

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

Gathered specially for this paper by Our Own Correspondents.

(We have published accounts of Christmas services from all parts of the Dominion, and have received many more which we should have been pleased to insert had they come to hand at an earlier date. We must beg our correspondents to send their communications as soon as possible after the event to which they refer, and to make them as concise as possible. Our pace is limited.—Ed.)

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

LOCKEPORT MISSION—The Rev. C. Croucher having been offered work by the Bishop of New Westminster, closed his ministrations in this Mission on the 31st, and will be succeeded by the hardworking Cape Breton Missionary, the Rev. G. Gibbons.

Sometime in November a tea meeting was held at Green Harbor, at which ninety dollars were cleared for the new church, and the Incumbent had the pleasure of offering Divine Service in the new church (now ready for consecration) for the first time, on the Sunday before Christmas. This very pretty church will long bear witness to what people with willing hearts can accomplish for God. Under circumstances the most discouraging the work was begun in faith, by the late much loved priest, the Rev. C. Churchward, who has lately passed to his rest. The people under his successor have courageously carried it to completion. "Silver and gold" they had not, but strong arms and willing hearts were not wanting, and so the issue from the beginning was not doubtful. God never asks for what we have not. He never makes what we have more than enough. The Incumbent has resigned with every feeling of thankfulness to God for having given him the work and enabling him and his people to accomplish so much in the short space of two years.

A beautiful stained glass window and a new three hundred and fifty dollar organ in Holy Cross Church, a font and communion plate in Trinity Church, a new church built and paid for, besides a new parsonage, all testify to the zeal and devotion and love of the few Churchmen in Lockeport Mission. May that zeal and love never decrease.—*Com.*

(Our correspondent has also favored us with the text of the address presented to Mr. Croucher and the rev. gentleman's reply, for which we regret we have not room.—Ed.)

ALBION MINES—The Christmas Communion were gratifying as to the number partaking, considering all things. The Chancel of Christ Church was tastefully decorated—and the nave slightly. The cross and vases were filled with lovely natural flowers.

At St. George's Chapel the decorations were similar to those in former years. The Scriptural sentences—shields, labels, &c., doing great credit to the willing artificers.

The Sunday Schools had their festival on Epiphany, first going to Church and thence to the Hall of the Sons of Temperance where the children disposed of more cake, pies, tea, fruit, and candies than any one would have deemed possible. With a verse of "God Save the Queen" and three very hearty cheers all went home, (through the rain—we are sorry to have to add.) To the teachers and friends their grateful thanks are rendered.

ALBION MINES—The following from the *Colonial Standard* will be interesting to many who have been connected with this parish in former years. By God's mercy all those who have resided here as clergy during the last 34 years are yet alive. The Rev. C. Elliott (father of the respected town clerk of Pictou,) began work here, and held occasional service in the school house, etc.

In January 1849, a subscription was opened for the building of a church and obtaining a resident clergyman. The general mining association undertook to find house and coal. There was no other place of worship on the west side of East River. Mr. Poole and Mr. Davies gave \$100 each towards the church, and largely toward the stipend. Robert Morrow, Jas. Taylor, George Bowran, Wm. Ross, Enoch Hill, J. Hill, Geo. Davidson, Jonathan Hartley, Wm. McPherson, John McIntosh, Wm. Partridge, and many others subscribed according to their means. In 1851, the Rev. Joseph Forsyth (still living at Liverpool, N. S.) became the first rector. In the autumn of 1852 the church was consecrated by the present Bishop of the Diocese. In 1857, Mr. Forsyth was succeeded by Rev. Henry DeBlois, now working energetically in Annapolis County. The Rev. O. M. Grindon (now of Bristol, England,) came in 1859; to him succeeded, in 1864 the present rector of Annapolis, Rev. L. M. Wilkins. He resigned in 1870, and next came the Rev. Chas. Bowman (now Dr. Bowman, the respected rector of Parrsboro') who remained eight years, and was then followed by the Rev. D. C. Moore, who is still in charge of the parish, which (as is not generally known) is co-extensive with the townships of Maxwellton and Egerton.

The church had a chancel added in 1881; the corner stone being laid with masonic ceremonies by P. D. G. M. Lewis Johnston on 20th August, and the fabric was consecrated by the Bishop, (who had set apart the church itself just 31 years before)—on October 20th of the same year. The church was then painted stone colour—bringing out the excellent carpentry of Mr. Peter Cormick (still living in Pictou) who erected the spire. A chapel of ease has been built for New Glasgow (St. George's) which was opened in May 1882 and consecrated last month by his lordship Bishop Binney. In Mr. Grindon's time the endowment fund for the Diocese was in course of formation and this parish was the first to pay up its quota in full, viz., \$794.

