

## DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

**St. JOHN.—Obituary.**—On the evening of Palm Sunday the Rev. A. V. Wiggins, late Rector of St. James' Church, Westfield, who has for a long time been in feeble health, passed quietly away to the rest that remaineth for the people of God. The deceased was the son of James Wiggins, of Alberton, P.E.I., and was 31 years of age.

Entering the University at Fredericton in 1875, Mr. Wiggins proved himself an earnest and gifted student rapidly advancing in his studies until at the end of his first year he stood the leader of his class. He graduated in 1878, and immediately entered upon the work of preparation for the University. Whilst passing his divinity studies he did excellent work as Lay Reader, under the direction of Canon Neales, Rector of Woodstock. Shortly after his ordination Mr. Wiggins was appointed to the charge of the parish of Westfield. Here he entered with enthusiasm into his work and succeeded in arousing much interest amongst his parishioners in the welfare of the Church. Under his direction, and with very little aid from without the parish, a rectory was built which is justly considered one of the most thoroughly constructed and well planned in the diocese. Other tangible and cheering evidences were afforded proving his labour to be "not in vain in the Lord." Unhappily in the midst of his usefulness Mr. Wiggins was stricken with a severe attack of hemorrhage of the lungs. Hoping by rest and change to regain his health, he obtained leave of absence from his parish and made an extensive tour chiefly in the Northwest, after which he again attempted to perform his duties at Westfield. After bravely struggling with the burden of continued and increasing ill health he was obliged to resign his parish on the 1st April last, since which time he has resided with the relatives of his wife in St. John. Mr. Wiggins was greatly beloved by his many friends not only in his parish but throughout the Diocese, and their warm sympathy will be extended to his young widow and her child in their sad bereavement.

## SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEACHER'S ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Sunday-school Teacher's Association for the Deanery of St. John was held on Tuesday evening, the 13th inst., at St. Paul's Church School-house, Portland. The clergy present were: Rev. Messrs. Canon DeVeber, Canon Brigstocke, G. O. Troop, W. O. Raymond, O. G. Dobbs and A. J. A. Gollmer, and about sixty superintendents and teachers.

The subject of discussion was "the Sunday-school in its relation to the Church." Mr. A. P. Tippet, superintendent of St. Mary's Sunday-school, read a thoughtful and interesting paper on the subject, and was followed by the Rev. W. O. Raymond, who spoke of the wise provision the Church had made for the instruction of the young long before Sunday-schools were instituted, claiming that the Sunday-school is simply the nursery of the Church, and pointing out the fact that there is danger in these days of leading parents to suppose that the Sunday-school absolves them from the responsibility of teaching their children themselves, and also referring to the danger of leading children to suppose that it is more important to attend the Sunday-school than the services of the Church.

The Rev. G. O. Troop, in an earnest address, laid great stress upon the necessity of having earnest, spiritually minded, and well trained teachers, in our Sunday-schools. He rejoiced to learn that several teachers in his Sunday-school would present themselves at the approaching examination for teachers in connection with the Church of England Sunday-school Institute, and hoped that the time might come when every Sunday-school teacher would be specially trained for the work, and after due examination should be duly admitted by a spe-

cial form of service to this most important and responsible duty in the church of God.

The Sunday-school Association for the Deanery of St. John has now been in existence for thirteen years, and has proved a valuable institution, whose usefulness and influence is steadily increasing. It is affiliated with the Church of England Institute, and all its teachers are eligible for the examination held by the Parent Institute, the latter part of May next. Several teachers have already entered for examination.

**HOLY WEEK.**—Special services were held at all the churches in St. John and Portland during Holy Week with, in most instances, addresses suitable to the season.

**CANADA TEMPERANCE ACT.**—The result of the vote taken as regards the adoption of this Act in St. John City, Portland, and St. John County, will have reached you before the communication appears in the columns of the GUARDIAN. A good deal of feeling has necessarily been developed in the community, but, with a few exceptional incidents, the controversy has upon the whole been carried on in a Christian spirit. The clergymen of the Church have for the most part addressed their congregations from the pulpit upon the subject. From their utterances we gather that whilst all agree in a common desire to promote temperance there is a difference of opinion, pretty evenly divided, as to whether the Canada Temperance Act is calculated to promote the cause of Temperance.

