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CONTENTS :

New Year's Letter.....	1	Woman's Auxiliary.....	5
The Lord Bishop's Engagements	2	Obituary.....	70
Cathedral Services.....	2	District News	10
Church Extension in the District of St. Francis.....	2	Postscript.....	12

New Year's Letter

ADDRESSED BY THE BISHOP TO THE CLERGY
AND PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE OF
QUEBEC.

Quebec, New Year's Day, 1895.

MY DEAR BRETHREN
IN THE LORD.

The opening of another year always seems to call for a review of the past, as well as to offer new hopes for the future; and certainly, while we all have to lament many failures, a quiet perusal of the *Diocesan Gazette* for the last twelve months must deeply impress us with the fact that we have indeed great cause for thankfulness, and good reason for the highest hopes for the time to come.

Among our various interesting occasions, I would especially mention a most important meeting held here in Quebec last Spring, in the interest of the Church Society, when we had the able and eloquent advocacy of the Right Reverend Dr. Hall, Bishop of Vermont. In the Summer, too, our visitation at Lennoxville was an occasion full of life, interest and usefulness, and will not easily be forgotten, while the meeting in Quebec in October, (from which I was unfortunately and unavoidably absent,) in connexion with the Foreign and Domestic Missions of our Church, cannot fail—although the weather was most unpropitious—to produce good and lasting results,

I find that during the year I was permitted to do definite work in forty-one different Parishes, visiting some of them several times, and the Cathedral of course very often. Of the remaining fourteen Parishes, there are two which, for different reasons, I could not visit, and the Incumbents of the other twelve had no work ready for me. I am hoping however to visit most of these Townships very soon.

During the year 1894, I confirmed 491 Candidates, not nearly so many as in 1893, when the number was 1156; but then, it is obvious that our Church of England population, of 25,000, cannot possibly yield a thousand Candidates regularly every year, and the present numbers, with the earnest and careful preparation which the Candidates receive, leading the great majority to become earnest Communicants of our Church, form one of the highest testimonies, which can be offered to our Clergy and Lay people. I only trust we shall all be induced by the record of the past to do our very best for the evangelization and edification of all within our reach. The Clergy, it seems to me, may do much for themselves by a thorough adoption of deanery and sub-deanery meetings, at which, in addition to holding prayerful and profitable discussions, they would make arrangements to help each other by holding Missions or giving courses of instruction in each other's Parishes. The best method of teaching and preaching, the most approved ways of visiting the sick and well, the wisest attitude