

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

Gathered specially for this Paper by Our Own Correspondents.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

HALIFAX.—St. Paul's.—The choir boys of St. Paul's were entertained with a Christmas supper last week. The treat reflected much credit on those who arranged for it. Prizes of value were given to the boys. A few days after, a Christmas-tree festival was held for the members of the Temperance Guild, and was very much appreciated by the members.

MAITLAND.—The little village was all astir last week, on the occasion of the marriage of Miss Lavinia Cochran, daughter of the late Hon. A. McNutt Cochran, to Archibald Frame, Esq., of Selmah. The church looked pretty in its festive dress, and the crowd which gathered packed every avenue of the building. The bride has been long and favorably known in the parish for her diligence in Sunday-school teaching, and in other good works of the Church. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. G. R. Martell, Rector of Maitland, assisted by the Rev. W. C. Wilson, Curate of St. George's, Halifax. We wish the happy couple every blessing.

ANTIGONISH.—The annual Christmas Sunday-school Tree was held at the residence of E. Milledge, Esq., C.E. Its boughs were borne down with the fruits of love and labor, and we were much indebted to Mr. Rogers, of Montreal, for handsome contributions towards it. The little ones did ample justice to the feast provided for them, and having joined in Christmas carols and praise to Him from whom all blessings flow, departed homeward with happy hearts and well laden arms. Our esteemed pastor and wife (Mr. and Mrs. R. F. Brine) were also the recipients of substantial proofs of esteem from known and unknown parishioners and friends.

Miss Fannie Brine desires to very sincerely and gratefully thank the members of St. Paul's congregation (Antigonish) to whom she is indebted for the golden contents of the envelope presented to her from the Christmas Sunday-school tree, in token of her services as honorary organist and Sunday-school teacher. The gift was very unexpected, knowing so well the many financial demands upon the generosity of the people to keep open their house of worship.

Through the withdrawal of a portion of the ministerial support from the S.P.G., a dark cloud has risen with the opening of the new year, and the future welfare of our Church looks ominous, but we will put our trust in a High Power, and hope we may never know again what it is to feel the deprivation of the regular Sabbath services which have been participated in by us for the past three years.

HANTSPOUR.—On Sunday, the 17th instant, Divine Service according to the ritual of the Church of England was held in this town, which forms a part of the parish of Falmouth. For upwards of three years the members of the Church here have not been privileged to receive the ministrations of the Church they love so well, and to which they steadfastly cling, in spite of the seeming apathy with which they are treated, and the difficulties to surmount in holding services here. An instance of their zeal to the Church is shown in the fact that although not having any service, yet they have contributed for the last two years a considerable sum to the B. H. M. Fund of the Diocese.

The great difficulty experienced hitherto has been in not having a building in which services could with any degree of comfort be held. This has been removed for the present (thanks to the kindness of Messrs. Churchill, who has

given us permission to use the hall), but our efforts to advance Christ's kingdom, and to propagate the truths of God's Holy Catholic Church in this thriving town, cannot be other than spasmodic ones until we have a building which we can call our own.

The Church people in Hantsport and its suburbs are few, numbering only about 14 families, but still too many to be lost to the Church. They are surrounded by Dissenters, and yet they remain steadfast to the Church in which they were regenerated and educated, and whose truths were so firmly fixed in their hearts and minds that their influence still exerts itself, causing them not to leave their "first love." It was indeed surprising to hear such hearty responding and such excellent singing and chanting (the *Te Deum* being rendered splendidly) which we were privileged to hear at the service on Sunday last. The congregation, composed of all denominations, numbered about a hundred.

Will not those who love the Church help us to erect a small building for the honor and glory of God in Hantsport, so that our brethren in this town may have an opportunity of worshipping the God of their fathers as of old. Not only is the want of an Episcopal Church an injury to the Church's progress here, but the growth of the town likewise is impeded by the non-existence of an English Church,—your correspondent knowing of an instance where a Church family, although preferring to live in Hantsport, yet came to Windsor for no other reason than this. In the latter place there is a church, and in the former there is not. If there are any of your readers who feel it to be the duty of the strong to help the weak—the duty of those who are enjoying the blessings and privileges of the ministrations of the Church in their midst to assist in providing the same for their brethren who happen to reside in a less privileged part of the diocese—they can do so by sending contributions, which will be thankfully received, to the incumbent of Falmouth.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—Christ Church Cathedral.—The second so-called service of song took place last Wednesday evening. How these performances are regarded by the secular press appears from the following report taken from the *Star* of the 21st instant:—

