

periences at times, if you would know the sweetness of fellowship with Him. It is not from man that the faithful Christian receives his pay, but from God.—*The Parish Guide: Alameda.*

### WATCH AND PRAY.

BY THE VERY REV. R. W. FORREST, D.D., DEAN OF WORCESTER.

**C**ONSECRATION to God is no easy or cheap thing. We must not offer unto the Lord that which has cost us nothing. There is the cost of self-discipline which prepares the soul to cope successfully with temptation, just as his exercises and evolutions train the soldier to encounter the enemy in the actual campaign. Then there is the diligent and laborious use of the means of grace. I am afraid that the prayers of many of us are fitful, and formal, and intermittent—forgetful, as we are, that prayer is the master-key which winds up and so keeps the whole spiritual machinery in motion. And then do not we often find ourselves reading our Bibles in a perfunctory manner, as if it were task work—a duty that is to be daily done—no consciousness within us of feeding on the pure milk or the strong meat of which the Apostle speaks.

And so of too many of our regular communicants, I fear, it may be said that they come without sufficient preparation of heart or expectancy of mind to meet their Lord at His table, and so go unimpressed and unsatisfied away. Let me, then, urge you with all earnestness to increased diligence. Our spiritual feeling is as liable to alter as we know our natural feeling is.

We can remember some towards whom we once felt ardently; we wonder now how it ever could have been so. We can recall books that we once devoured eagerly that are now positively devoid of any interest for us. We can recall forms of expression into which we once entered fully, thoughts and purposes that were pregnant with interest and meaning for us, and they are now as dreams of the past that cannot be lived over again. Let us take care lest the same thing befall our spiritual life, which may not repeat itself, but stand in continual need of renewed culture and nourishment. If this be neglected or forgotten, the consequences must be serious.

And then there is the still heavier cost of antagonism. There has, perhaps, never been since the birth of Christianity a time of greater trial for faith than that in which our lot is cast. Our age is admittedly one of doubt, of doubt on religious questions, some of which touch very closely what is most vital and fundamental.

And remember we sometimes watch the waves of unbelief as they rise higher and higher, and fear that they imperil even the Church herself, founded as she is upon the Rock of Ages; nay, there are moments of faithlessness when I dare say some of us are actually apprehensive lest they might remove the Rock itself. But again we trust and are not afraid, and in the calm confidence of faith we smile to think how God's greatness flows around our incompleteness, around our restlessness—His rest.

Then there is the deadly atmosphere of wordly indifference we have continually to breathe, the hand-to-hand encounter with temptation, the inner struggle between flesh and spirit which

never ceases, and which shall continue to the very last. All these things we know more of, we have increasing knowledge of, as we daily strive to live nearer to God.

And there are times, no doubt, when we grow weary in well-doing, when our purpose seems baffled, and we are tempted almost to give up the fight in disgust and despair. But again we take heart and muster courage, for we know that ours is a cause that must conquer, and a hope that will never make ashamed. Our progress may seem small and insignificant, next to nothing, but it is most real; the issue is not doubtful, the end is assured—the thought which was present to the mind of the gifted writer, which he expressed in lines that are not likely to perish—

“Whilst the tired waves, vainly breaking,  
Seem here no painful inch to gain,  
Far back through creeks and eddies making,  
Come silent flooding in the main.  
And not by Eastern windows only,  
Where daylight comes, comes in the light;  
In front the sun climbs slow, how slowly!  
But westward, look, the land is bright.”

