

the number of members and in the interest taken generally in missionary work. The visits of Mrs. Cummings and Miss Patterson to the different branches have undoubtedly contributed to this result and have aroused considerable enthusiasm. Junior branches have also been formed and have proved beneficial. At the meeting on Thursday Mrs. Williamson was re-elected President, and Mrs. Cummings Diocesan Secretary, and Mrs. Grindley treasurer in place of Miss Holland, retired, and to whom a hearty vote of thanks was returned for her valuable services in the past. Mrs. Forsyth Grant and Mrs. Francis were unanimously elected superintendents of the Junior work and Miss Patterson as Treasurer of Dorcas Society.

Letters were received from Miss Shirlock, the medical missionary to Japan, Miss Perkes, Matron of the Blackfoot Home at Gleichen, and from the Bishop of Saskatchewan. Miss Perkes intends to give up her summer months to a visit to the Sarcie Indians and will be glad to receive gifts for children. Thank offerings were announced to the extent of \$32 60.

At the afternoon session Mrs. W. C. Nicholson read a very exhaustive paper on mission work, referring particularly to such work in the United States, where there were fifty-two Dioceses and fifteen missionary jurisdictions and where the Woman's Auxiliary had a branch in nearly every diocese. She also spoke of the work of the Church in the Islands of the Atlantic and the Pacific and in Africa, in Egypt, in India, Australia, New Zealand, China, and Japan. Speaking of China she said there were three bishoprics established and hospitals for medical missionary work. In Japan the American Church began work in 1859, and the Church of England in 1869. She also pointed out the urgency of the work amongst the Chinese on our own continent, and urged those present to contrast the way in which missionary associations here are able to do such work with that done by Bishops Tacher and Corfe and many other missionaries.

In the afternoon of Thursday there was also a great gathering of the junior branches, at which the Rev. A. N. Kirkby, for twenty-seven years a missionary at Mackenzie River, addressed the children in a most interesting and attractive manner, relating incidents of his work amongst the Indians in that district. Mrs. Forsyth Grant reported briefly the work for year, which showed eight new branches formed and twenty-three in all as existing.

At 8 o'clock in the evening a public missionary meeting was held, at which the Lord Bishop of the Diocese presided. The secretary of the Board of Missions, Rev. Dr. Mockridge, presented a report, and Archdeacon Kirkby and Rev. Professor Lloyd delivered addresses.

St. James' Cathedral.—The Queen's Birthday falling on Sunday, reference to the event was made in almost all the city Churches, and the National Anthem was in each case one of the hymns sung.

A special service of Evensong was held in St. James' Cathedral. The fine old edifice was filled to the doors, many of the aldermen and leading citizens being present. His Worship the Mayor was only prevented from attendance (since he had been specially invited) through the serious illness of one of his children. More than ordinary pains were taken by Mr. Elliot Haslam and his assistants to make the musical portion suitable to the occasion, and their efforts were very successful. An especial feature of the music was the introduction of four cornets, one of which was played by Mr. Herbert L. Clarke, and three trombones. The effect was very fine. The Cantata Domino, composed by Tozer, and with an introduction by Mr. Haslam, was given with marked success by the choir. The introduction to the Deus Misereatur was also by Mr. Haslam. For the anthem were the words commencing, 'After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude,' in which the tenor solo

was taken by Mr. Aldratt, and the baritone solo by Mr. Chambers. 'Before Jehovah's Awful Throne' was the processional, and the National Anthem the recessional, hymn. Psalms xxi., lxxii., and cl. were sung in place of those appointed for the twenty-fourth evening of the month.

Rev. Canon DuMoulin preached from Daniel iv., 17, 'The Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whom he will.' After referring to the circumstances under which the words were spoken, he further said he would suggest a great practical lesson which a life laid bare for two and seventy years proclaimed to all the world. Such a suggestion might not be considered to be made in a spirit of sycophancy, in a land far separated from the throne, with no royal favors to look for, and must therefore be credited with the greatest possible earnestness and sincerity. Fifty two years ago a young girl, aged 18, was called upon to ascend the loftiest throne on earth. Nor was her position made easier by the unworthy lives of those who had occupied such exalted stations. In fact loyalty had mightily run down in the popular estimation. Who was to raise it, to recover its lost reputation, rehabilitate it, make it revered, respected, and acknowledged by all people? The answer to this question was returned in the sentence of an inexperienced and trembling girl of 18.

