

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—The Diocesan Sunday-school Association held its first monthly meeting of the present year on Monday evening, the 18th Feb., in the Synod Hall, when there was a good attendance of teachers and friends. The Lord Bishop presided, and was supported by Dean Carmichael; there were also present of the Clergy Rural Dean Lindsay, and Revs. King, Dixon and Everett, Dr. L. H. Davidson, Mr. R. H. Buchanan, Secretary, and others. A very instructive paper was read by Rev. Principal Henderson, on "How to Study the Bible," founded on the quotation from St. Augustine that the Scriptures were capable of being taken in first draughts, second draughts and third draughts, the meaning of which Dr. Henderson admirably explained; urging in the course of his remarks the study of Holy Writ in the original Greek or Hebrew, illustrating by two or three well chosen passages how much the force, spirit, and intensity of meaning is oftentimes lost by the insufficiency of the English language to express the various meanings of the Greek or Hebrew terms. Ven. Archdeacon Kirkby, for over twenty-five years a Missionary in the Northwest (of Canada), specially in the neighborhood of Hudson's Bay, but now having a cure in the State of New York, followed with a humorous and practical address, in which he especially dwelt upon the necessity of distinct Church teaching in Sunday-schools. He strongly opposed the use of the International Scheme of Lessons in Church Sunday-schools, pointing out its unsuitability and insufficiency, and urged all teachers to be loyal to the Church and use Her own Scheme, Leaflets, &c. He also in passing expressed astonishment at having found in use in the Cathedral Sunday school, a compilation of hymns or songs of the Moody and Sankey type, pointing out how the use of these operated against the Church by familiarizing Her children—not with the hymns and tunes which they would find used and hear in the services of the Church—but with others, which would rather lead them into accord and sympathy with dissent, and make them more at home in a dissenting chapel than in the Church. He also took occasion to expose the fallacy underlying the excuse offered by those who fail to follow the Church's system and teaching, that it mattered not if they only led the children to Christ: which he said was the end of all Church teaching, and more likely to follow upon faithful use of Her plan than in any other way. The address throughout was interspersed with pleasing illustrations and was one of the most admirable that has been given before the Association. In strange contrast, however, with the tone of Archdeacon Kirkby's remarks was the use of these same evangelistic hymns (so called) during the meeting, and this too when the Diocese has its own Diocesan Hymnal Hymns, Ancient and Modern also being extensively used. When will this nuisance cease! Who is responsible?

A very hearty vote of thanks was tendered to Archdeacon Kirkby, and to Principal Henderson, and the Bishop closed the meeting with the Benediction.

ST. LUKE'S.—The annual Sunday-school festival of this Church took place on Friday evening the 15th, inst., and proved a great success. The members of the school were provided with tea, and every child received a box of sweets. The report of the superintendent, Mr. J. G. Snasdell, showed the marked growth of the school in late years. At the present time there are 378 members, 337 of whom were present last Sunday, and the Bible class alone, conducted by Mr. Dart, numbers 120. The school is therefore much larger than it has ever been since the erection of the church thirty-five years ago. The Rev. Mr. Rogers

Rector, warmly thanked the teachers and officers for their faithful work.

Trinity Church.—The "Messiah" was given in this Church on Monday evening, the 22nd inst., by the Philharmonic Society, under the leadership of Mr. Couture, who is also the organist and choirmaster of Trinity Church. Admission was by tickets previously distributed, and the Church was crowded to the doors: every available space—save the chancel proper—being filled with extra seats; even standing room was hardly obtainable. The sacred character of the building did not seem to be fully realized by all, prior to the entry of the clergy. About 8 o'clock the Bishop of the Diocese in full robes, preceded by the Rev. E. A. W. King, M. A., and the Rector, the Rev. Canon Mills, B. D., entered the church; and the latter having taken his place at the Prayer desk, and the Bishop and Mr. King in the chancel, several collects and the Lord's Prayer were said by the Rector, after which he reminded those present that they were in the House of God and that consequently no applause would be allowed. The conduct of those present was, if not as reverent as during the regular services, yet astonishingly good for such a large audience. Mr. Reed, organist of the American Presbyterian Church, acted as organist, and the soloists were: *sopranos*, Misses Agnew, Macfarlane and Macpherson; *altos*, Miss Grier and Mrs. Wallace; *tenor*, Mr. Power; and *bass*, Mr. Fisk. Taken as a whole, Mr. Couture is to be congratulated upon the result of the effort; but we thought there was an absence of spirit and feeling in the rendering of most of the solos, and indeed in many of the choruses, and the soloists, with one or two exceptions, seemingly did not realize the size of the building, and were wanting in force and strength. We were disappointed in the chorus "And the Glory of the Lord," and somewhat also in that, "For unto us,"—but the "Hallelujah" was good, and also the concluding, "Worthy is the Lamb." But the enjoyment of this last was destroyed for those who wished to hear, by the irreverent and hasty departure of a large part of the audience, who apparently forgot the reverence manifested at the "Hallelujah," and as soon as this last chorus began commenced to put on wraps, leave their seats and make for the doors, in utter disregard of the grand ascription of praise and of worship which closes this grand composition. On another occasion it would not be amiss to notify the congregation that the doors would be kept closed till after the Benediction.

