

of convocation, surrendered the building for the purposes of the gathering, which began on the evening of Jan. 23rd, at 7.30 o'clock, with choral evensong; about 150 were present, and manifested the keenest interest in the proceedings of the evening. The service over at 8.15, was followed by an open meeting of both orders, the Asst. Bishop Nichols occupying the chair placed at the foot of the chancel. If it be the duty of a chairman to elicit an expression of opinion from a gathering over which he presides, then Bishop Nichols knew and performed his duty admirably; whenever there was a lull in the proceedings or interest seemed about to flag, a summons from the chair to an individual in the audience met with a ready response, and saved the debate from dullness. The first paper on "The Layman and the Kingdom," a most expressive title, was read by Mr. John Sherman, of San Diego, who presented his subject in a most earnest manner. This was followed by numerous short speeches by those present; a bank manager, a judge, a medical man, several clergy contributing thoughts to the discussion, during which many testimonies were borne to that admirable agency which has already roused this great church into splendid enthusiasm, the St. Andrew's Brotherhood, as affording ample scope for lay energies.

The next discussion was upon the "Dissemination of Church Literature," led by Rev. B. W. R. Tayler, who, in a forcible speech, moved a lengthy resolution to the effect that the medium of the secular press should be more utilized than in the past, and that every legitimate use that printer's ink could be put to should be pressed in the service of the Church. In the spirited debate which followed, it came out that this southern population from the standpoint of the Church was made up principally of three classes—those who came in from other places without any Church preference, and who were therefore open to invitation to come into the Church; those who were only partially instructed in Church principles, and those who were its firm adherents. Many pertinent suggestions were offered, such as the distribution of the P.Bk., as a tract, of Little's "Reasons," of Randall's "Why I am a Churchman," of "The Church and her Ways," "The Spirit of Missions, &c., &c." The proceedings of the evening were brought to an end by the touching reference of the chairman to the irreparable loss of Massachusetts' great bishop, the terrible suddenness of whose demise sent a thrill of sorrow throughout the Church of this land. On the next day one of the earliest actions of the convocation was to pass a standing resolution of feeling sympathy with his bereaved diocese. The next day (Tuesday, Jan. 24th), the convocation opened with divine service, consisting of a celebration of the Holy Communion, the Assistant-Bishop being celebrant. A sermon on St. John viii. 12, was preached by Rev. Dr. Wyllys Hall, rector of All Saints', Pasadena, one of the more thriving towns 8 miles from Los Angeles. The sermon was an excellent appeal to all present to be the means of spreading the true light, which in its divine qualities brought men nearer to the standard of the perfect. After the service and calling of roll, the meeting adjourned for lunch. The first half of the afternoon was taken up with hearing the verbal reports of the various missionaries in their different fields of labour, which proved a very interesting feature in the proceedings, and called forth the sympathy of the audience when whatever was worthy of this sweet commodity was described. This was the only occasion on which the voice of this Canadian Churchman was heard, and then only for a few moments, in which to give an account of the stewardship of the little field which he fills as Locum Tenens. It was but the story of three months, telling of the Church's extension into new portions surrounding the mission, of early and more frequent celebrations of Holy Communion, of the formation of a boys' choir, a branch of the W.A., confirmation classes, and the prospect of the erection of a stone font in memory of a former benefactor of the church, and of a belfry. When the reports were over, the general missionary of the convocation, Rev. Mr. Cowie, read a paper on the question of "Retreats," which was deeply spiritual in tone, and evoked the warmest praise of the bishop and clergy present. They have a fearless way here of debating topics that in Canada we seldom hear discussed, which indeed it would seem could not be discussed with any profit under our home conditions. It is the American spirit, strange statements in sermons, the handling of *quaestio vexata*, an application of a truth such as one would hardly dream of, that strike one who is conservative in doctrine and of, that strike one who is conservative in doctrine and debate, as, to say the least, surprising, yet it is that same spirit which when applied to practice in originality of methods, &c., shows the wonderful aggressiveness of the P. E. Church in this land. In the evening the church was filled with an attentive gathering to hear the missionary addresses of the Rev. the Dean of the convocation (Restarick, of San Diego), who took the position on the resignation of Dr. Trew, so well known in our own church, who left San Gabriel to fill the position of assistant rector of St. John's Oakland; the Rev. I. D. K. Browne, of Pomona, formerly editor of the *Church Guardian*, Nova Scotia,

