

## News from the Home Field.

Gathered specially for this paper by Our Own Correspondents.

## DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

**HALIFAX—Church of England Institute**—The Annual Service of the Institute was held last Thursday, in St. Paul's Church. The Service was a remarkably hearty one, fully choral, the confession and versicles being sung to the ordinary cathedral settings. Most of the Halifax clergy were present, and sat in the chancel. The Lord Bishop pronounced the Benediction. The preacher of the evening was the Rev. Canon Dart, who, in a very able sermon, shewed that evil had ever been mingled with the good in the Church, probably ever would be, and yet this defect should not make us lose heart, but spur us on to greater watchfulness and deeper sympathy towards those who differed from us. The preacher noted the apparent contemporary antagonism of different schools of thought in the Church, and said that if greater charity and sympathy were exercised, the very comprehensiveness of the Church would be one of her greatest blessings. The words of the learned President of King's College must have made a deep impression on all present. Much praise is due to those who worked to make the Service so bright and hearty.

**HALIFAX**—The Churches, in their various organizations, are shewing much activity in the city. The lectures of the Church of England Institute do an immense amount of good. Canon Partridge delivered a remarkably scholarly one on "Luther," and the lecturer learnedly expounded the true principles of the Reformation in the Church of England. The Rev. F. R. Murray lectured last Monday on "The Early British Church," and eloquently met and answered the sophistries of the Archbishop of Halifax on the subject. On Thursday the Rev. A. J. Townsend lectured in the Academy of Music on behalf of Trinity Church. The talents of the lecturer will ensure him a full house.

**ALBION MINES**—The Sunday Schools met in Church at 4.50, on the 3rd January. Eighty-five were present. The Rector held a short children's service, and said a few loving words upon the children's special claim upon Christmas, and held up to them for imitation the highest standard of childhood, viz., Him who "was subject unto His parents," Creator of the Worlds though He be. An informal procession then went the length of Stellarton street to the Temperance Hall, where tea, cake, oranges, apples, candies, awaited the young folks, who enjoyed their games as heartily as heart could wish. The teachers and other kind helpers deserve their gratitude, and have it. All finished with God Save the Queen, and three cheers.

**Foreign Missions**—The Appeal did not reach the clergyman's hands until January 2, consequently could not be read till Epiphany. This was unfortunate, as December 30 was fine, and we had good congregations, but the same chill greeted the *Foreign Appeal* which had deprived many of having the *General* one a fortnight ago. Mr. Moore, at all three Services, plead for the cause, and we pray God will open the hearts and purses of his hearers, for it is a solemn truth that no congregation can be said to be lively Christians who will not help to the extent of their ability to bring others into the Fold of Christ.

**RAWDON**—On the evening of New Year's Day, the Rector of this Parish met, by invitation, a large gathering of friends at the residence of Henry Canavan, Esq., Hillsdale. The ladies had, as usual, provided a most bountiful and tempting supply of creature comforts, which received full justice from the assembled guests. During the early part of the evening, we were treated to some excellent music, consisting of hymns, anthems,

duets, etc., by the choir and other friends, the organ being taken by Misses Annie Ancient and Dora Walwood, alternately. After tea, the meeting was called to order, and Mr. Wm. Phalen, of South Rawdon, appointed to the chair. After a short and appropriate speech, the chairman called upon Mr. Michael Acker to present the Rector with a purse. Mr. Acker did this with one of his characteristic, humorous speeches, reminding the young men that while Mr. Ancient did a good deal of work in the parish, there was one particular office which he was seldom called upon to perform. Mr. Ancient took the occasion to thank them all for the uniform kindness which he had received since coming into the parish, and also for the hearty manner in which they responded to his appeals for aid in his work, mentioning particularly the purchase of the organ. After speeches from Mr. Canavan and others, the meeting closed with "God Save the Queen." The purse contained \$40.70. Miss Ancient also received a gift in money, as well as a share in a parcel of useful articles presented to Mrs. Ancient, the whole amounting to the handsome sum of \$50.20. Great credit is due to Mr. and Mrs. Canavan for their self-denying efforts which resulted in the real enjoyment of such a large gathering.

**SACKVILLE**—Our Christmas season has passed off very pleasantly, and we have cause to thank God, and take courage. At Bedford, a place has long been needed in which to stand the clergyman's horse, etc., during the time of Divine Service. Mr. R. Eastwood, the Chapel Warden, has lately bestirred himself in the matter, and the result is that a commodious shed has been put up, and was used for the first time on Christmas Day. At the Parish Church, which was tastefully and appropriately decorated with Christmas emblems, the Rector presented our much esteemed organist, Miss Lily Grove, with a purse of money, on behalf of a few friends, as a slight token of their appreciation of services voluntarily rendered by her.

