

excellent management contributed so largely to its success.—At the Vestry meeting of the 28th of December, 1875, it was moved by W. H. Bowlby, seconded by Thomas Pearce, and carried unanimously: "That a cordial vote of thanks be tendered to Mr. and Mrs. Fennell for the beautiful chancel-window which they had put in at their sole expense, and that the Churchwardens be requested to protect the windows by putting on an outside wire screen."—Com.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS.—In this month and the next there will have been held in the different parts of the diocese, one hundred and ten missionary meetings; so that the clergy will be very much away from their parishes. It entails much labour on them but it cannot be avoided. Were the members of the Church to attend the meetings better than they do, and to subscribe more liberally, it would add much to the pleasure of the members of the Deputation and the meeting, and would be much more interesting. In some places the meetings are larger than heretofore, and the amounts collected also large—the members of one deputation say they were twice as large.

CHATHAM.—CONFIRMATION.—The Lord Bishop of Huron held a confirmation service in North Chatham, on Sunday the 16th inst, in the Church of the Holy Trinity, when seven candidates were presented to him for the laying on of hands as in Apostolic days. The Bishop addressed the confirmed as is his wont, speaking of their privileges and duties. In the evening of the same day he preached in Christ Church, South Chatham, on behalf of the Mission Fund of the Diocese. We are glad to hear of the prosperity of both Churches.

HELMUTH COLLEGE.—After the Christmas vacation, the Helmuth College was again opened on the 5th instant. The Huron Recorder says: "If in respect to actual numbers the condition of the school during the last term has not been all that would be desired, yet in respect of complete efficiency, good discipline, and internal harmony, we believe it has never stood higher." We are pleased to learn from other sources that this favourable testimony is not too highly coloured. At the last examination, W. A. Snortt, son of the Rev. Mr. Snortt of St. Catharines, gained the Governor General's silver medal with the hearty congratulations of the teachers of the College and of his college companions. The window bears on one side the effigies of the Earl and Countess of Dufferin, on the reverse the Governor's coat of arms, with the words "Presented by his Excellency," and on the rim, "Helmuth College, 1876."

LUCAN.—The decorations of Trinity Church (Rev. Wm. Logan, Rural Dean, Rector,) are considered by those qualified to judge, to be the most chaste and elegant to be seen in this diocese. At the Christmas tree and magic lantern entertainment lately held, a good sum was realized for Church purposes.

ST. THOMAS.—The new rector (Rev. G. C. Desbarres) preached his induction sermon on Sunday morning last to a large congregation. His discourse was founded upon the text "We preach Christ crucified." The rev. gentleman was from Clinton.

AMHERSTBURG.—The Rev. Mr. Falls, B.A., of Berlin, has been appointed to Christ Church, and has entered upon his duties.

ALISA CRAIG.—The Rev. C. J. Green, incumbent of Trinity Church, has been holding a series of successful Missionary Meetings, a full report of which will be

published next week. We understand that some of his parishioners in McGillivray mission have just given him \$500 for a parsonage at Alisa Craig. This example should be followed in every parish that has no "home" for its clergy.

ST. JOHN'S.—This new Church (Archdeacon Marsh's) has just received from John Ferguson, Esq., of London, two handsome chairs for the chancel.

MOORETOWN.—A very nice font has been lately placed in Trinity Church, (Rev. L. J. Jones, incumbent), the gift of W. R. Macgregor, Esq.

The Bishop of Algoma held a Confirmation service in the Church of the Messiah, Kincardine, Jan. 23rd. There were twenty seven candidates and four adult baptisms. In the afternoon his Lordship addressed the Sunday School on the subject of the Shingwauk Home for Indian children at Sault Ste. Marie, and in the evening preached on behalf of the missionary diocese of Algoma.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

On the 15th of December, 1875 the clergy and lay delegates of the diocese assembled for the formation of a synod. Divine Service was celebrated in the cathedral at Victoria. The Ven. Archdeacon Woods, assisted by the Revs. F. B. Gribbell and T. Blendun, officiated at Matins. The Lord Bishop of the diocese celebrated the Holy Communion, assisted by the Very Rev. Dean Gibson, the Archdeacon, and the Rev. George Mason, M.A. The Rev. Mr. Mason preached the sermon from 1 Cor. xii. 31. At 2 p.m., the convention assembled at the Boys' Collegiate School House. The bishop presided, and after reading the prayer appointed for the Synod, the roll of the clergy was called, a report of the lay delegates present was read, after which the Bishop delivered his address. His Lordship most elaborately and exhaustively traced the history of the constitution and formation of Synods.

