

noon, June 1st, for the purpose of organizing more thoroughly the diocesan branch. There were present five delegates from parochial branches, two or three visitors, and a large number of the members of the North Bay branch.

His Lordship the Bishop of Algoma opened the proceedings with prayer, and briefly addressed those present, reminding them of the good work which the W.A. is engaged in, and also of the desirability of doing something to help others outside of their own parishes. After his lordship had retired, Mrs. Thorneloe read the following address:

MY DEAR FRIENDS, It gives me great pleasure to be here and meet you all, most of you for the first time. I am sorry that more of the parishes are not represented, but the immense distances in this diocese render it difficult for us to meet often. This is a source of regret, as such meetings draw us nearer together and encourage us to persevere in our work. It makes us feel that, although in our own parish there may be few to help, so few that sometimes we are almost discouraged and ready to give up, yet we are not working alone. And to be thus reminded of the W.A. all round us will be a source of great strength to us. It has been suggested by the Bishop that this would be a good time to strengthen our diocesan branch, which is, I think, at present somewhat unformed, and has only one or two officers. If we could appoint four officers—one at the Sault, one in Muskoka, one in Port Arthur—we have already at North Bay a most interested and devoted secretary—I think it might be possible to have an annual meeting at each of these four places. Delegates from as many of the adjacent parishes as possible could be present at these meetings, and reports of the work done could be sent to each place of meeting. The reports from each parish could be read, and would help to stimulate us, "provoking one another to good works."

Of course in the missionary diocese, in working for our own diocese, we are working for missions. In regard to this matter I will quote some words of the Provincial Secretary, Miss Montzambert, printed in the March *Leaflet*, just below the reports from Algoma. She says: "We congratulate the Algoma W.A. on the above report, which shows how it is doing a quiet work for God and striving to help others than themselves. We would assure those doubting branches that their work is certainly W.A. work. Algoma, being so completely a missionary diocese, is quite on a different footing from the older dioceses further east. We think that ere long a diocesan branch will be formed, when the various parochial organizations will be gathered together into a united group, and so realize that 'Unity is Strength.'"

The principal branches, however, should not really be satisfied without doing something for others outside their own diocese. Oh, that we might be more imbued with the true missionary spirit, and be ready to deny ourselves, that we might give what we thus save, which is really the true way of giving, then could we say with David, "I will not offer unto my God of that which costs me nothing." Then, indeed, may we hope to realize the real joy of doing for others and feel that it is truly "more blessed to give than to receive." The W.A. has been most generous to this diocese. It now calls upon us to strengthen our diocesan branch, and to every individual branch its call comes to rise up and do more for themselves. Shall we not respond to this call, and determine to do more in the future to show our gratitude for, and appreciation of, all that has been done for us? I think there is one way in which we can use our influence and prove ourselves a real auxiliary to our diocese in the present crisis through which it is now passing. The Bishop, as most of you doubtless know, has been obliged to reduce the grant in most of the

parishes, owing to the Mission Fund being in debt and also to the fact that the English societies are gradually withdrawing their aid. Now you will say, what can women do? They have no vote at vestry meetings. True, they have not. But they have a sphere where their influence is of great power, namely, in the home, which is after all the truest place for women to shine. When the subject of increased giving is brought forward, a word of encouragement, or a gentle suggestion, perhaps, of something that can be done without, that they may have more to give, may bring forth fruit that they little expect. It is the quiet forces that are always the most powerful. It is not the fierce thunder-storm, which carries everything before it and destroys as it goes, but it is the soft, little raindrops, falling gently one by one, which cause the earth to bring forth bud and blossom and become the beautiful world in which we live.

