

action—to speak in the language of men—as the simplest hypothesis to explain, or more truly to describe intelligibly, the progress which they represent. But at the same time they suggest that something has impeded and marred the course of the progress which they establish. . . . Fixing our thoughts upon humanity, we see with increasing clearness when we contemplate our powers, our aspirations, our failures, an ideal towards which we are made to strain; and experience shows that by ourselves we cannot reach it. None the less, we persist in our effort; and the Gospel comes to encourage and to sustain us.

But that we may find and use the power of the Gospel, we must realize it in its whole essence and scope. We are not Theists. Our commission is not simply to call on men to believe in God, but to believe in God manifested in the flesh.

But while the Incarnation "brings all heaven before our eyes," it guards us from a dreamy mysticism. It hallows labour and our scene of labour. It claims the fullest offering of personal service. It embraces all men in the range of its greatest hope, and not only those who have reached a particular stage of culture. It enables us to reverence with a sublime faith, which experience has amply justified, men as men.

All men and all being therefore come within the range of the Christian's hope; and our most frequent prayer—*Thy kingdom come*—reminds us that the Lord presents earth as the scene of our consummation. As His ambassadors we need to assert His claim to be Creator and Heir of the universe (Heb. i. 2). The Apostolic portraiture of the Master, as *He went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the Devil* (Acts x. 38), must be the pattern of the disciple's labours. To us also, when we are lost in vain speculations on the mysteries of the Divine working, the words come—*Why stand ye gazing up into heaven?* (Acts i. 11).

We need this awakening summons to that which we may think secular work. It has happened now and again that our hesitation has prejudiced the popular estimate of our faith. There is unhappily a true sense in which the common people have not heard us gladly. They think, however, wrongly, that we are either ignorant of their trials or indifferent to them. In the meantime, while we have hung back, others have sought to bring expression and fulfilment to the generous desires of our race. Their work has been outwardly Christian in type, but they have lacked the spiritual foundation of the Christian faith. Where they have failed, and all merely material reforms must fail, their ill success has tended to discredit our efforts. It cannot but discredit them until we make our motive and our aim clear. This we can do, and this we are bound to do. For us each amelioration of man's circumstances is the translation of a fragment of our creed into action, and not the self-shaped effort of a kindly nature. It answers, as we believe, to the will of God; and the faith which quickened the purpose is sufficient to accomplish it. Our perfect exemplar exists already. Our citizenship—the type of every social privilege and duty—exists in heaven (Phil. iii. 20). That ideal underlies, limits, transfigures, our earthly citizenship. For us "love" is no vague impulse, but the mature fruit of that "love of the brethren" which grows out of the common acknowledgment by Christians of their vital union with one Saviour (2 Pet. i. 7). The "brother" in the Epistles of St. John whose language has been transferred to attractive commonplaces, is the fellow-Christian and not the fellow-man. The truth which the Apostle emphasised is constantly in danger of being forgotten. We all need to recognise more fully than we have yet done the Divine fellowship of Christian with Christian before we can rightly discharge our wider duties.

Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

NOVA SCOTIA.

WINDSOR, N.S.—The annual meeting of the King's College Missionary Association was held this year in the school-room of the parish church, on the evening of the 1st inst., by the courtesy of the rector. The room was filled with an interested and enthusiastic audience. Addresses were given by the chairman, the president of the college, Professor Vroom, the Rev. H. A. Harley, rector of Picton, and Mr. Wiswell, of St. Luke's Chapter of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood, Halifax. The latter gentleman was specially invited to give an address upon the Brotherhood. Having attended the recent convention in Boston, he gave a very thrilling account of the work in general as reported at that great meeting. The rector also said a few words explaining why he had not yet established a chapter in the parish, expressing a hope that he might see his way to do so before long. An encouraging report was read by the secretary of the missionary association, in which it was

stated that the students of the college who were members had pledged themselves to secure \$200 per annum to assist an Arab student from Jerusalem to take the college course and prepare himself for the ministry. Bishop Blythe, on the strength of this promise, has already sent a young man of great promise to Windsor, where he hopes in a few weeks to matriculate. When he has taken his degree he will return to the Holy Land to labour under Bishop Blythe.

