

The Rev. Canon Belt preached at the opening service, Oct. 10th, the Rev. Rural Dean Mackenzie, of Milton, and Rev. J. Kennell, of Georgetown, with the incumbent, Rev. J. H. Fletcher, conducting the service. After Holy Communion, the session of Oct. 11th was occupied in discussing part of the marriage service, Rome VIII. 1.11, (in Greek) and various parish matters. The bishop confirmed five young persons in St. Luke's Church, Palermo, on Monday, Oct. 17th, and six more at Omagh Church on the afternoon of that day.

**MISSION OF ARTHUR AND ALMA.**—Harvest thanksgiving services were held in Grace Church, Arthur, and Holy Trinity, Alma, on 29th Sept., both churches being beautifully decorated by the ladies of the parishes. The Rev. J. C. Davidson, of Colborne, preached. On the following Thursday the parochial harvest home dinner was given, followed by an excellent concert under the auspices of Grace Church choir. The attendance was very large and resulted in the sum of \$100 being cleared for the building fund.

**HAMILTON.**—St. Luke's.—Yesterday being St. Luke's Day, a special service was held in St. Luke's Church, corner of John and Macaulay streets, at 8 p.m. The wooden building at present in use is expected to be replaced by a more commodious and substantial edifice at no very distant date. The earnest and energetic clergyman, Rev. W. Massey, and his united and attached congregation have that object in view, and some progress has been made towards its accomplishment. St. Luke's, which was opened as a mission chapel in connection with Christ Church Cathedral a few years ago, was found to supply a felt want for the Church of England population in that part of the city, and was soon erected into an independent parish, in which a good work is being quietly and faithfully done for the cause of Christ. In the evening the church was filled with a devout congregation and a hearty service held. Rev. Dr. Mockridge sang the service and the Bishop preached an excellent sermon from the text, "Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world; only Luke is with me." (1 Tim. iv. 10-11.) The lessons were read by Rev. E. Irving, of Dundas, and Rev. J. B. Mead, of Niagara. Rev. Mr. Soward, of Kinmount, Diocese of Toronto, and Rev. C. R. Lee, of Holy Trinity Church, were also present. The organist and choir of men and boys acquitted themselves creditably, and the offerings, which were liberal, will be applied to the liquidation of a debt of \$100 still due on the organ.

HURON.

**CULLODEN.**—St. Alban's.—A very interesting and important event in the history of this little church was the recent harvest thanksgiving held on the nineteenth Sunday after Trinity. The church, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Henry Price, of Verchyle, and the Misses Price, of Quebec, was beautifully decorated for the occasion with devices in wheat, oats and fruit, the altar being surmounted with a cross of wheat. Hangings for lecturn and prayer desk prepared by the same loving hands were also displayed for the first time. The Incumbent of Tilsonburg, Rev. R. F. Dixon, under whose charge the mission has been placed, officiated at matins and celebrated Holy Communion, over twenty receiving. A liberal collection was taken up towards liquidating the debt on the church, which has now been reduced by one-half and stands at about \$75. Mrs. Henry Price presided at the organ. The history of this little mission church is a wonderful illustration of what can be done by lay effort. About eighteen months ago the incumbent of Tilsonburg prevailed upon Mr. W. R. Cross, a member of his congregation, to commence service in an Orange hall. Since then, under all sorts of discouragements and difficulties service has been kept up in this village without a single break by various young men from Tilsonburg, and now a neat little church has been erected which is about free of debt. The present lay reader in charge is Mr. Herbert Dransfield, late of Yorkshire, England, who is doing an excellent work and rapidly building up the congregation. Mr. Dransfield is a candidate for Holy Orders.

**RIDGETOWN.**—A most enjoyable and profitable Harvest Thanksgiving was held in the Church of the Advent on the 18th and 19th September. The Church presented a scene of tasteful elegance in decoration, which spoke well for the artistic capabilities of those engaged in thus presenting the "first-fruits" in their most beautiful dress. Three times on Sunday was the church crowded to its utmost capacity, the children's flower service attracting many in the afternoon. Their offerings of fruit amounting to nearly 200 lbs. was presented to the Orphans' Home, London. Over \$100 will be put on the building fund as the visible outcome of the festival, of which over \$44 were

placed on the offertory plates at the services which were conducted by the incumbent, Rev. A. F. Burt, assisted by Rev. W. B. Rally, M.A.

