

Our new Priest Vicar is no longer a stranger among us. He has been most assiduous in becoming familiar with the details of his work and been most cordially welcomed in the numerous visits he has already made. He has many calls yet to make before he has the personal acquaintance of each of the congregation but more than he has done so far could not be expected. No part of his work with us will be left undone—no one will be overlooked and every interest will be taken by him to make the Church life of each one what it is intended and should be—a vital reality and their comfort in the services and worship an inspiration. His own part he alone can do, leaving the rest to the individual. His Secretarial duties to the Bishop will not interfere with the most generous performance of all his pastoral obligations.

At the Meeting of the Congregation recently held it was gratifying, so many of the men interested in St. Alban's came together and discussed various matters of progress in relation to the improvements needed and incidentally how the debt can receive greater attention and the burden of both principal and interest lightened. It is of special importance that the capacity of the growing congregation is testing the present accommodation. It is felt that an effort to provide further seating would be met by increased numbers in attendance, and thereby an increased revenue. Let the friends of St. Alban's be in earnest to its best interests and we are assured that further progress is within our reach if we are faithful to our obligations and privileges.

The Congregation have been called together recently to consider urgent matters of repair to the Cathedral and the ways and means to that end. The floor of the crypt began to show signs of giving way from natural decay after some ten years of use having run its life. At the meeting on the thirteenth ult. it was unanimously resolved to proceed immediately with the repairs to the floor, the members present pledging themselves to raise the amount required. A committee was appointed to consider, confer and report upon the improvements deemed urgent. On the twentieth the adjoined Meeting took place, his Lordship the Bishop presiding and the report of the committee was presented and discussed. A finance committee was appointed to assist in raising the necessary funds and if possible a further sum to enable other improvements to be made which were recommended by the Advisory Committee. It being ascertained that the floor relaid upon new joists would only be of a temporary character, it was decided to act upon the Architect's recommendation and lay the floor upon a concrete foundation and at the same time lower it a foot below its former level thus adding to the interior height of the Crypt, and being at the same time a manifest improvement while effecting a considerable saving of expense. Until the Committee have completed their work and have canvassed the members of the congregation individually for their support and the result ascertained it is impossible to give much attention to other matters of change and improvement. It is hoped that the encouragement will be such that these things can be taken up at an early date.

P. M. C.

Occasionally we are asked, as to the meaning of these letters, P. M. C. They stand for the words "Parochial Missionary Collections,"—a somewhat long title and as it is greatly used, the contraction is found convenient. Our Bishop organized the "Parochial Missionary Association" in 1882 and by a resolution of the Synod of this Diocese in 1894, the Woman's Auxiliary was asked to take charge of this most important work—one of the most important the Auxiliary has to do with—on the plan of systematic Parochial collections.

Each individual in every Parish is asked to contribute to the different funds of this Association or to any special Mission field he or she may favour—either Diocesan, Domestic (the great North West and Algoma) or Foreign.

More missions need to be opened in our own Diocese and something beyond starvation incomes paid to those men suffering hardship and discouragement in many of our back woods settlements. It seems quite incredible, but there are large tracts where with no day schools people live who have not been taught the fundamental truths of religion. It has been told of one young woman of 18, bright and capable, who did not know she lived in a land called Canada, it is for these—our own people—that the P. M. C. was organized. Algoma too was thought of, and it will for many years be in need of help, as well also as our great North West with its widely scattered population. The Foreign field calls for help as well—India's women, China's uncounted millions and Japan's thousands waiting to hear the word, have claims too on those who believe in spreading the Gospel. It is for these missions, one or all, the collectors of the Parochial Missionary Association appeal when they visit the members of a congregation. The Woman's Auxiliary knowing the value in this as in other undertakings of the steadfast gathering in of the small sums asks each collector to make a call on her contributors once a month, but this work should be regularly done. There is no doubt a deeper interest would be taken in this great work of the church, if the necessities of the case were better appreciated.

It may be interesting to some people to know that a census taken by the chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrews within the Cathedral precincts a month or so ago, shows that there is a population of 257 (representing 62 families) dwelling within the limits, of which about one-third are members of the Anglican Communion. The Presbyterians rank next, followed very closely by the Methodists.

We might add that the members of the Brotherhood met with a very courteous reception from nearly everyone with whom they came in contact when obtaining this information and many kind wishes were expressed for the future welfare of the Cathedral.

The Priest Vicar would like the names and addresses sent to him of all those in the Congregation not already known to him.