Hammond's Plains Church was decorated for the first time, and presented a really beautiful appearance. All the workers did their best, but the labours of the Misses Schmidt and Miss Annie Eisenhour deserve especial mention. The afternoon Service was well attended, and all rejoiced in the improved state of Church affairs among them. We should, doubtless, have had to tell of similar good work done by our Waverley friends had not sickness prevented. They are a noble little band, and like the Hammond's Plains people, are doing their very best to help themselves. Other parts of the parish are giving signs of spiritual progress; and although we hope to see it in a far more flourishing condition as time goes on, we have reason, as we said at first, to thank God and take courage.

**SYDNEY, C. B.**—The Christmas Services in this Parish began with a midnight celebration, and short sermon, in St. George's Church, which was very well attended. This was followed by Matins, and a second celebration, with sermon, at 11 o'clock; and Evensong and sermon at St. Mark's, Coxheath. Both Churches are nicely decorated. The decoration in St. George's, which were almost wholly confined to the chancel and font, are very chaste. The usual Sunday School Festival was held on Holy Innocents' Day. A heavy rainstorm prevailed in the morning, but most of the scholars assembled in the school house a little before 11 o'clock, and proceeded thence to the Church singing the "Adeste Fideles." An excellent Address was given by the Rev. T. F. Draper, of Louisburg. "Brightly Gleams our Banner," was sung as a recessional. In the afternoon, all had tea in the school house. The evening entertainment opened at 7 o'clock, and at 8 o'clock the Christmas tree was uncovered, and its presents distributed.

On St. Stephen's Day, the Rev. D. and Mrs. Smith, who have just moved into the new Rectory, had the pleasure of receiving from the parishioners, through a committee of ladies, a handsome

Brussels carpet, curtains, with poles and rings, blinds, and mat for the study, and canvas for the hall, a very useful and acceptable Christmas present.

## DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

**FREDERICTON**—We are glad to be able to report the Metropolitan much better. His Lordship hopes to be out on Sunday.

**St. JOHN—Trinity**—We omitted speaking of the midnight service on New Year's Eve, at Trinity. A very large congregation, completely filling the building, was present, and the whole proceedings were of the most solemn and impressive kind. The Rector, Canon Brigstocke, was assisted by Canon DeVeber and the Rev. R. Simonds. The Rector preached from the words, "And the door was shut." As the midnight hour approached all knelt in silent prayer, and after the beautiful chimes had welcomed in 1884, the choir sang Hopkins' *Te Deum*. The singing was unusually effective, and the sermon was an able and striking one.

**St. Mary's**—The Rev. R. Mathers has been conducting the Services at St. Mary's since Mr. Newnham's departure. No appointment has yet been made.

**MONCTON**—Those who heard it, speak of the Rev. Mr. Hoadley's lecture on the "History and Work of St. Augustine's College," delivered at the Y. M. C. A. Rooms as a rare treat, and one not soon to be forgotten. We hope Mr. Hoadley may be induced to re-deliver the lecture in other places. Efforts ought to be made to secure his services for a St. John audience.

**PORTLAND—St. Luke's**—We are glad to notice Mr. Stevens, the popular Rector of St. Luke's, again able to take his duties. Mr. Stevens has been unwell for some time, but is now all right again.

A large audience attended the parlor concert, held recently at the residence of David Tapley, Esq., Douglas Road. The parlor, though a spacious one, did not accommodate all, many having to content themselves standing in the hall. The programme, an exceedingly good one, was carried out to the satisfaction of all present. The concert was got up by the young ladies, and they intend to hold one a month.

**WOODSTOCK**—A number of improvements have been added to St. Luke's Church recently. Five handsome memorial windows, an elegant lectern, and base for the font were contributed. The lectern, made of burnished brass of a very beautiful design, was executed in England to the order of the donor for the church. Around the base is the inscription: "Presented to St. Luke's Church by Mrs. G. R. Anderson, in memory of her father, the late Hon. Charles Connell, Xmas, 1883." Two of the memorial windows are in the chancel and the other three in the north side of the church. The south chancel window is in memory of Rev. Robt. C. Nelson, for some time curate of St. Luke's. The other chancel window was placed by Mr. Frank Bourne in memory of Mrs. Bourne. The side windows just put in are as follows: In memory of Ralph Ketchum, by his son, G. R. Ketchum; for Mrs. Cadman and her son, Albert Doughty, by Mr. Cadman; and for Geo. A. Street, by his mother, the relict of the late rector of the parish. The base of the font is a specimen of very skilful workmanship. The donor, Mr. Stinson, has expended great care in inlaying the wood work with different kinds of wood in many patterns.

In the recent sudden death of S. D. Berton, Esq., the Church and Diocese has lost a warm-hearted supporter, and St. Mark's and St. Jude's one of their most active workers. The funeral