"Christ Church Cathedral was crowded last evening to hear Prof. G. Couture's programme for the second service of song. Rev. Mr. Norton presided. Mr. H. Robinson was at the organ, and Mr. Bowles was the accompanist. The opening *merceau* was on the organ, the beautiful overture to "St. Cecilia." The organ also furnished the concluding selection, a Pontifical March, by Lemmeus. The organ solo, allegretto in A minor, was much admired. There were a number of vocal solos by some of our best amateurs, Miss Moylan, Mrs. James Cheesman, Miss Maltby, Miss McFarlane, whose rendering of Gounod's "Hear my Prayer," with violin obligato, with harp and organ, was the gem of the evening, Miss Walker, Mr. McFall and Mr. Lafleur. Miss Shaw, of Portland, was the harpist, and her skill was well shown in the beautiful "Priere-Meditation," a trio for violin, harp and organ. A goodly portion of the music was selected from Gounod, than whom no modern composer has written finer church music, although the older masters were not ignored. A collection was taken up for the benefit of the choir fund.

"A word as to the congregation, or, more properly, the audience. This was composed of all sects of religious belief. Once inside the church, the behaviour of the people was such as one would expect to see at any fashionable concert, with the exception that the remarks were uttered in a more subdued tone. *

* * * During the pieces there was much slamming of doors, occasioned by per-

sons arriving and departing. This very much detracted from the enjoyment of the audience, and was particularly irritating during the rendering of the third number on the programme, the beautiful soprano solo, "Waft her, angels." Again, many of the audience showed very bad taste in being in such a hurry to depart. While the hymn "All people that on earth do dwell" was being sung there was a general putting on of overcoats, wraps, etc., and a perfect stampede from the church commenced. This was continued even while the Benediction was being pronounced. It has been suggested that the doors should be kept closed during the rendering of each number, as is done at all the fashionable concerts."

We have been informed that in some particulars the foregoing remarks of the *Star* are not correct, and that the disorder referred to, if it occurred, must have been confined to those near the doors. But we still think that it can hardly be pretended that the "performance" described possesses much of the character of a "service." We do not for one moment doubt that on the part of the Rector and those acting with him in connection with these "services," there is the best of motive, and that they consider that such opportunities of hearing good sacred music rendered in an able manner is calculated to improve the taste of the mass who have little opportunity, perhaps, for hearing it elsewhere; and that some may be through these services drawn to a more earnest and reverent worship; and we know too that in many Cathedrals in England special services of a somewhat similar character are held, and that such men as Lord Aylwyne Compton, (Bishop designate of Ely), and Dean Lake, can be quoted in their favour. We sympathize fully too with the Rector's desire to give a "Cathedral Service" proper, and in these remarks we do not refer to the services on Sunday, in regard to which we have no personal knowledge. But notwithstanding good motive, perhaps isolated cases of good resulting, and such eminent and competent authority for the practice, we still hold to our opinion and unhesitatingly say that in our judgment these "services of song" would be more fittingly characterized as acts of desecration of the House of God, and as a gross insult to His Name and Service. Christ Church is styled the *Cathedral* of the Diocese, and as such every Churchman has an interest in it; and we most earnestly protest against the continuance of such "services," and object to converting this noble and sacred building into a mere concert hall or academy of music. And should it continue to be so used, we trust that some means may be found whereby the Bishop's *cathedra* may be removed, together with the stalls, of the Canons and of the other dignitaries. Let our churches remain as they have been in the past, holy ground. We feel satisfied, however, that this extreme course will not be necessary, and that the Rector and Church officers, if convinced that strong objection exists to these "services," will discontinue them; feeling assured, as we do, that they only desire to serve and advance the best interests of the Church at large.

Since writing the above, we have received the following further account from one who was present:—

The second service of song in Christ Church Cathedral took place on Wednesday evening, January 20th, at 8 o'clock. The interest taken in it was well evidenced by the immense congregation present. Long before 8 o'clock every seat in the building was occupied, and numbers were standing in the aisles and transepts during the entire service; others, unable to obtain access to the building, had to return home. The music chosen showed excellent judgment in its selection; the rendering of the chorus parts reflected great credit on the choir, and showed a marked improvement over the last service.