W. A. M. S.—The annual meeting of the Diocesan Branch of the Women's Auxiliary Missionary Society was held in this city, on Tuesday, the 19th Feb. Holy Communion intended for the members of the Association was celebrated at 9.30 a.m., the Lord Bishop being celebrant, assisted by the Rector of Montreal, (the Rev. Dr. Norton), and his assistant, Mr. Smith. At half-past 10 the business meeting commenced in the Library of the Synod Hall, at which the Bishop presided. Reports from other branches were read and adopted. Miss Tilton, of Ottawa, and Miss Emery, of New York, a very prominent Mission worker of the Sister Church of the U.S., delivered addresses.

In the afternoon, an "At home," given by the Diocesan Branch, was held in the Theological College, (the residence of Mrs. Henderson), when a large number of friends of the work were present and availed themselves of the opportunity of meeting Miss Emery.

A public meeting was held in the evening in the Synod Hall, the Lord Bishop presiding. Miss Emery gave an interesting address on missions, advocating a steady earnestness of purpose. The Ven. Archdeacon Kirkby followed, and delivered an address which alternated between genial humor and deep earnestness. He gave a review of his missionary work during the 28 years since, he gave his first missionary address in 1852, after which he set out

from England, and after a tedious voyage reached Fort York in Hudson's Bay, whence he journeyed south to Manitoba. He reached Fort Simpson, met a tribe of Indians who had never seen a missionary, acquired their language, and laboured amongst them. It was a proud day in his life when he first crossed the Arctic circle. He felt thankful that he was the first to carry tidings of the light into the land of ice and snow. He also bore testimony to the fidelity, gentleness and upright disposition of the Indians when approached in a fair and honorable spirit. A vote of thanks having been passed, the meeting closed with the benediction.

ABBOTSFORD.—On Friday, 22nd instant, the Rev. W. Percy Chambers was inducted to the cure of this parish, in succession to Rev. Canon Robinson, M. A., resigned. The Ven. Archdeacon Lindsay, M. A., representing the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, began the service of Induction prescribed by the Synod, and read the letter of Canon Robinson resigning the charge he had borne for over forty years, as well as the Bishop's letter accepting the same, and notifying the wardens of the appointment of Mr. Chambers. The wardens handed the keys of the Church and the Service Books to the Rector elect, after which the retiring Rector read Evensong with the specially appointed Psalms and services. The Archdeacon preached a suitable and appropriate sermon from Ephesians vi, 19-20, making touching reference to the long continued and faithful ministrations of Canon Robinson, and giving warm words of counsel to both people and pastor. The parish of Abbotsford, the preacher stated, had now been in existence for sixty years, though now for the first time entering upon self-support.

For Diocese of Nova Scotia see page 6.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

PORTLAND.—St. Paul's—One of the most attractive and artistic of children's entertainments was given on the 23rd inst. in St. Paul's school-house under the auspices of the young people who compose the committee of management of St. Paul's Band of Mercy, many of whom took a leading part in the performances. The school house was filled by the little people and their older friends. After the anniversary Band of Mercy song the curtain rose on a charming little scene—three mice spinning, an old cat watching from a window, the spinning-wheel turned in time to a bright little tune sung by some of the choir boys. This was followed by two effective tableaux from the Sleeping Beauty. After an interlude of music, several animated scenes from Blue Beard were given. The richness of the Oriental costumes, which were carried out with correctness and taste, made the tableau very effective. The principal performers were: The Misses Rowe, Mr. C. Rowe, the Misses Walker, Miss L. Brock, Miss J. Hazen, Miss M. Crocker, Miss M. Troop, Mr. Harold Wright and Mr. Bowyer Smith, and Masters I. Walker, Philip's Robinson and Charles Shaw. Mr. T. B. Robinson (Pres. of St. Paul's Band) made a good director, and at the close called upon members of bands to join him in reciting the "Pledge of Kindness." Miss Underhill presided at the piano. Mrs. Gandy, Miss M. Shaw, Miss Brock and Miss Sadteir kindly assisted in the music. Miss Coster took all charge behind the scenes. The Wiggins orphan boys sang "Bo-peep," and the tap of their drum was heard in the National Anthem, which closed a very enjoyable evening. It is hoped it may be repeated at some future time, as it gave so much pleasure to all present. The thanks of the Band are particularly due to Miss Coster, to whose ingenuity and artistic taste, even in the smallest details, the success of this entertainment is almost entirely due.