The Standing orders proposed for the Synod were then temporarily adopted. The Hon. H. Holbrook moved the following resolution:—"We the Bishop clergy, and Lay Delegates now assembled do hereby declare ourselves a synod of the Church of England in British Columbia; and will now proceed to the consideration of the constitution and regulations to be adopted for the due ordering of the Synod, provided that no rule, canon, law or regulation be in force in the diocese as an act of the Synod, unless it shall have received a concurrent assent of the Bishop, the clergy and the lay delegates, to be determined by a majority of votes, the same to be taken separately in each order, whenever it shall be required." The very Rev. Dean Gibson having seconded the resolution, the Ven. Archdeacon Woods moved an amendment:—"That this convention be now dissolved." He argued at great length these propositions:—"That from the first the convention was improperly constituted, from defective election of delegates; that the introduction of the lay element into the Synod, with power to deliberate, vote and decide upon ecclesiastical questions was not authorized by Scripture, and was an innovation upon the practice of the primitive church. At the same time he could favor the establishment of a Synod constituted of the Bishop and clergy alone, and a convention of the laity if need be. C. T. Dupont, Esq., seconded the amendment. The Rev. George Mason maintained the regularity of the election of delegates for New Westminster. The Very Rev. Dean Gibson referred to the 19th and 20th Articles to show that the

Church does not consist of the clergy only, and to the fact that the prayer Book was not received by the Church until it received the sanction of Parliament, who were laity. He also appealed to St. Jude 3, and to 1 St. John, ii. 20, 27, to show that the whole body of the Church participates in the gift of the Holy Spirit, and that the laity have a common interest with the clergy in the maintenance, defence and declaration of the faith. His Honor the Lieutenant Governor opposed the amendment in an argument upon a principle not often met with in the present day; namely, that "all power whether in spiritual or temporal matters emanated from the Crown (I) whose prerogative is exercised by the advice of the ministers of the Crown, who derive their authority from, and are responsible to the House of Commons, as the representatives of the whole people of England in Council." The amendment of Archdeacon Woods having been put by the Bishop was lost, and the resolution in favor of forming the Synod was carried with one dissentient voice.

On the next day, the 17th, the Rev. F. B. Gribbell, and M. W. F. Drake, Esq., were appointed secretaries. A resolution was then passed, having been moved by the Lieutenant Governor, embodying the principles upon which it was proposed to establish the synod. A resolution was also passed suspending so much of the standing orders as related to the passage of bills during the present session of the synod. The synod then resolved itself into a convention to discuss the provisions of the constitution, clause by clause, during which, for five hours, the Lieutenant Governor occupied the chair, when the resolution was declared carried.

On Saturday the 18th, on the motion of Lieutenant Governor Trutch, a measure providing for a standing executive committee was discussed in a committee of the whole House. On the motion of Ven. Archdeacon Wood, amendments were adopted to the effect that lay-delegates should "have communicated at least three times during the twelve months previous to the election," and that the number of lay delegates in churches of fifty members should be reduced from six to four. These amendments were however afterwards negatived in committee. The Bishop called for a vote of the Synod by orders in order to sustain the amendments, but the clergy declining to press the matter, the amendment was lost, and the constitution therefore reads "of at least one year's standing." Measures were passed for the election of a bishop, and for regulating the diocesan finances.

On Monday, the 20th the executive committee was voted by ballot:—Very Rev. Dean Gibson, Ven. Archdeacon Woods, Revs. D. Holmes, George Mason, and Willemar; laity, Hon. J. W. Trutch, A. B. Robertson, P. O'Reilly, T. A. Bulkley, and C. T. Dupont. The Bishop read a letter from the Lord Bishop of Rupert's Land, and the house made further arrangements in reference to diocesan finance. The House also resolved that it be left to the Executive Committee to determine for the present and report to the next Synod upon the scale of payment to the clergy, and the proportion of stipend to be required from the various missions and parishes. W. C. Ward, Esq., was appointed treasurer of the diocese. The question of the form of the declaration of the clergy of the diocese was referred to a select committee. It was resolved that "while cordially reciprocating the fraternal feeling of the provincial synod of Rupert's Land, the Synod of British Columbia under present

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