

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

Gathered specially for this Paper by Our Own Correspondents.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

[We are obliged to hold over a number of items from this Diocese.—Ed.]

HALIFAX.—*Missionary Meeting in Trinity Church.*—On Monday, the 4th inst., a special Missionary meeting was held in Trinity Church, Halifax, in support of the claims of Missions in Rupert's Land. About 250 people were present. The Rev. Canon O'Meara, of Winnipeg, was the delegation. The Archdeacon of Nova Scotia took the chair and introduced with a forcible and elegant speech the speaker of the evening. The Rev. Canon then pressed the claims of the Diocese, showing the necessity, opportunity, and obligations of the work. He strongly insisted upon the Church's claim being recognized as paramount, and contrasted the Church's apathy with the manifested Missionary effort of the various Protestant bodies in Canada. The speech teemed with personal reminiscences, and was in some parts a piece of first-class oratory. The Canon pleaded for \$500 a year for three years from Halifax to the support of a Missionary, and the people responded nobly. The meeting was also addressed by the Rev. Dr. Partridge, Rev. F. R. Murray and W. C. Silver, Esq., the latter gentleman giving a remarkably eloquent and interesting Missionary speech, right to the point, a desideratum always looked for, but not often found, in the speeches at Missionary meetings.

CAROL SINGING.—Nearly all the churches in Halifax this year had special carol services, which proved themselves to be very popular. Old St. Paul's had a special carol service, which drew together the largest congregation that has been seen in the sacred edifice for years. The Round Church was packed on the occasion of the carol service there.

ST. GEORGE'S.—An entertainment was given by the Sunday-school scholars of St. George's, in the school-room, on Tuesday, the 5th inst., in aid of the Sunday-school library, and was a great success. Quite a number of books will be the result of the painstaking efforts of those who provided the entertainment.

NEWPORT.—Both St. James' Church, Newport, and St. Matthew's Church, Walton, are richly and handsomely decorated in honor of the advent of our King. It is not too much to say that they reflect the greatest credit upon the taste of the willing workers, as well as make God's House glorious and beautiful, and, through these, tend to inspire us to love the Holy.

NEW GLASGOW.—One who took a leading part in gathering our little congregation, and in forming the first choir, and who watched with loving care every stick and stone go into St. George's Chapel—who with his own deft hands wrought the lectern, altar rail and altar desk—was taken for the last time to the chancel steps he so well loved to ascend. As his son, Francis Drake, Jr., was the first to go to those steps to be married, so the kind father was the first to be laid there for his burial. The death of Mr. Francis W. Drake, at the age of 54, when as yet years of usefulness might seem probable, is a severe blow and a sincere grief to his pastor, who loved him well, and to the congregation of St. George's. Of his widow and children we forbear to speak.

BRIDGETOWN.—The new church, which has been under construction for little over a year, was opened with appropriate services on Sunday, Dec. 20th. The church was filled to over-

flowing both morning and evening, and a collection was taken up towards liquidating the debt.

Much credit is due to this congregation, few in number and financially weak, for the energy and perseverance they have displayed in building their church, under circumstances of no ordinary discouragement and difficulty. Though the old church was greatly out of repair, scarcely habitable in winter, and in point of architecture little better than a barn, it required some pluck and a certain amount of faith for a few individuals, with next to nothing in hand, to pledge themselves to the building of a new church. However, the work was undertaken, and, with God's blessing upon it, brought to a successful issue, and now the congregation are in possession of a church of which they are justly proud.

The sincere thanks of the congregation are due and are hereby heartily tendered to those kind Christian friends in the United States, especially in Boston, who so generously responded to the appeal made to them by the rector of the parish last winter. Cordial thanks are also tendered to those kind friends in other places who have contributed in various ways towards this good work.

Anything like a detailed description of the church would take up too much space in this short notice; suffice it to say that it is Gothic in style, consisting of nave and chancel, with south porch and tower at junction of nave and chancel; is very pretty and tasteful throughout, and the work well and substantially finished. The nave contains five beautiful stained glass windows from the workshop of Messrs. Spence & Sons, Montreal, erected by different families in the parish in memory of departed friends. The east window, which is not yet in place, is also to be a memorial, and is being made by Spence & Sons from a design furnished by Messrs. Mayer & Co., London, and represents the Crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension of our Blessed Lord.

The time at which the church was opened, being so near the Christmas season, prevented from being present many of the clergy who would otherwise have attended. We hope, however, to welcome them when the time of consecration arrives.

