

propriate and neat border. Underneath is the following inscription, "To the glory of God and in loving memory of William Henry Whitehead, born 8th of April, 1810, died 30th April, 1886. 'Though I be absent in the flesh I am with you in the spirit.'" Above the figure is a circle of thorns with a dagger in the centre. It is a great improvement to the Church.

SARNIA.—Christmas was a beautiful day. The chancel of the church was neatly decorated. The congregation was not as large as usual. The service was bright and hearty. The offertory amounted to \$80.

A series of cottage meetings are being held throughout the parish which are well attended. An effort is being made to reduce the debt of the church. The Rector and congregation are animated by one desire, viz., not to rest till the whole debt is paid and the church consecrated. Although the last instalment to the building has just been paid, a new subscription list has been opened and \$5,000 already subscribed.

On Christmas morning when Mrs. E. A. Blunden, organist of St. George's Church, took her usual place at the instrument to play the opening voluntary for the morning service, she noticed an envelope lying before her, which on investigation was found to contain a cheque for \$70, accompanied by a note from the Rector expressing that he had been requested to present her with the same, on behalf of the members of St. George's Church as a slight recognition of her valuable services as organist, and expressing the hope that she might be long spared to occupy the position which she with such credit to herself and satisfaction to the congregation; and wishing her and hers all the enjoyments of this blessed season.

The children of St. George's Sunday-school were given a tea in the old church on Monday, 29th ult. After the tea an entertainment was given by the children, consisting of Christmas carols, dialogues, readings and recitations. The church was filled to the doors, and all returned to their homes well satisfied with the evening's amusement.

DIOCESE OF COLUMBIA.

On Thursday, December 16th, the annual missionary meeting was held in the Cathedral Institute rooms in Victoria. The Lord Bishop of the Diocese occupied the chair. Owing to a heavy fall of rain in the early part of the evening the attendance was not large, and for various reasons the clergy from outside the city, with two exceptions, could not be present.

After the hymn "From Greenland's icy Mountains" was sung and prayer offered, the Venerable Bishop, who is also Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province, embracing the Dioceses of Columbia, New Westminster and Caledonia, spoke of the necessity and duty of Christians recognising the fact that they are members of the same great body—the Holy Catholic Church—that as such we should have a deep sympathy with mankind everywhere, and an interest in the Universal Church outside of our respective parishes. The command of our Lord was "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." The Apostles were commissioned to bear the glad tidings of salvation to all, and it is our bounden duty to do all we can to circulate the Word of Life, to assist in planting Churches, not only in the diocese, but in all the world. Christ founded a Church which was to be the Church, but by divisions in the body the will of God has been frustrated in this as in other respects; but we should be glad that we are in the body of the great Catholic Church, whose bonds we should earnestly endeavor to strengthen.

His Lordship briefly referred to the work of the three great Church societies, the S. P. G., S. P. C. K. and C. M. S., and stated that two churches, St. James' in Victoria, and Lake

Church, had received £50 each from the S. P. C. K., which had also just promised £100 towards the new St. James' in Vancouver, of which the foundations are already laid, the former church having been destroyed about seven months ago in the terrible fire that completely annihilated for a time the terminal city of the C. P. R. on the main land.

His Lordship, after referring to the work of the C. M. S. in the Diocese of Caledonia (in which there are now six European clergymen, two licensed lay readers, 569 baptised Christians, 330 native catechumens, ninety-one native communicants), and to the completion by Bishop Ridley of the translation of the Gospel of St. Matthew into the Tsimpshean dialect, stated that in the Diocese of Columbia, which formerly comprised the three dioceses referred to above, but which is now confined to Vancouver Island, there are seventeen churches, nine mission stations and twelve clergymen. In Victoria there are three churches, Christ Church Cathedral, the Bishop, Rector, and Rev. A. Beanlands, B.A., curate. St. James', Ven. Archdeacon Scriven, B.A., Rector. St. John's, Rev. P. Jenks, Rector. The Rev. Mr. Good is at Nanaimo. The above four churches are self-supporting. The other Parishes and their Incumbents are as follows:—Comox, Rev. Mr. —; Cowichan, Rev. Mr. Leaky, B.A.; Saanich, Rev. Mr. Gregory; Cedar Hill, Rev. Mr. Taylor; Esquimalt, Rev. Mr. Head; Kuper Island, Rev. Mr. Roberts; Chemainus and Salt Spring Island, vacant.