The Bishop of Nova Scotia has just completed a confirmation tour. Since May last he has visited all the parishes in his diocese except Cape Breton, and most of the outstations, and has confirmed over 1,500 persons.

HALIFAX.—The three Chapters of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood in this city held a union service on the evening of St. Andrew's Day in St. Luke's Cathedral. Several of the city clergy were present and a very earnest sermon was preached by the Rev. Dyson Hague, rector of St. Paul's.

One of Bishop Courtney's sons met with a very serious accident on the foot-ball ground of King's College a fortnight ago. Grave fears at one time were entertained that serious and permanent injuries had been sustained. It is now hoped that such is not the case. The Bishop has at length been able to take his son home to Halifax, where, doubtless, careful home nursing will speedily restore him to health again.

A German holding an important position in Canada recently attended a confirmation in one of our churches, and expressed great surprise that no less than 10 out of the 14 males confirmed were adults. In Germany it appears it is considered a disgrace if a lad is not confirmed at 14. And as for baptism, so important is it deemed that all should be baptized in their infancy, that no one is permitted to take any public position without first showing his baptismal certificate.

TORONTO.

Miss Lizzie A. Dixon acknowledges with thanks the receipt of the following amounts for Rev. J. G. Brick, Peace River, Athabasca: Rev. J. C. Garrett, Niagara, \$10.23, per Miss F. Twohy, Hamilton; Mr. J. Marshall, \$2; Mrs. Griffiths, 50c.; Miss F. Twohy, 50c.

St. James' Cathedral.—A very successful "at home" was held last week in the Bible class room of St. James' Cathedral, given by the Young Ladies' Guild. Among those who contributed largely to the evening's entertainment were:—Mrs. DuMoulin, Miss Hasket, Lancaster Mills, and Master Eddie Cole. A short address was given by the rector, after which refreshments were served by the young ladies.

St. Phillip's.—A series of special evangelistic services were held in this church during the past week, and the following clergy and laity took part in them: Revs. E. Daniels, T. R. O'Meara, Prof. DuVernet, H. C. Dixon, and Mr. Stapleton Caldecott.

Church of Ascension.—On Sunday morning, Dec. 4th, His Lordship, the Bishop of Huron, preached an impressive sermon in this church, and in the evening to a large congregation at All Saints'. Rev. Prof. Clark delivered an instructive address on Monday evening, the 5th, in St. George's school room, the subject being "Manner and Conduct."

At the last meeting of the board of examiners for Degrees in Divinity under the recent Canon of the Provincial Synod, the Rev. C. H. Mockridge, D.D., was appointed Secretary and Registrar to the Board. All communications relating to such degrees should be addressed to him at 87 Buchanan St., Toronto, instead of to the Provost of Trinity College, as heretofore.

Trinity College Theological and Missionary Association.—Now that an effort is being made to increase the membership, it is not, perhaps, out of place to remind our friends of the aims of the society, which are as follows.

(a) To unite in a permanent bond of common membership the students, graduates and other friends of the college who desire to promote the work of the Church.

(b) By means of papers and mutual discussion, to endeavor more clearly to ascertain the special needs of the Church, and the ways in which we may best be enabled to meet them.

(c) To endeavor by mutual association to promote a high standard of spiritual life amongst us.

(d) To be a centre for the encouragement of missionary work at home and abroad, and for diffusion of information with regard to the same.

Meetings are held once every three weeks in term for reading of papers and discussion, due weight being given to the important subject of foreign missions. A devotional meeting of members is held once each term.

On Sunday last, Dec. 11th, Mr. C. W. Hedley, B.A., took duty at Clareville, Mr. Frank DuMoulin, B.A., at Springfield. St. Jude's, Scarboro, was supplied by Mr. R. J. Dumbrille, Beaverton by Mr. Spencer, Fairbank by Mr. Davidson, York by Mr. H. M. Little.

