

Reading in Titus 1st chap., from the 4th to the 8th verses, as well as elsewhere, we find that the office of bishop and elder were but one and the same.

A writer of the church of Rome lately claimed theirs as the only true church because of four special characteristics. He stated that 1st, it was one; 2nd, holy; 3rd, apostolic and 4th, Catholic. Let us see if this particularly distinguishes the Roman Catholic Church. As to being one or united; looking back upon the history of this church which claims that it never changes, we find that it has had more changes than any of the Protestant Churches. From time to time it has added so many different dogmas to its ecclesiastical laws, that it is wholly unlike the early primitive Church of Christ founded by Him and His apostles. The doctrines of Purgatory, Adoration or worship of the Virgin Mary, the sacrifice of Mass, celibacy of priests, &c. &c., and all that is different from Protestantism and the Scriptures, have been added one after another as the centuries advanced, and with the addition of each of these, controversies and divisions, as much or even more than ever divided Protestants. This shows there was no more unanimity amongst them than others. 2. As to being more holy, we do not see amongst priests or people any more marks, if as many, of holiness than amongst others. Indeed in criminal statistics the balance is on the other side. 3. As to being more apostolic, not one of their peculiar dogmas is found in the apostolic teachings. That church is certainly most apostolic which follows the writings and teachings of the apostles, while theirs is diametrically opposite. 4. Catholic means universal, and believers in Christ all over the world may claim the name as truly as Roman Catholics.

The word Church has been for many years given to the buildings where Christians meet for worship, merely to distinguish them from others. But the true Church of Christ is composed of all who receive Christ as their Saviour and worship Him in spirit and in truth. Thank God such are found amongst all denominations, but no one of them has any right to the designation of the Church, for in every nation or denomination he that feareth God and worketh righteousness is accepted of Him. Acts. 10:35.

C. R.

BAND ECHOES, FROM BRANCH MEETING.

The beautiful town of Sussex was startled from its usual quietness and repose on the afternoon of Oct. 1st, by the sudden advent in its midst of nearly sixty officers and delegates from the N. B. and P. E. I. Branch of the W. M. S. We were expected, however, and met with a most cordial greeting from the inhabitants thereof. On the first evening we were tendered a reception in the church and listened to addresses of welcome from the various societies of the town which were exceptionally good and admirably delivered. The responses also were eloquent and appropriate. Mrs. Chipman led the devotional exercises the first morning, they were impressive and the prayers were fervent for a blessing on our meeting and wisdom in all our deliberations. Much of the time in the mornings and early afternoons was taken up with reports.

of Auxiliaries and Bands, these were interesting in spite of discouragements. The Band Cor.-Sec. reported 53 Bands, 1140 Band members. The treasurer reported Band receipts \$1,366.85. Increase over last year \$34.33. Mrs. Turner read a memorial asking that the Mission Band constitution be changed to read that Circles or Bands having 40 or more members or raising the sum of \$25.00, should be entitled to send a delegate to Branch meeting; and also that two Circles or Bands on the same circuit could combine and send a delegate. It was also asked that as the Quarterly Card reports had been found unsatisfactory there should be a return to the schedules of former times.

Wednesday was the night of our anniversary meeting, and it proved very interesting. Fine music was rendered by the choir, there was a kind and excellent address by the pastor. Two boys, especially trained for the occasion, gave a very entertaining missionary dialogue. Miss Clark, the returned missionary from British Columbia, gave us interesting details of the daily life of the Indian girls and boys in the Chilliwack Home—just such details as you have had in the missionary letters, sent us for our little paper from time to time. Then came another missionary dialogue, remarkably well rendered by four or five young ladies, which proved very enjoyable. Then the Banner presentation. This Banner, originally given to our Branch for competition by the Bands by Mrs. Owrey of London, and won this year by the Exmouth St. Band, of St. John, for best attendance, was presented in a charming manner by Mrs. Turner, Band Cor.-Sec. to Miss Drake, the delegate from that Band.

Thursday afternoon the PALM BRANCH report was given by the editor, and well received, many testifying that it had been a help to them in their work. Miss A. Mellish, of Charlottetown, read a paper on Mission Bands of which the "press" might have humorously, remarked as it did of the paper read by Mrs. Thomas, "Whom shall we send as Branch delegates," that it was "bursting with points," that was only a slight mistake, however. Miss Mellish's paper was sparkling with originality, but as both these fine papers were voted to be printed in PALM BRANCH you will soon be able to judge for yourselves. Miss Nickerson, of Bedeque, P. E. I., also read an interesting one on "Mission Band uses and Influence," which we should also be pleased to see in PALM BRANCH, if she will kindly send it to the editor.

There were also some good, helpful papers on Easter services. We hope that your very efficient Band Cor.-Sec. after she has recovered from the fatigue of B. meeting will enlighten you on any other points put forward by the "Modes of Work" committee. Friday afternoon the meeting adjourned to allow the delegates to accept the kind invitation given them by the hospitable people of Sussex to drive through the town and its very beautiful surroundings, rich in all the glory of Autumn tints. To say that this treat was enjoyed by the visitors does not begin to express the gratification they felt. The courtesy committee were very sincere in thanks to their kind entertainers and included in their resolution all who