NORTH SYDNEY AND SYDNEY MINES—Christmas Day was begun by a celebration of the Holy Communion at Sydney Mines, at 9 o'clock. At 11 o'clock Matins was said at North Sydney, followed by the celebration, and a sermon on the Incarnation by the Rector. In the evening at 7.30 service was held at the Mines, and a sermon preached. Both churches were very prettily decorated, the greatest attention having evidently been bestowed upon the chancels. The congregations at all the services were very good.

The joy natural to the season has been greatly dampened here by the sudden and tragical death of Mr. John Barrington (who was poisoned from eating partridges,) many of the more prominent parishioners being either relatives or connections of the deceased.

The Rector is now living in the new Rectory at Sydney Mines.

King's College—The following account of a meeting to consider the question of College Consolidation will be of interest to our readers in Nova Scotia. It is taken from the *Halifax Mail* of the 14th.

A number of citizens interested in collegiate question met at the old Dutch church last evening in response to an invitation from Rev. Dr. Partridge. They spent two or three hours in an informal discussion of the project of a federation of Kings and Dalhousie colleges. Dr. Partridge occupied the chair and J. J. Hunt acted as secretary. The following gentlemen made up the remainder of the company: Hon. A. G. Archibald, Prof. Lawson, Prof. Sumichrast, W. C. Silver, J. Y. Payzant, Prof. Alexander, Prof. Weldon, Prof. Forrest, Rev. F. R. Murray, Rev. Mr. Sylvester, J. W. Longley, Rev. W. C. Wilson, S. D. Scott, Prof. MacGregor, J. T. Bulmer, C. S. Harrington, Mr. McDonald, Robert Sedgewick, Prof. Fraser, F. Brown, Maynard Bowman, Judge Rigby, Rev. Robert Murray, and Prof. Schurman. The discussion was carried on in the most friendly spirit

For the reason that all present were warmly in favor of the confederation movement, the abstract question was not discussed. As the meeting was in no way an authoritative one, but merely a preliminary gathering, no definite scheme was proposed. All were agreed to go forward. The work before the house was to decide upon the method of procedure. The outcome of the deliberations took the shape of the following resolutions: Moved by Rev. F. R. Murray, seconded by W. C. Silver.

Resolved, that a meeting of the friends of the union of King's and Dalhousie be called at an early date and that the following gentlemen be appointed a committee to convene said meeting and to gather all information, financial and otherwise, bearing on the subject in connection with both universities and submit the same at said meeting:

Further resolved, that the committee consist of three representing each college, with Rev. Canon Partridge as convener.

Representing Dalhousie: Hon. A. G. Archibald, Prof. Forrest, Prof. MacGregor,
Representing King's: Rev. F. R. Murray, Mr. Sumichrast, Mr. Fraser.

The meeting separated after passing a vote of thanks to Dr. Partridge. The discussion was earnest and enthusiastic, but was carried on in a business like spirit. Several of the speakers expressed the hope and belief that the movement now commenced might end in the federation of all the Nova Scotia colleges. Rev. Mr. Hodgson, of Charlottetown, has been in communication with some of the movers here, and expressions of sympathy have been received from Episcopalians throughout the province.

St. Matthias' Mission—It is with great pleasure that we announce that the Mission is free from debt. During the past six months, between five-hundred and six-hundred dollars have been raised and paid over to the contractors. The people of the Mission have worked harmoniously in one solid body in order to accomplish this purpose and have been well assisted by many kind friends in Halifax and elsewhere. Through the kindness of Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Thompson, of Halifax, who gave a parlour entertainment in aid of the Mission, the last bill has been paid from the proceeds of the entertainment and a small sum remains in hand as a nucleus towards finishing the building. A strong committee from the Mission, seconded with many promises of assistance from ladies in Halifax, have determined to hold a monster bazaar in the drill shed next summer for the purpose of completing the present Mission building. We hope that the affair will be successful, and that a comfortable building will be provided before the cold of next winter sets in. It is of no small importance to the church in Halifax that a suitable and comfortable building be erected in that part of the city in order to cope with the increasing and attractive accommodations offered by both the Methodists and Presbyterians in that vicinity.

St. Mark's—We regret to learn that the Rev. H. J. Winterbourne has been confined to his bed by a serious inflammatory illness, and was unable to attend to his usual duties last Sunday. The Rev. gentleman from last accounts was much better. On Sunday evening, the Rev. Dr. Hill preached at St. Mark's.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TREATS—The children attending the Bishop's Chapel Sunday-school received from the Lord Bishop, a handsome and valuable lot of prizes last week, which they had gained during the year.

The children of St. Paul's industrial school had a very pleasant Christmas entertainment which has been well spoken of.

At St. Luke's, the usual Christmas entertainment and distribution of prizes took place on Tuesday night. At the North West Arm Sunday-school there was quite an interesting Christmas Tree laden with valuable prizes, which the children received. We congratulate Mr. James Gabriel on