

Jottings from Algoma.

BY THE LORD BISHOP.

(Continued).

River Arthur's Landing, the most remote, and probably, in view of coming events, the most important missionary post in the whole diocese of Algoma, was the next point visited by the Bishop. He arrived by the "Campana," the favorite among all our Lake steamers, on the morning of Friday, June the 15th, and was most kindly received, and most hospitably entertained during his stay by Mr. and Mrs. P. McRae. The Landing or "Port Arthur" (as it is henceforth to be designated), though at present only a village of from 1500 to 2000 inhabitants, is doubtless the germ of an important town, if not city, in the not distant future. It may not develop as rapidly as its neighbour, Winnipeg, but its growth, when it does grow, will be none the less sound and healthy for being comparatively slow. Indeed its "environment" forbids its remaining very long as it is. The conditions all combine to prognosticate a steady, solid expansion. Its geographical position, standing as it does at the very head of the Canadian Lakes (or "Seas," as an astonished pair of clerical English tourists on board the "Campana" said they should be called,) constitutes it as a kind of half-way house, past which the great and rapidly deepening currents of Canadian travel and traffic must take their course from the vast North-West to the seaboard. It is at this point that the inexhaustible agricultural products of the far-reaching Canadian prairies that lie towards the setting sun will find their natural outlets, and here, too, that the rich deposits of silver, copper and iron that are waiting to reward the miner's toil all through the Lake Superior region will find ready means of shipment. That all this must before long develop the proportions of the Landing very largely, appears certain from the indications of sound and healthy growth that are already visible on every side. Since the date of the Bishop's previous visit, last September, the snortings of the great iron horse have wakened up the echoes between the frowning front of Mount McKay and the beautifully wooded slopes that lie along the Kaministiquia River, and, as the results of its appearance, wharves are being built at great expense, roads constructed, building lots laid out, houses erected, churches and school-houses planned, and other projects inaugurated, all pointing to the arrival of an era of progress. Recently, too, the Government have voted a grant of \$50,000 towards the construction of a break-water and other local improvement, conditionally on the people raising the sum of \$25,000, of which there is very little doubt. In view of all this, the Church's duty in the premise is very clear. Provision must speedily be made for the religious necessities of a population certain to increase at a very rapid rate, and in this respect the local conditions are every way full of promise. The story of the disaster of April 4th, 1881, need not be repeated here. Suffice it to say that, as has been seen in many similar cases of unforeseen catastrophe, the loss then sustained by the destruction of both church and parsonage by fire has already been made good to the extent of the restoration of the latter, at a cost to the congregation of \$1500, which has all been paid, and still better, has taught them, by a never-to-be-forgotten lesson, the value of their Church privileges. Just think of the Church of England congregation of an important centre like this being "cribbed-cabined" and confined for their Sunday services for more than two years within the narrow limits of an inconvenient up-stairs room, 13 ft. x 42 ft! As one necessary result of this unnatural imprisonment, many families that would gladly have found a resting place under the wing of the old Mother Church while at the Landing have been compelled, for lack of room, to take refuge elsewhere, and possibly may fail, some of them, to find their way back to the parental roof again. To cooperate with the clergyman and the congregation

in remedying this condition of things was one object of the Bishop's recent visit, and happily it was attended, as the sequel will shew, with no little success.

On Sunday morning, June the 19th, service was held as usual in this "upper room," the worshippers overflowing into the outer vestibule. After the 3rd Collect, four persons were presented for Confirmation, after which and the address the Bishop preached from Matt. xviii. 2, 3. A large number of persons, including those newly confirmed, afterwards received the Holy Communion. In the afternoon the Bishop was driven by the Rev. Mr. McMorine to the "Fort," about 5 miles off, where a well attended service was held in the school house, the Bishop preaching from Gal. i. 8, after which, returning to the Landing, he preached again in the Town Hall, which had been kindly vacated in our favor by the Presbyterian congregation that usually worshipped there, large numbers of them and of the members of other religious bodies being present. On Monday the Bishop hoped to have made a journey along the line of the C. P. R. as far as it was open towards Neepigon, for the purpose of going among the hundreds of navvies at work at various points, and holding an open-air service for them, but was hindered by a severe cold and accompanying hoarseness which reduced his voice to the dimensions of a mere whisper.