and Rev. Mr. Cowie, the general missionary. It was a great surprise to hear during the course of the evening that a comparison between now and 10 years ago showed 41 churches now, as against 6 then, nearly 7 times as many; 35 clergy to 5 then, 7 times as many, while the contributions were over 18 times as much, being \$56,000 this year as against \$3,000 then. It was further shown that in the city of Los Angeles 10 years ago there was but one small brick church, St. Athanasius which a year or two later gave way to the parish church of St. Paul, of which the Rev. G. F. Bugbee is the efficient and beloved rector, which has since been followed by the erection of 4 more new parishes, Christ Church, St. John's, Epiphany and Ascension. The Church has, therefore, according to statistics, more than kept pace with the increase in the population, whether of the city or of the 7 counties which comprise the southern portion of the State. While there went up a "Laus Deo" from many a heart present at the good news thus presented, still from the earnest speech of Mr. Cowie it was very evident there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed. In a diocese 600 miles long, comprising small settlements and vast areas of ranches, miles apart, which have never had a clergyman, it must be evident there is a good deal of home work yet to be done, and this in short was the final appeal made to all present, let us hope not without good result. The convocation closed the next day at noon, and in a neat speech by the president was congratulated that the members had brought to bear upon the discussions that constructive spirit which was visible to one who had just visited (as he had) the parishes and missions. All had passed off satisfactorily. The proceedings concluded by singing the hymn "Blest be the tie that binds," prayer, and the benediction. After the convocation the president and members adjourned to the beautiful memorial church at Gawanza, 6 miles north-east of Los Angeles, where a "quiet day" was held for the clergy, a programme of which I enclose. The deeply devotional and helpful addresses of the Bishop upon the subjects therein named were found most quickening to the spiritual life of all present; there were great searchings of heart, and everyone felt it good for him to have been there.

J. FIELDING SWEENEY.

Rector, St. Philip's, Toronto.

Acknowledged with Thanks.

SIR,—Will you kindly allow me a space in your columns to thank most sincerely all those who kindly responded to my appeals for assistance in building and starting a Home for Indian children at St. Peter's, Lesser Slave Lake? Many of them I have not been able to write and thank personally, but their kindness was none the less appreciated, and our thankfulness none the less sincere. Having contributed to the work, I feel sure they will be much interested to hear of its progress.

Being too far advanced in the season on my return last summer, to begin and finish the building I proposed to raise before the winter set in, we had to devise other means of accommodation for our boarders; so after some little trouble I succeeded in renting a good sized new house as boys' home, which will entail an additional expense of about \$100; but there was no other alternative, only to postpone the opening of our Home for another year, which would have resulted in losing a good many of our scholars. In this house, Mr. Muller, our new teacher, has 10 boys under his charge. In the mission house, Mrs. Holmes has 8 girls, who demand her constant attention. To accommodate the girls we had to build a small dormitory, and give up our own little sitting room. Mr. Muller is a general favourite with the children, and I think they are making satisfactory progress under his tuition. It is astonishing the change which three months indoor training has made in these poor children. All who attended our Xmas festival were quite surprised, and said it was difficult to realize that such a marvellous change could be wrought upon such rough material in two months. Though a blessed work, it is hard, trying work, and from our brief experience we already see that it will be quite impossible for Mrs. Holmes to do all the work in connection with the Girls' Home, together with all her other household duties, single handed, especially when the girls are removed into a separate building, as we hope (D.V.) they will be next fall. We shall be thankful if our Christian friends will help us in raising the salary for an assistant.

I am happy for this privilege of expressing our most sincere thanks to the Women's Auxiliary for all their valuable help in sending us so much nice warm clothing, etc.; in fact, I don't know what we could do without it. Apart from it we would not have been in a position to take in a single child this winter. Besides clothing all our scholars, we have been able to pay for all the fish required for the Homes out of the bales, which in cash would have cost little short of \$100. For the guidance of those who desire to help us in any way, I may say that we are always short of boys' clothing, owing, I suppose,

to the difficulty ladies find in gathering boys' clothing, but as I stated last year, where ready-made clothing is not available, the raw material is all we require. Knitted jerseys (blue) are very serviceable either for summer or winter.