Above all, let us not forget that we can all use, even the youngest and most insignificant amongst us, the quiet but powerful weapon of prayer. As the poet says, "More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of." The truth of this has been attested by saints in all ages. Let us not then be like the unbelieving Namaan when he was told by the prophet to "wash and be clean"; let us not ask for some great thing to do, but pray earnestly and faithfully for God's blessing on the work of our Church, and, believing, we shall receive. We have a prayer of our own for the W.A., and the members are all asked to repeat it at twelve o'clock each day. The idea of saying it at a certain hour originated in the States, and the Canadian W.A. has adopted it, and on our *Leaflets* we see the clock, with the hand at twelve, to remind us of the hour of prayer. What an intercession, for missions must rise to a fragrant incense at that hour! What a shower of blessing it must bring down!

Let us hope, finally, that at this meeting a determination will be awakened in each member of the Auxiliary to do more for the spread of our beloved Church, the true historic Church, with its pure faith and ancient lineage, and let us also trust that we may be drawn nearer to one another, that we may realize the teachings of our motto, "One Body in Christ."

The four centres spoken of in the address having been established, viz.: Port Arthur, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, and Bracebridge (for the Muskoka District), the election of officers was proceeded with, one for each centre, as follows:

President, Mrs. Thorneloe, Sault Ste. Marie.

1st Vice-President, Mrs. Gibbs, Port Arthur.

2nd Vice President, Mrs. Bridgeland, Bracebridge.

Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Begg, North Bay.

A resolution was passed that each branch should be earnestly requested to contribute an offering to the General Mission Fund of Algoma.

The President read an extract from a resolution passed by the House of Bishops, approving of and heartily endorsing the efforts of the W.A.

The delegates then read short accounts of the work done by their branches. Port Arthur's report was read by the North Bay delegate, it having none present.

A hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Mrs. Thorneloe for her presence at the meeting and for her address. The missionary hymn "From Greenland's icy mountains" was then sung, and the meeting closed with prayer.

Now that this meeting has been held, and a Diocesan Board of four formed, let us "go forward in faith and hope," using

every means to strengthen the work of the Church in our diocese. We hope to see before very long every organization of Churchwomen in Algoma enrolled as a branch of the W.A. Even the smallest and weakest branches could contribute something yearly to our own Diocesan Fund, while the larger branches could also send an offering to the Domestic and Foreign Mission Board. Thus can we strengthen both our own hands and the hands of others.

Letter of Thanks.

To the Editor of THE ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS.

DEAR SIR,—Please permit me space through the columns of your next issue to thank our Bishop, the clergy of the diocese, together with their several congregations, for the liberal assistance afforded me since the loss occasioned by the destruction of St. John's parsonage, North Seguin, by fire. The response to the Bishop's appeal far exceeded the highest hopes, and, considering the high pressure upon each congregation of the diocese to meet their own financial requirements, the sacrifice now made on our behalf is considerable. I have likewise to acknowledge with gratitude the great help afforded through the response to the appeal of Bishop Sullivan, who, with Mrs. Sullivan, has done much to cheer our lot. The Women's Auxiliary of our beloved Church as usual have not been found wanting in that liberal and prompt aid for which they are noted, and to its members we owe much. Our most sincere thanks are tendered to all those who have so generously considered our welfare, for they have made deep impressions of a lasting nature upon our hearts and minds.

ARTHUR J. COBB,
Incumbent of North Seguin.
North Seguin, Ont., May 14th, 1898.

Broadbent Mission.

REV. A. J. COBB, INCUMBENT.

NORTH SEGUIN.—The Church of St. John the Evangelist was consecrated by the Bishop of the diocese on June 8th, in the presence of a numerous congregation, principally communicants. The apostolic rite of confirmation was administered for the second time this year, eleven being added to the large number then partaking of the Holy Eucharist. The divine services being bright and strengthening, the Church in this mission was benefited thereby.

A. J. C.

From another source we learn while the Bishop was at North Seguin a representative deputation waited upon the Bishop in the vestry of the church above-mentioned to advocate the rebuilding of a parsonage at Broadbent instead of at North Seguin. After hearing all that was said the Bishop suggested that the matter remain in abeyance, in order that the money might be obtained and that various arguments adduced be tested.