On Monday evening, a meeting of several of the most active and prominent members of the congregation was held at the Parsonage, in accordance with notice given, for the purpose of discussing the question of the erection of a new Church. Great interest was manifested among those present, and the belief confidently expressed, that now that the Land Investment Committee in Toronto have granted the Bishop's request for permission to sell their lots, there will be no difficulty in realising from the sale a sum sufficient, with the contributions already made by the members, and amounting, as they will, by the time operations are actively commenced, to \$1500, to erect a church large enough to meet all the requirements of the congregation for some time to come. Resolutions were accordingly passed, providing for the sale, for the preparation of plans, (to be submitted to the Bishop for his approval, according to the newly introduced rule of the Diocese) and for the appointment of a building committee to look after details.

On Wednesday, the 20th, a visit was paid to the Township of Oliver, where Mr. McMorine has maintained Services for several years with indefatigable zeal, and at the cost of severe physical exertion, involving many a time a walk of fifteen miles from the Landing to his destination in the forenoon, then an afternoon spent in tramping from one farm house to another, giving notice of the Service, then the next morning the fifteen mile walk home again. On the present occasion the journey out occupied five hours, with all the attendant comforts of a hot sun, jaded horse, bad road, and perfect 'nimbus' of black flies and mosquitoes, in keen pursuits of the Episcopal "purple." The service was held in the house of Mr. W. Squiers, the largest and most central in the neighborhood, and was attended by the residents for miles around, irrespective of religious associations. At its conclusion, the Bishop preaching, a meeting was held to discuss the question of a church building, \$40 being contributed on the spot with an offer of two acres, at a central point, for the Church and cemetery, as a guarantee of the people's desire to give permanence to the self-denying efforts already made for their spiritual welfare. After some further discussion, the subscription list was placed in Mr. Squiers hands with a view to a general canvass, the Bishop promising some assistance from Diocesan Funds, conditionally on the people giving a fair proportion of energy and labor.

On Thursday evening, a conversazione was held in one of the rooms of the Town Hall at the Landing, at which the Bishop had the opportunity of meeting the members of the congregation socially, and saying a few words of encouragement

suggested by his own experience during the two years following the great Chicago fire, and pointing out that disasters for the time being are converted oftentimes, in the strange alchemy of God's Providence, into fountains of blessing, alike to individuals and congregations, reminding them also that the whole Christian Church in the apostolic age, was gathered into a chamber no larger probably than that in which they were then assembled. Shortly afterwards the proceeding which had been varied by vocal and instrumental music, closed with the benediction.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The Church in Portugal.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian.

SIR,—I was glad to see in your paragraphic of July 11th, that a "Provisional Council" had been held in Portugal, and that Senor Diaz is expecting soon to have his little Church consecrated. The Rev. S. G. P. Pope, B. A., of whom you speak, although British Chaplain, has for many years taken a most lively interest in the Church at Portugal. He has translated the Book of Common Prayer and several other Church books. I am well acquainted with many of the Portuguese Protestant clergymen, they have all found a great friend in Mr. Pope, in fact, he has trained several of them for the ministry. They labour under great disadvantages, from the fact of their not having places of their own—all they have, for the most part, are rented rooms in which they worship. Senor Diaz lives and works in Oporto, besides him, there are a number of other clergymen scattered throughout the country. They have been long desirous of having a bishop, but circumstances as yet, will not allow it.

J. S.

Harrietsfield Parsonage.

Church Doctors.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian.

SIR,—I do not intend to discuss the question with the Rev. Mr. Ancient, whether or not the Permanent Diaconate would be acceptable or practicable, but I wish to remind him that, in his letter, which appeared in your issue of the 11th of July, he is not very complimentary in his remarks to the medical profession. In that communication he states that the objection to appointing a school teacher to that office would be that he might soon have to leave the neighbourhood, or that it might not be agreeable to the trustees. Then he thinks that there would not be sufficient respect felt towards one of the more intelligent and pious farmers in the congregation; but alas! as for the poor doctors, with most of them, their moral character is, according to his idea, the chief barrier; for he expresses his opinion in these words:—"I am sorry to say amongst those of our own Church few are morally fit for the office under consideration." A sad set indeed. They ought to be put out of the synagogue.

Yours truly,

JAMES C. FARISH, M. D.

Yarmouth, July 16th.

Boys for Adoption.

To the Editor of the Church Guardian.

SIR,—In former years I have been frequently asked to find boys who could be adopted, by farmers and others in Nova Scotia. While in Europe I became acquainted with ladies at Bath and at Calne who are connected with the Church of England Industrial House who would be glad to supply boys and girls if they had my testimony that the children would be well-treated. I shall be happy to receive and forward applications.

D. C. MOORE,

Stellarton, July 20, 1883.