To start a Home of this kind, we found it no easy matter, for besides provisions and clothing we needed the hundred and one other things, such as cooking utensils, dishes and plates, knives and forks, soap and towels and tinware, of all descriptions.

For the support of children I find we shall need about \$25 per head, apart from clothing, which we hope to find in the bales. As our friends are aware, we have no grant whatever to meet this need, but are entirely dependent upon contributions. We have already reached the limit of our means of accommodation and support. On the roll we have 18 boarders and 2 day scholars. I have now two men in the bush getting out logs and boards for our new Home, which by the time we can place them where we intend to build, will cost \$250. I shall then have in hand a balance of \$200, out of the \$450 collected for that purpose, to do the building and furnishing. This sum will be insufficient for both, but we trust that the rest will be forthcoming by the time it is needed.

We are much in need of a good sized bell for the school. At present we have no means of calling our scholars to meals, prayers or school.

As regards more direct missionary work, I am thankful to say God is still blessing our feeble efforts. Within the last four months, other three have come out on the Lord's side, and a few weeks ago joined us around His table. May the Lord grant them to grow up to the full stature of manhood in Christ, and become bright and shining lights to their fellowmen.

GEO. HOLMES.

P.S.—Contributions may be forwarded to the Rev. W. A. Burman, St. Paul's Industrial School, near Winnipeg. G. H.

Appeal.

SIR,—Before all those who are already interested in our Indian work and homes, and those who desire to become so, I lay the following appeal. In the far North-West, in the province of Alberta, lies the Blood Reserve. This reserve is inhabited by some 1,800 Indians, who, but a few short years ago, were a fierce and warlike tribe, among whom a white man dare not venture without endangering his life. Now, owing largely to the hard work and self-denying efforts of our missionaries, this fierce tribe is becoming civilized, and we trust ere long will be Christianized. Those who know something of the character of this people, and their wild, romantic ways, will read a hopeful sign in the fact that their chiefs are waiting on our missionary, and asking him to take their children into the Homes, and teach them in the white man's ways, ways not always the best, but we know that under the instruction of the missionary these children will be well grounded in Christian truths, and prepared to resist the temptations of the world, which sooner or later they cannot fail to come in contact with. Already, in connection with the Mission Home, there is a large Girls' Home, which was formally opened and dedicated by the Bishop of Saskatchewan and Calgary, on the 24th Jan., and named the "St. Paul's Home for Indian Girls." There are already fifteen in the Home, and ten more will be admitted as soon as funds will allow. One hundred dollars has still to be raised before the building will be out of debt, and then means are required for furnishing. A Boys' Home is sadly needed, and the government have promised a grant of \$750 towards the building of one, provided the other \$750 required to complete it can be raised by the end of June. The Rev. F. Swainson, missionary, hopes to be able to get \$250 of this from friends in England, and he appeals to Eastern Canada, asking that she will do all she can to raise the \$500 that will still be required. But to return to the Girls' Home and its needs. We all know, at least housekeepers do, that to cook, bake, wash, etc., for from 20 to 25 people, you must have a good store, and that to do successful work without one is impossible. Besides the cookery for the Home, there are the Indian feasts that are given at certain seasons of the year, and if you ever saw what an Indian can dispose of at a meal, you would wonder how one stove, be it ever so good, could cook the needed supply. During my stay on the Sarcee Reserve, for a small feast we baked fifty loaves of bread, four hundred buns, fifty pounds of meat, and made, I should not like to say how many gallons of tea. Now here is a description of the stove the mission party have been trying to struggle along with. Across the oven is a chasm; the front and grate are burned out, there is one lonely leg left. It takes three hours to bake a loaf of bread, and when it comes out of the oven those who have to eat it can only say, we asked of it bread, and it gave us a stone. Much suffering has been caused by partaking of this kind of food.

On the trip the diocesan secretary and treasurer made two years ago to these centres of mission work in the N. W., we saw and learned much of what has to be endured by those who are working in this