That weak trembling bark was launched on the wild and weary sea of public political life with words of solemn trust in the King of Kings. This was no exaggeration. The most authentic records of history show that the first request of those young lips was made to the Head of the Church that he would pray to Almighty God for her in that tremendous hour that she might be able to rule in the fear of the Lord. This reign had now attained to 52 years. Mightily blessed was the young sovereign in her own person, in her family, in her whole domestic life. While the world recounts these blessings, perhaps the government and interposition of the Great Ruler of all is in nothing more apparent than in those afflictions which it pleased Him to mingle with her cup of blessing. Soon the noble Prince, whom all the Empire had learned to love and revere, weary with the march of life, laid it down and left to us a precious and mournful legacy in the widowed Queen. A child followed, grandchildren passed away, and over all were inscribed these sacred words, which for 3,000 years have been the grand consolation of all the afflicted, 'The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord.' Now that illustrious life of 72 years lies open before us with all its changes, with all its great joys and woful sorrows, its pomp and pageantry, its quiet, gentle domestic hours, its publicity and its privacy, and we may say with the voice of sincerity and truth that the whole weight and influence of this royal life has been most decidedly and unquestionably on the side of all lovely and good virtues. Twice was a maniac hand upheld to take away that life, and as often did the mighty hand of Jehovah stretch out and protect it. This life is for us a noble example of a good ruler and a good woman. 'A thousand claims to reverence went to her as mother, wife, and queen.' No life in all the Empire throughout these years has been so greatly, so constantly exposed: no life has been so safe and so secure as that of Victoria. She may drive through the heart of London, with its Socialism, its discontent, its loud murmuring, its splendour and wealth, and no voice is uplifted; no cry follows her but the cry of acclamation and the shout of welcome and hearty English joy. All her subjects in the world shout 'his day the song, as perhaps never before, 'God Save the Queen.'

DIOCESE OF RUPERT'S LAND.

RUPERT'S LAND INDIAN SCHOOL.—In the list of collections for this school, kindly printed in

your issue of April 22nd last, the amount sent through the Rev. W. T. Hill, London, should have been \$2, instead of \$1.

DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.

NEW WESTMINSTER.—The Bishop has fixed the 9th June for the annual meeting of Synod, which will be held this year in New Westminster.

The *Churchman's Gazette* of this diocese in its May number, acknowledges the receipt of case 39, which had been opened and found to contain parcels from the following: Mrs. Shenton, Miss Wilshe, Mr. Howe, Mr. Glover, F. Latter, Mrs. Glascoodine, Pratt & Sons, Mrs. Thynne, also one parcel of Altar Linen, etc., from Miss F. A. Macdonald for which we are deeply indebted.

Our contemporary, the *Churchman's Gazette*, refers to the question of Education and the connection of the Church therewith, in an article upon the new Public Schools Act of the Province, and which apparently excludes Ministers of religion from appointment or election as superintendents, teachers or trustees. To this strong exception is taken. Reference is also made to an Act for removing the exemption from taxation hitherto existing in this Province, in favor of the Churches and property of religious denominations, which Act is strongly objected to.

The Bishop of the Diocese has made claim in his corporate capacity upon the Government for a large plot of land opposite Douglas street Cemetery, which was set apart for the See in the official survey of the city made by the Royal Engineers, as far back as 1863, and which also was marked out on several official plans of later date. Although the grant by the Crown was evidently intended to be made, the formal patent was never issued and the question as to the disposal of the property has remained unsettled. A lengthy correspondence commenced some years ago with the officials at Victoria, but the matter has been put off from time to time. The Bishop has as part of his case a written statement of the late General and Governor of the Mainland, under date 14th May, 1883, to the effect that he distinctly remembers that such reservation was made for the See of Columbia, either for a residence or for a college or school, but not to be portioned out into lots for leasing, and that the actual grant was withheld until such time as there should be a resident Bishop and a See on the Mainland.

VANCOUVER.—On Palm Sunday the Bishop confirmed thirty-four candidates at St. James', thirteen males and twenty-one females. He delivered an impressive address on the Apostolic nature and sacramental character of the rite of Confirmation.

On Easter Day the total number of communicants at St. James' at the three celebrations was 180, an increase of thirty over the number last year.

At St. Paul's the Bishop also held a Confirmation service on Palm Sunday, when nine persons received the laying on of hands. At the vestry meeting on Easter Monday it was decided to call a meeting of the congregation to consider the advisability of making this mission a separate parish.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[The name of Correspondent must in all cases be enclosed with letter, but will not be published unless desired. The Editor will not hold himself responsible, however, for any opinions expressed by Correspondents.]

OUR INDIAN HOMES

To Editor of the *Church Guardian*:

DEAR SIR,—I am just back from a trip to my Western Homes at Elk Horn and Medicine Hat, also to the Blood and Piegan Indians at