PICKERING.—At St. George's Church the services at 10 a.m., with a celebration of the Holy Communion at 7 p.m., were conducted by Rev. Prof. Rigby, assisted by Mr. J. Allen Ballard. After morning prayer they drove to Greenwood, a distance of seven miles, where service is now held each Sunday at 3 p.m. Thus the worthy dean completed one more day of self-denying labour and work of love for the people of this mission.

DUNSFORD.—The new Church of St. John was opened on Advent Sunday, Nov. 27th. In the morning the Rev. H. Symonds, of Ashburnham, preached, the incumbent, the Rev. W. J. Creighton, reading morning prayers. After morning prayers the incumbent administered the Lord's Supper, the Rev. H. Symonds assisting. In the evening the Rev. Wm. Farncomb, of Fenelon Falls, preached, Mr. Symonds and the incumbent taking the service. The congregation at both services was large, but especially in the evening, when the church was packed to the doors. The offertory at the two services amounted altogether to about \$73. The church is built of white brick; the nave is 40 feet long by 28 wide, with a porch 10 feet square, which extends up to the roof and supports the belfry. The chancel, including the vestry, is 17 feet deep by 26 feet wide. The walls inside are plastered, the ceiling is of tamarack, formed in squares and finished in hard oil and varnish. All the other interior wood work is either of ash or tamarack, finished in oil and varnish. The work is in every way a credit to the contractor. The church will seat about 200. There is still a debt of about \$400 on it, but the congregation, though by no means a rich one, feel confident that they will be able soon to wipe it off. On Monday evening the congregation held a social at which there was a large attendance, but the ladies of the congregation had brought an abundant supply for all of everything they could desire to eat. After supper there was a programme of speeches and music, the incumbent occupying the chair. The Rev. Rural Dean Creighton, of Cartwright (father of the incumbent), the Rev. Wm. Farncomb, Chas. Fairburn, M.P., J. H. Knight, of Lindsay, and others, gave short addresses. Mrs. Shepherd, Miss Beaty, Miss Watts, Miss Carry, Miss Walbrook, Mr. A. E. Bottum and Mr. Brooks took part in the musical programme, and a very enjoyable evening was spent.

HURON.

His Lordship, the Bishop of Huron, held confirmation services at Christ Church, Lakeside, and at St. John's Church, Thamesford, on Tuesday, 29th ult. Rev. William Stout, clergyman in charge, presented 40 candidates who received the scriptural and apostolic rite. Both the number of candidates confirmed, and that of the congregations present, were the largest for many years on such an occasion in the parish. The Bishop's addresses and sermons were very impressive and greatly appreciated.

LONDON.—The following gentlemen have been ordained by Bishop Baldwin: Messrs. E. Lee, of Huron College; Kerrin, of Dunganon, for order of deacon; and Rev. George Elliott, of Comber; Rev. E. C. Jennings, of Heathcote; Rev. Ernest Chilcott, of Woodstock; Rev. J. W. Jones, of Dundalk, and Rev. F. N. Holmes, of Dresden, for priest's orders.

RUPERT'S LAND.

WINNIPEG.—The Bishop has been visiting various missions and holding confirmations.

All Saints.—Rev. F. V. Baker, B.A., Principal of St. John's College, Qu'Appelle, has accepted the rectorship of this church, and will enter upon the duties of the parish on January 1st.

Christ Church.—The ladies of this church gave an excellent entertainment in the school-house on the evening of Thanksgiving Day. A considerable sum was realized in aid of the Augmentation Fund of the Church.

Holy Trinity.—November 6th was the seventeenth anniversary of the Rev. Archdeacon Fortin's pastorate of Holy Trinity Church. The Archdeacon preached an anniversary sermon to his congregation, dwelling upon the progress of the Church during the past seventeen years.

St. George's.—This church was carefully and artistically decorated with the various products—grain, vegetables and flowers—of the soil of the North-West, for the Thanksgiving services. The collections of