On October 2nd his lordship the bishop, after a most loving and eloquent exhortation, confirmed twenty-three candidates, ranging from 14 to 60 years of age. Of these two had been Universalists and one a Methodist. A small but energetic congregation which will in time become a larger one under proper and careful direction.

**Church Women's Jubilee Offering to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund of Algoma.**—Mrs. Boomer thankfully acknowledges further contributions to the above fund as follows:—A second offering from Strathroy—from 105 contributors, \$80.20; from Galt, third donation from Mrs. Howell, \$4.00, a second donation from Dr. and Mrs. Beaumont, now of St. Thomas, Ont., \$5.00; George H. Timbary, of Shelburne, \$2.00; from St. George's, London West, Mrs. (Canon) Newman, \$5.00, Mrs. Lings, \$5.00, Mrs. Kingsmill, \$1.00; from Petrolia, per Mrs. Kirkpatrick, \$6.24, the contributions of the "girls of the Sunday School, the members of the Womens' Bible Class and their teachers."

**SOMBRA.**—His Lordship, the Bishop, confirmed a class of twenty-nine persons, presented by the Rev. William Stout, at Trinity Church, on the 14th instant. A large congregation listened with marked attention to the bishop's able address. The Rev. J. Bearfoot, of Wallaceburg, assisted in the service. The bishop met a number of the parishioners, in the afternoon, at the incumbent's residence, when matters relating to the future welfare of the mission received his attention and advice.

**Episcopal Visitations and Confirmation.**—The Lord Bishop of Huron has been engaged for some weeks in the Episcopal visitation of the parishes of Lambton, Kent and Essex deaneries. In all these western churches there have been classes of candidates carefully instructed by those who had been commissioned to "feed the lambs." Heretofore the confirmation services, here, were triennial; now they are at least annual. This increased episcopal labor, doubtless is necessitated partly by the incessant expansion and internal growth of the church, and the additional number of laborers sent to the fields already white for the harvest.

**LONDON TOWNSHIP.**—Rev. Mr. Freeman, assistant minister of St. Paul's Cathedral, officiated in St. Matthew's Church, in the absence of the incumbent, Rev. W. M. Seaborne. This congregation, the youngest of our suburban churches, promises, by its great progress, to supply a much felt need in that vicinity; there is a good congregation and choir, and a hearty united service by pastor and people.

**LONDON CATHEDRAL.**—The Rev. Mr. Brick preached in the cathedral a most interesting mission sermon at Matins on Sunday, the nineteenth after Trinity. Mr. Brick has been for the past five years laboring among the Indians on the Peace River. This district is a portion of the great North-West, lying about 650 miles north of Calgary. The work in which he is engaged is a most arduous one. Preparatory to the christianization of the Indians it is necessary to civilize them in some measure, to instruct them in the first element of industry and a civilized life. This part our vast domain is almost unknown to us in Canada. These Peace River Indians have not, it seems, been parties to these treaties, that ensure to the natives annuities in return for their birthright in the territories. The government now have been brought to take a deep interest in these remote people, and they have pledged to a grant of \$2,000, on condition that Mr. Brick raises \$2,500 more. For this purpose he has come from his far distant mission home, and has already succeeded in obtaining some \$1,800, and is now appealing to those who are in the enjoyment of christian privileges in this favored land to assist in this truly philanthropic work. He preached at Even-song in St. James Church, and this afternoon (Wednesday) he delivers a lecture for the same object in the Memorial Church. He is also to deliver a lecture in the Cronyn Hall.