The Rev. Mr. Head spoke next. He said he had been eight months in the diocese, that he had two services on each Sunday at Esquimalt and one at Metchosin, about fourteen miles distant, besides week-day services. They were fortunate in having in the Commander of H. M. Ship "Cormorant" a thorough churchman who used his influence in bringing the men of his ship to church. A dwelling house for the Incumbent was a pressing need. The people of Metchosin were doing their best and the attendance and offertories were improving.

The Ven. Archdeacon Scriven regretted the absence of Rev. Mr. Beanlands, from illness. He spoke of the signs of prosperity he had seen in the various parishes during his visits last summer. In Comox two new services had been started, both pastor and people were most hopeful, but the parish had since suffered the removal of one of its most generous supporters. Of the Rev. Mr. Leaky, at Cowichan, he could well say, he suited the parish and the parish in turn was rising to its emergencies. A strong, active, willing worker is needed for Salt Spring Island and Chemainus, for such a man there is a hopeful future. Several collecting cards had been received aggregating about \$78, of which \$50 had been collected by Miss Williams in Cedar Hill parish; \$450 were needed immediately to pay the stipends due the last of the month.

Rev. Mr. Taylor (in Deacon's orders) said he was ministering at four stations in addition to his parish church; he had four Sunday-schools and eighty five scholars. He did not feel quite as hopeful as he did two years ago, as the Dissenters were very active in his parish. Formerly the Church's was the only service held in his parish and many of other denominations attended, but they had now departed, as other services had been established. Last year his stipend was less than \$600. He had plenty of work, but he did not complain of that.

Both His Lordship and the Ven. Archdeacon bore testimony to Mr. Taylor's energy and zeal.

The Hon. Mr. Justice Crease followed with a few remarks. He expressed a desire to see an effort made to have the mission fund more generally supported, that the burden and heat of the day might not be borne by the few as had been the case to a great extent in the past. He referred in complimentary terms to the *Quarterly Magazine*, which is being published.

When "The Church's One Foundation" had been sung, the Bishop closed the meeting with the Benediction. Thus ended a very enjoyable and instructive two hours spent in listening to the work of the Church in various parts of the Diocese.

CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

The *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says:—

The question of reordination of Roman Catholic priests who conform to the English or Irish Churches does not admit of discussion. The question was raised at the time of revision of the Ordinal, when it was sought [in vain] to put Dissenting Ministers on the same level in this respect with Roman Catholic clergymen. The Church has always observed the indelibility of Holy Orders, once a priest always a priest. It required an Act of Parliament to enable a priest of the Church of England to renounce his orders and return to secular life. In this respect, Orders, Baptism, Conformation, go together; they cannot be repeated without sacrilege. At the time of the Reformation the re-ordinating of conforming Roman priests was never contemplated. The Church never contemplated the receiving of Puritan ministers into the priesthood of the Church of England without episcopal ordination. To reordain bishops or priests would be to follow in the steps of the Arians and of the modern Church of Rome, which reordains our clergy who may conform to their communion. The Church of England [and Ireland] has always recognised the validity of the orders of foreign Roman Catholic priests. On the other hand she has never accepted the office of an unepiscopally ordained ministry. To break through this rule would be the downfall of Episcopacy.

The *Church News*, [Parkersburg, Va.], contains the following weighty words of Bishop Pilgerkin regarding vestries and Church officers:—

The church officials often allow the matters under their care to drift along in a hap-hazard kind of way. These things ought not so to be.

It is not only foolish, but criminal for those intrusted with the business affairs of a congregation to neglect them as some do to the great discomfort of the minister and the serious damage of the church. When I find that there is absolutely no system of working the financial affairs of a parish, and that the vestry rarely meet, then I know not only that some one has blundered, but that great and important interests committed, to men, who by accepting certain positions virtually pledged themselves to take care of them, have been criminally neglected. Why is not such neglect just as blameworthy as that of directors who allow the affairs of a bank or of any other corporation to get into inextricable confusion because they are careless about the appointed meetings.

No vestry or committee is doing its duty unless it meets regularly from time to time and persistently carries out some systematic effort which shall bring out the interest and support of all the members and friends of the church. Believe me, dear brethren, just here is our weak point. Shall there not be a revival? If you want the church to go forward, you must take better care of your ministers. You must be more liberal and more prompt and business-like in your methods. There is no short and easy way to manage the affairs of a congregation. To carry on the interests committed to your charge, demands persistent and undaunted zeal and industry, and I might almost say practical and statesman-like gifts of administration. A mere impetuous individualism, which some call enthusiasm, will not accomplish the desired results. The work to be carried on properly demands, patience, thoughtfulness, breadth of view, readiness to co-operate with others, above all an exalted conception of the greatness of the