### CHURCH WORK.

**I**F every communicant in the parish were an earnest Church worker, how great would be the result! The rector would have an assistant a helper, a sympathizer, a follow-worker in every communicant. What is your work in the parish? In what way are you a help to your rector? Let the parish feel your influence, and your rector your sympathy. Attend church regularly, using all your influence to have your friends attend with you, and fill up each empty pew. Let no work languish for want of your presence, but make every appointment your own, and “have a mind to work,” not forgetting to give cheerfully of that which God gives you, to advance the purposes of Christ's Kingdom. There is a place for Christ in every heart and in every home. Christ gives you a place—a sphere of duty—in his Church. So be “not slothful in business: fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.”—*Parish Guide.*

## News from the Home-Field.

### Diocese of Nova Scotia.

**SPRINGHILL MINES.**—The congregation here has been saddened by the sudden loss of Elinor Byers, the bright daughter of Dr. Byers, organist and vestryman of All Saints Church. The young child was taken suddenly ill and after one day's illness, God took her.

The blow is a severe one to the sorrowing parents and friends. There being no church building now in Springhill, special service was held at the house of Dr. Byers. The hymns “There's a friend for little children” and “Up in heaven, up in heaven, in the bright place far away” were sung. Little girls were on each side of the bier. The body was taken to Dorchester N. B. At this place the well known and respected rector and rural dean Campbell met the funeral cortege and a most effective service was held in the beautiful parish church. The choir sang very sweetly and their spontaneous

sympathy was much appreciated. The Rev. W. Chas. Wilson and Rural Dean Campbell took the services at the grave. Those who went from Springhill on this sad errand were deeply touched by the great kindness and sympathy shewn to them by the “household of faith” in Dorchester. Such whole souled christian hospitality is seldom experienced by strangers. Carriages had been generously placed at the disposal of the party: every member was solicitously invited to partake of hospitality to various homes before leaving for Springhill, a privilege of which they availed themselves; and the gloom of bereavement was brightened by this reality of a “Communion of Saints.” A parish that can show such a record certainly deserves recognition. Among those who were most generous in their hospitality were the respected rector, the Hon. Dan Hannington, and Messrs. Hiram Palmer and Allen Chapman. All the party were grateful for this exemplification “Of thy love and faith, which thou hast toward the Lord Jesus, and toward all saints,” and gladly pay their public tribute to it, “That the communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing which is to you in Christ Jesus.”

**NEWPORT.**—There has been a marked revival of activity among the churchman of this parish or so. Under the leadership of their energetic rector—the Rev. K. C. Hind, M.A.—the parishioners have taken in hand many long needed improvements. During the summer a tea-meeting was held in the rectory grounds at which a large sum was realised towards defraying the expenses of new improvements.

The church at Walton has been greatly beautified and repaired and reflects great credit on all those who so lovingly laboured on its behalf. It was re-opened on Tuesday Nov. 10th when the sermon was delivered by the Rev. G. R. Martell, Rector of Maitland.

The same week witnessed a new departure at the other end of the parish. As the church at Brooklyn is so far away from the village it has been customary to hold the week-day evening services in a public hall. But the arrangement has not been satisfactory and the rector entered heartily into the plan of an active Churchman, Mr. Thomas Cochran, to fit up a disused building in the village as a mission room. This scheme was enthusiastically carried out and on Friday evening Nov. 13th it was formally set apart for the service of God. Every seat in the apartment was occupied at this service, which was devout and hearty throughout. The service of dedication and the address were taken by the rector, while evensong was read by Mr. C. G. Abbott, a divinity student of King's College. This little room will bring the privileges of the Church still nearer to the people and we doubt not but that the more frequent opportunities of public worship that it makes possible will be appreciated by the parishioners, and so, as the rector said in his sermon, the Church will become more and more the true spiritual home of her children.

**HALIFAX, ST. GEORGES.**—Sunday the 15th Nov. was a red letter day at the Round church. The Right Rev. Bishop Kingdom, of Fredericton, being on a short visit to Canon Partridge, kindly consented, at the request of the Administrator of the diocese, to ordain to the Priesthood Rev. W. B. Belliss, who has been curate of St. George's for the past year. The ordination took place at the 11 o'clock service, after which a large number partook of the Holy Eucharist. The sermon was preached by the Bishop and was an elaborate vindication of Episcopal ordination.