**LONDON.**—Christ Church.—A second sacred concert was given by request, in Christ Church, on Monday evening, Oct. 10. The programme was opened with a hymn, followed by a solo from Mr. F. Jewell. The choir then sang a selection of Psalms. After a sacred solo by Mr. Davis, an organ solo by Mr. Barron and a sacred song by Miss Raymond, an address was given by Rev. Prof. Sage, of Hellmouth Ladies' College. At the closing of the first part Mr. Halle gave the solo, "Lord, remember Daniel." In the second part of the concert Mr. Davis, Mr. F. Jewell, Miss Raymond, Mr. Barron and Miss Jones sang sacred pieces, and all

were highly and justly appreciated; the whole being under the direction of Mr. Halle, the organist of the choir.

**WINGHAM.**—Rev. Cooper Robinson, of London, is officiating at St. Paul's Church, Wingham, until the arrival, in the parish, of the Rev. Mr. Moorhouse, the incumbent.

**STRATHROY.**—The building and improvement committee of St. John's Church have lost no time in commencing their work. Already workmen are actively engaged in enlarging, repairing and otherwise improving the sacred building.

**GLANWORTH.**—The new church is to be opened for divine worship on Sunday, the twentieth, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Huron.

ALGOMA.

The Bishop and his family leave Sault Ste. Marie for Toronto on the 26th inst. His address during the winter months will be 47 Gould St.

**ST. JOSEPH'S ISLAND.**—The bishop made his annual visit to this mission a few days ago. He arrived at Richard's Landing on Saturday, Sept. 24th, and remained until Wednesday, 27th. Sunday, Monday and Tuesday were spent in travelling over the island and holding services in each of Mr. Beer's six stations. At Jocelyn the bishop, instead of a sermon, gave a most interesting missionary address. Our bishop's eloquent sermons, and his genial friendliness are a source of great pleasure to us, and we look forward to his annual coming amongst us with joyful expectation.

The Rev. H. Beer desires to acknowledge the receipt of a box of clothing and sundries from a lady at Niagara, also a nice present of a set of dishes for Mrs. Beer from another lady at Niagara, for both of which gifts he is sincerely thankful.

SKETCH OF LESSON.

21ST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY. OCT. 30TH, 1887.

A Prophet Hired to Curse.

Passage to be read.—Numb. xxii. 1-6, 12, 22, 23.

Israelites returned from Bashan to Jordan Valley. What hills near them? Those of Moab, with whom their relations have been friendly. Now, however, fearing the fate of Sihon and Og, the Moabites desire to destroy Israel, but being afraid of open attack, they determine upon another plan, and begin their I. Search for the Prophet.—Balaam, the son of Beor, of whom they have heard, or who may have been seen by the Midianites in their trading journeys. Although he lives across the Desert, on the shores of the Euphrates, and is therefore a long way off, they send to him; because they (like all oriental nations) are very superstitious, and believe that those whom Balaam curses will be cursed. Note, that whilst doubting the capacity of their own sooth-sayers to curse Israel with any result, they believe in the power of that prophet who speaks by the mouth of Israel's own God.

II. The Prophet is Tempted.—He is merely a fortune-teller by trade, but seems for a while to have desired to be God's prophet and servant, if at the same time he could enjoy the "wages of unrighteousness" derived from his profitable sooth-saying. He is now, (outwardly at any rate) a worshipper of God; and for a time even speaks in His name. When invited to go to Balak he knows what God's answer will be; yet he asks permission, which is refused. When a second deputation arrives with greater temptations, he tries once more to gain consent from Jehovah to his going. This time it is given, though with a stern caution (v. 20). This certainly should have been enough; but still hoping that he may gain the rewards offered by Balak, he persists in going; thus at length making it plain that he was serving not God but Mammon. Yet God is merciful, and

III. The Prophet is Warned.—Significant that he whose "eyes had been opened" who "had seen a vision of the Almighty" should now be blind to see what the ass sees clearly! Still more wonderful the fact of the ass speaking. And most startling of all, the sight of the angry angel! Yet Balaam is not overcome by surprise and terror, because his conscience is hardened by sin; and so, in spite of the Angel's utterance (v. 32) he does not even now turn back, but indirectly asks permission to go on. This time he is commanded to proceed. Soon Balak meets him, and together they go to a high hill where, looking over the camp of Israel, they conjointly offer