The position of the Synod of the Diocese on the question of temperance is expressed in the following resolution passed at its last session *nemine contradicente*:

*Resolved*, "That this Synod recognizes the evil of intemperance as one of the greatest obstacles to the spread of Christ's Kingdom."

*And further Resolved*, "That in the opinion of this Synod the Church of England should be found in the front rank in the contest against this gigantic evil, and that the clergy and laity of the Diocese be called upon resolutely to oppose the evil and to encourage every legitimate effort to suppress it."

**CHATHAM, N.B.**—The Woman's Guild continues its good and successful work, and will provide a new and handsome altar for St. Mary's chapel, as an Easter offering. The altar is being manufactured of walnut and black ash, by Messrs. Ross and McPherson, of Sussex, K.C.

It is hoped that much needed improvements will be made in the burial ground at St. Paul's Church after Easter.

**NELSON, N.B.**—The preliminary steps have been taken for the erection of a Church in this parish. The proposed building will accommodate about 100 worshippers. A considerable amount has been subscribed towards the building fund, and a building committee has been appointed.

**DERBY, N.B.**—Extensive and much needed repairs will be made in St. Peter's Church in this parish during the coming summer. A new stone foundation will be placed under the building, and a memorial east window will be placed in the chancel, in honour of the late Rev. James Hudson, and the interior and exterior walls will be painted.

**DALHOUSIE, N.B.**—We understand that this parish, which has been vacant since New Year's, is about to have a rector in the person of Rev. Mr. Brown, of the Diocese of Quebec.

**BATHURST, N.B.**—This parish will shortly have a rector. It has been vacant since the resignation of Rev. W. H. Street in November last.

**BAIE DES VENTS, N.B.**—It is hoped that the Church of St. John the Evangelist, in this par-

ish, will be thoroughly repaired during the summer, and also that the Rectory will be painted. The indefatigable efforts of the Rector and his parishioners, will, no doubt, be successful.

## CONTEMPORARY CHURCH OPINION.

A correspondent of the *Standard of the Cross* writes:—

In order to parochial success, both clergy and laity must see to it that the *Church work is carried out on Church lines*. The Church has a system of her own, and this must be put in action. She has principles and doctrines and usages of her own, and these must be explained. The Catholic Church cannot be carried on, on Sectarian principles, much less can the Catholic Church be dove-tailed into Sectarian organizations. I think it can be proved by statistics that in those places in which the claims of the Church have been most stoutly asserted and her principles most fearlessly presented, there the Church has made the greatest headway. There are exceptions to this rule, but as a general thing it holds true. In those localities in which the aggressive principle in Church policy has been adopted, in which there has been courage and faith enough to tell the people what the Church is and what she claims, where the position of the Church has been aggressive and not apologetic, there as a rule the greatest progress has been made.

The *Musical Herald* takes high ground concerning Church music:—

We beg to say that we know no higher ground than that frequently set forth in these columns: namely, that the very best gifts of native talent and the highest degree of culture ought to be consecrated to service in the devout worship of Jehovah. But if that talent and culture be used only to gratify an æsthetic taste, as in the opera or concert-room, it falls far short of the legitimate use of music in the sanctuary service. The best preacher is not the one who can construct the most intricate and complex sentences with words that are rarely used except by men of profound learning, but he who can most clearly and forcibly present divine truth in language easily understood. So the church music which will serve the best purpose is not necessarily that which shows the greatest erudition, but that which will inspire the most devout feeling, and lift the soul into closest communion with God.

The *Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette* says:—

A remarkable instance of the boasted unity of the Church of Rome may be seen in the opposing action of some leading Roman Catholic Bishops in England with regard to the Primrose League. The titular Bishop of Nottingham, Dr. Bagshawe, excommunicates any member of his Church who joins the League. On the other hand, the institution of which the Duke of Norfolk is a distinguished member has the warm support of Cardinal Manning. It is to be observed that while Dr. Bagshawe objects to the Primrose League, he has no objection to assist in founding a branch of the National League in his diocese. The question is considered important enough to be referred to the Pope for adjudication thereon.

The *Scottish Guardian* says:—

The Church of Ireland is to be congratulated on the action of its General Synod in the political crisis. It has spoken out its opinion clearly and emphatically and without one dissentient voice upon a question which, while it is a political one, is one which involves the gravest issues—social, moral and religious—to the Irish people. We do not suppose that the fact of the Church having spoken out its mind will alter the position of affairs. It will not make one loyalist the more; it is possible tha