Canon Maynard, of Windsor, and Rev. G. B. Dodwell, of Wilmot, were present, and preached two excellent and appropriate sermons, the former in the morning and the latter in the evening.

As may be imagined, the resources of this poor parish have been taxed to the utmost to build this church, and there is still over fifteen hundred dollars to be raised. Should any of the numerous readers of the CHURCH GUARDIAN feel disposed to help to wipe out this debt, contributions to that end will be most thankfully received by the rector, Rev. L. M. Wilkins.

LOCKEPORT MISSION.—A tea meeting was held at Green Harbor on the evening of Dec. 15th. The roads were horrible, yet a good number attended, and the sum of \$92.13 were collected for the organ fund of St. Peter's Church, which stands a monument to the perseverance of Rev. C. Croucher, whose departure to New Westminster was a great loss to the working staff of the Diocese.

Between the departure of Rev. S. Gibbons for the West Indies and his arrival, under the lead of Mrs. Gibbons, all the funds have been raised for an organ for the Green Harbor Church.

The churches of the Mission have all been tastefully decorated for Christmas.

At Holy Cross Church, Lockeport, the decorations are full and good. Two texts, "Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord," and "Arise shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee," painted by Mr. Edwin Locke, run around the nave. The chan-

cel is spanned by Gothic arches. At the angle of the middle arch is a double triangle, beautifully greened, with a red cross in the centre. Across the chancel is "Behold, thy King cometh." Over the centre window of the east end is a gilded star (lighted at night services). Over the west window is "The word was made flesh." The font is beautifully trimmed, being filled with moss, surmounted by a white cross with red berries. Chandeliers, desks, &c., are trimmed with green, with red berries interspersed.

On Christmas Eve a carol service was held, carol "When Christ was born of Mary, free," being followed by reading Isaiah vii. 10 to 17; carol, "Sing we merry Christmas;" reading, Luke ii. to 15; carol, "In the early morning early;" reading from Farrar's "Life of Christ;" carol, "In the fields with the flocks abiding;" sung as a solo by Mrs. W. Browne, *nee* Locke, with chorus by choir; reading from Bishop How; carol, "Carol, sweetly carol;" address by Rev. S. Gibbons. "Silent night, holy night," with the Benediction, brought the service to a close.

On Christmas Day, Morning Prayer was followed by Holy Communion, when twenty-one obeyed the Christ; the collection being given to B. H. M.

Evensong, with Christmas address, was said at St. Peter's, Green Harbor, which was chastely decorated for its first Christmas.

The dreadful storm of Saturday, Dec. 26th, did not permit the Missionary to be at Jordan Falls for the arranged morning service on the first Sunday after Christmas.

CHESTER.—Christmas Day was observed here by services in all three of the churches of the parish. Early Communion was celebrated at 8.30, and Morning Prayer and Communion at 11, in the Parish Church; afternoon service at 3 at St. John's, Chester Basin; and Evening Prayer at St. Mark's, Western Shere, with large congregations at each place. The churches are all appropriately decorated in honor of the grand event commemorated, and look very pretty in their festive garb. One noticeable feature in the decorations of the Parish Church is a set of very handsome hangings for pulpit, lectern and prayer-desk, presented to us by Mrs. Harshaw Clarke, of Halifax, and used for the first time on Christmas Day. They are of white satin, with a border and neatly designed monograms of maroon satin, finished and trimmed with gold. The other decorations consist of wreaths and festoons of hemlock and fir, interspersed with stars and triangles covered with hemlock and backed with scarlet, while round the gallery, in gold letters on a scarlet ground, runs the well-known Christmas text from Isaiah, "Unto us a child is born," &c., and over the altar there is the illuminated text, "Behold, I bring good tidings," and on each side of the east window hangs a large banner of scarlet, edged with hemlock, and bearing in gold, the one "Christ, the Lord," in large letters, surmounted by an Alpha and Omega, and with a *Chi-Rho* underneath, the other "Behold, thy King cometh," with a crown over it, and "I. H. S." underneath. On the south side of the chancel is hung a large lyre, covered with hemlock, with scarlet background and gold strings. The whole reflects great credit upon the willing workers who have arranged and designed it.

A large congregation gathered for the impressive New Year's Eve service at 11 p.m. on the 31st ult., but the rain and storm was so severe on New Year's Day that it prevented many from attending the morning service at St. Mark's, Western Shore, and made the intended evening service at the Parish Church impracticable.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

PETITCODIAC.—The rector of the parish was the recipient of a happy and graceful tribute of