

Wednesday, December 25th (Christmas Day).—Celebrate the Holy Communion at Cathedral, 11 A.M.

Thursday, December 26th (S. Stephen's Day).—Celebrate the Holy Communion at All Saints' Chapel, 8 A.M.

Friday, December 27th, (S. John Evangelist).—Celebrate the Holy Communion at All Saints' Chapel, 11 A.M.

Saturday, December 28th, (Holy Innocents).—Celebrate the Holy Communion at All Saints' Chapel, 8 A.M.

Sunday, December 29th.—Celebrate the Holy Communion and preach at S. Matthew's, 10.30 A.M. Also preach at Cathedral at Evensong, 7 P.M.

System of Aiding Missions - Diocese of Quebec,

By the Rev. Canon Von Imland, M.A.,
Rector of S. Michael's, Bergerville,
Quebec, and Secretary to the
Quebec Diocesan Board.

The Quebec System, as it is termed outside the Diocese of Quebec, had its origin in the well grounded apprehensions of the late Bishop Mountain and others interested in the maintenance of the Diocesan Missions, that the practice of the S. P. G. in making grants to individual Missions and individual Clergymen would entail disastrous results upon the work carried on.

In a circular addressed, in 1860, to the members of the Synod, Bishop Mountain says:

"Under the system at present in force, the S. P. G. makes it an invariable rule to effect a reduction on the occurrence of every vacancy; and it has happened repeatedly that the poorest settlements are, by the operation of this rule, taxed the most heavily, while nothing is exacted for the support of the ministry in quarters where much ought to be done. In addition to this, the uncertainty of the occurrence of such vacancies leaves us, of necessity, continually in doubt as to what the Diocese has to depend upon. Again, it has been, in several instances, found impossible to remove a Missionary from one sphere of labour to another, however, much such removal may have been desired both for his own sake personally and for that of the interests of the Church."

After somewhat protracted negotiations between the S. P. G., the Synod of the Diocese and the Church Society, which

latter has the administration of the funds of the Diocese and was looked to for material aid in the support of our Missions, the new system came into operation in 1863, under a Canon of the Synod and a corresponding By-Law of the Church Society, the S. P. G. undertaking to make a block grant to the Diocese, to be reduced from time to time, according to circumstances, and to be administered by the Diocesan Board of Missions.

The Constitution of this Board is contained in Canon VII of the Diocesan Synod and in Art. XIII of the By-Laws of the Church Society (both being identical), and it assigns to the Board the administration of the S. P. G. grant and other missionary funds therein named in accordance with the conditions stated.

The principles on which the Quebec System is based are :

- (1) The punctual payment of the stipends of the Clergy according to a fixed scale.
- (2) The avoidance of direct relations between the Clergyman and his people on the subject of his own stipend, thus leaving him free to advocate the claims of the general fund.
- (3) The stimulation of a feeling of independence on the part of the people, leading them to assume more and more the burthen of increased contributions till the whole cost of maintaining the Clergyman is borne by them, and
- (4) In the event of unsatisfactory relations arising between the Clergyman and his people the provision made for a careful and unprejudiced consideration of the circumstances, and decision thereon, at the hands of the Bishop and a representative body of Clergy and Laity, entirely removed from local influences.

With reference to the first point I have only to say that in no single instance since 1863 has there been any failure in meeting the quarterly drafts of the Clergy, and that the scale of stipends has been steadily increased from an average of \$400 (in the case of deacons), \$600 (in the case of priests) without regard to length of service, to that now found in Canon VII, and we hope that before long some further improvement may be made.

The second point is secured by requiring from each Congregation, through its Wardens, a signed agreement with the