told that there will be no train running on the Lord's day save what is absolutely necessary. Under this very plea of necessity Sunday on the Grand Trunk Railway is the chief day of the week for rushing freight trains up and down. And with respect to the noises pertaining to such traffic we have two public halls in this city cut off more than we should be, where in one singing and

speaking, and the trial of offenders in the other by the police magistrate have to cease while trains go thundering by. Surely that is bad enough as a nuisance in secular matters; but how infinitely worse, how utterly intolerable would it be to suffer from such interruptions of our services in this temple devoted to the service of Him who ordained that the Sabbath should be kept holy. I have said nothing of the rectory and the sad devaluation in its value as a private residence from the nuisances I have alluded to, and the threatened confiscation of so much of its land. No amount of damages could possibly compensate us for the injuries to this grand Church and property we should sustain as a congregation.

### DIOCESE OF HURON.

**SARNIA.**—The Ladies of St. George's Church, held a bazaar in the Town Hall on the 9th and 10th of November. The display of useful and fancy articles was good, and although the weather was unfavourable the tables were well patronized, and willing buyers cleared out the whole stock. The total amount realized was well on to \$600. The ladies of this congregation deserve great praise for their many labours of love.

**GLENCOE.**—The subject of "Socialism" was brought before the congregation of the Church here on a Sunday lately, in a most practical and earnest sermon, by the Rev. W. J. Taylor. The poverty and misery in great cities on both sides of the Atlantic, was shown; the sad misnomer of "child life" dwelt upon, and the greed of capital; as well as the interest of labour, vividly pictured. The failure of "Socialistic" principles was conclusively made manifest, and the dire fruits of Anarchy, as witnessed in Chicago, with its attendant horrors, gave scope for some noteworthy lessons. The true remedy, that of Jesus Christ, for all the ills of Society, of Capital and of Labour, was then emphasized; it was shown that the early disciples were all Socialists; that they had "all things in common." The Christian, the preacher said, had no "cut and dried" plan for rejoining Society; he aimed, through the re-generation of the individual, towards its improvement; all we have is held in trust for a sacred purpose—to alleviate the ills of those around us. The sermon closed with an exhortation to Christian fellowship, and to self-denial for the sake of others. (*Glencoe "Transcript."*)

**LONDON.**—The Canadian Church Union stated to be organized in the City of London in January, 1887, has issued a circular inviting co-operation on the part of Churchmen in other dioceses. The objects of the Union are: To unite the various Dioceses of the Church of England in Canada, so as to form one Canadian branch of the One, Catholic and Apostolic Church. To sustain and strengthen the Church, to aid the Bishops and Clergy in maintaining and enforcing her Doctrine and Discipline. To maintain the Prayer-Book of the Church of England in its integrity. To disseminate information as to the Scriptural origin and general history of the Church. To promote meetings of the members of the Church for the discussion of matters pertaining to her interest and extension. To form a band of union for all lay workers; to aid and foster a desire for Christian Unity. These objects may be fairly commended to all good Churchmen as embracing many questions that are essential to the progress and future welfare of the Church.

There are in the Church many parochial associations which are mainly local in their sphere of usefulness, but for want of a more extended organization such as is contemplated by the Canadian Church Union, the general requirements of the Church are lost sight of in the wants of the parish, thus engendering a spirit of congregationalism instead of a broad and liberal support to the Church at large.

Local organizations are a necessity, but much good might result to the Church if parochial associations, Ruri-Decanal meetings and other meetings of Churchmen, would discuss matters coming before the Diocesan and Provincial Synods, and all other questions affecting the welfare of the Church.

The Church Union now appeals to all fellow-Churchmen to aid in this work by joining the Union, as the usefulness of such an organization must depend upon an extended membership. The Union is based on broad principles, carefully avoiding party lines, believing that the Catholic Church is wide enough to admit all varieties of Church thought within her fold.

In furtherance of the work of the Union, a series of Lectures on Church History and Church work has been provided, and will be delivered in various parts of the country.

To carry on the work of the Union, it is desired to establish an Executive Committee of five members in each Diocese and in certain districts, to solicit subscribers, and for the distribution of circulars and Church literature, and generally to further the objects of the Union in their respective districts.

Clergy willing to aid the Union by counsel and support are invited to join as Honorary Members.

All communicants are eligible for membership.

The annual subscription is \$1; this membership fee may be modified by Branches, by arrangement with the Executive Committees.

Copies of the Constitution and any information regarding the Union may be obtained of the Secretary, W. J. Imlach, London, Ont.

**AILSA CRAIG.**—The Rev. Mr. Thomas, who is about to remove to Blythe, will be succeeded by Rev. M. Shore in this Mission.

**BRANTFORD.**—The Rev. G. C. McKenzio acknowledges the gift of a building lot for the erection of a Mission Chapel in connection with Grace Church in Holmdale, from Messrs. Foster and Buck.

**LONDON SOUTH.**—St. James' Church was opened for Divine service on Nov. 18th, 1877. The anniversary was observed on Sunday, Nov. 20th, Rev. Canon Innes preached a most appropriate sermon for the occasion at the morning service, and the Rector preached in the evening. The congregations were large considering the weather.

His Lordship the Bishop of Huron has issued a pastoral calling upon the Rural Deans to make arrangements for the Annual Missionary meetings, and urging the clergy to co-operate in making these meetings more successful than usual. There is absolute need of an increase in the revenue of the maintenance committee to meet the demands which the late canon passed requires. This is a matter which largely concerns the clergy, and they should see that all the collections be sent in, and also that the Missionary subscriptions be increased.

**SARNIA.**—The ladies of St. George's Church recently held a bazaar, and as is usual, made it most successful; although the weather was most unpleasant. They realized from the sale of work, &c., between \$500 and \$600.

**LONDON.**—Thanksgiving Day was observed by a Union service in St. Paul's at 11 a.m. The city clergy took part in the service, and His Lordship the Bishop preached one of the best and grandest sermons ever delivered in the Cathedral. It was one of those sermons which set everyone thinking and made the blood grow warm, especially when he touched upon the Church, British connection, loyalty, &c., for which things we ought surely give thanks to the God of Mercies. The congregation was much larger than is usual at week day services,