

and especially upon these furnished by the season when the harvest is past—the time of the separation of the good from the evil. The Church was handsomely decorated for the occasion. At the entrance to the Chancel was erected a handsome double arch formed of grain and small fruits. The window sills were alternately covered with flowers and vegetables, and pot plants surrounded the pulpit. The font was beautifully decorated with moss and ferns and around its base were placed magnificent vegetable specimens. Ivy was entwined over the top of the font and surmounted by a handsome cross formed of grain in the ear. The offertory was large. And the Benediction was pronounced by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

MONTREAL.—A ripple of excitement has passed over the surface of church circles through the publication in the secular papers of a letter addressed by prominent laymen of the city, (amongst whom were some who can truly be classed as *Evangelical*), to the Lord Bishop of the diocese, in reference to the appointment of a successor to the late Dr. Leach as Archdeacon of Montreal, and the Bishop's reply thereto. The writers suggested respectfully the suitability and acceptability of the Rev. Canon Norman for the position. The Bishop in his reply spoke of the action as an infringement upon his prerogative, and declined the suggestion. But a more decided answer followed in the publication, a few days thereafter of the advancement of Archdeacon Evans to this position, he having previously held the title of Archdeacon of a Deanery only. Though to some the appointment is acceptable, by many it is considered as most unfortunate. Rightly or wrongly, it will be regarded as a virtual throwing down of the gauntlet of defiance before those who have differed from his Lordship in regard to the Montreal Theological School, and as an open reward for faithful adherence in this and other particulars. The rumours that a strong protest was made on behalf of some of the clergy by the then most prominent Rector in Montreal against the original appointment as a local Archdeacon are revived; and again many feel that grave injustice has been done to the Ven. Archdeacon Lindsay, whose long term of service in the diocese, and his seniority in the Archdiocese would seem to have entitled him to this honour. There are other clergy, too, much older in years and service whose advancement might have been expected. Others, again, regard the action as affording additional evidence of an intention to administer the diocese upon party lines. Some had hoped that in filling up this vacancy in the ranks of the many dignitaries of the diocese such an appointment might have been made as would have indicated a desire for the healing of the differences presently existing.

St. Martin's.—The Rev. G. Osborne Troop, of the Diocese of Fredericton, has been chosen and appointed Rector of this Church. He will enter upon his duties early in December and will we trust prove a worthy successor to the two able Rectors who have preceded him. We hear naught but good of him in the Diocese from which he comes, and we expect in him for a valuable addition to the clerical staff of the city.

St. John the Evangelist.—For several years past it has been the custom at the Church of St. John the Evangelist to have a special choir festival each year on St. Cecilia's day and the Sunday nearest to it, and accordingly as Monday last was the festival of that saint, the services on Sunday, the 21st instant, partook of a festival character. As usual there was a goodly number of communicants at the early morning celebration of the Holy Communion, and at the 11.15 a.m. and 7 p.m. services the church was filled to overflowing, the extra seating accommodation being all taken up. The new

choir stalls, which had been put in during the week, were used for the first time, and it is generally admitted add much to the beauty of the church. The midday celebration was wholly choral. Warwick Jordan's *Kyrie* and *Credo* being used, as well as Novello's *Sanctus*, Gounod's *Benedictus* and *Agnus Dei* and Berthold Tours' *Gloria*. During the celebration proper an arrangement of *O! Salutaris* by the talented organist, Mr. W. R. Spence, was sung, the solos being taken by his brother, who also sang the solo in the evening anthem, Sir George Elvey's "Wherewithal shall a young man," which, though, perhaps, rather too long, was very creditably given. Two sermons were preached by the Ven. Arcn. Bedford Jones, of Kingston, who likewise sang the Litany in the afternoon. In the morning the reverend gentleman took as his text 2 Chron. xxx, pt. 21—"The Levites and the priests praised the Lord day by day, singing with loud instruments unto the Lord," the key-note of his discourse being church music as an offering to God. He maintained that if we believe in the Almighty's deigning to be present at our services and willing to receive our homage, our feeling must be that even the best is not enough, and that only by giving that which costs most effort, most time and most money to His praise shall we be doing His will. So far as we know, said the preacher, there is nothing but choral worship in Heaven, and if right there surely it is right here on earth. Psalms were sung by Christ Himself on the night of His betrayal. The speaker considered it a great honor and a high dignity to be a member of a choir, and to be permitted to give up one's musical powers to God's service. He concluded an eloquent sermon by saying that though a person may have neither time nor money wherewith to assist a choir, and even no ear for music, an acceptable offering may still be made to God in the form of a pure and loving heart. The evening sermon was based on Ephesians v, 19—"Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"—and was addressed principally to the choir. Speaking of the delightfulness of music as a recreation, and its refining influence over one's whole life and character, the preacher alluded to its hygienic benefits to persons of sedentary occupations, who had not strength to indulge during their spare time in athletic sports, as such a study would expand the chest and strengthen the lungs. The study of sacred music was, said he, a noble, heavenly way of employing leisure hours and, living as we do in a world of trial and sorrow we should be glad to banish trouble for a while by the use of music; and he made the suggestion that St. John's congregation, rich and poor alike, meet together in the church once a week, and, under the superintendence of their worthy rector, sing "psalms and hymns and spiritual songs," for, after all, he considered a clergyman's best choir to be his congregation. After referring to the minor key music in nature, explaining the primitive mode of responsive singing by the *cantoris* and *decani* sides of choirs, and animadverting on the extreme irreverence of certain street singing, Mr. Jones warned his hearers not to lose sight of the precious jewel of sacred words in the ornamental setting of music. Though he himself had been a great lover of music and an advocate of choral worship for more than forty years, he had far rather have the services plainly read if ever he had reason to believe the sacredness of the words were forgotten, for, said he, a church is a house of God, not a concert hall wherein to display one's talents for the applause of men. Let the melody be from the heart as well as rendered by the voice, and the God and Father of all will delight in receiving such offerings, and will accept them, till at length we join with the redeemed in singing His praises in glory everlasting.

The offertory, which was devoted to the choir fund, was a large one. The new choir

stalls which were used for the first time on this occasion, consist of four tiers on each side of the chancel—one for the clergy, two for the men and one for the boys—and will accommodate sixty-two persons. They are of solid oak, oiled, with walnut mountings, severe gothic in design to correspond with the simplicity of the architecture and fittings of the church, and were made by Beckham & Scott, of this city. The money for them was chiefly raised by the choir itself, by means of concerts given from time to time, by the men and boys during the past three or four years.

Monday being St. Cecilia's Day—the anniversary of the martyrdom of that young Roman lady, the patroness of musicians and the supposed inventress of the organ—Holy Communion was specially celebrated at 7 a.m. for the choir, many members of which received. There was also Evensong at 7.30.

LACOLLE.—On the 18th November the annual Thanksgiving service was held in the Church of St. Saviour. The attendance was good in spite of the weather and roads, and all seemed to enjoy the service of Thanksgiving. The collection was for missions.

St. George's.—THE LATE MILES WILLIAMS, Esq.—Another break in the ranks of the older members of the congregation has been made in the unexpected decease of the late Miles Williams, Esq., of Trafalgar. His connection with St. George's dates from its earliest days, and of it he was ever a faithful and liberal member, contributing largely to the erection of the new Church, and towards the liquidation of the debt resting upon it, as also to the various charitable works carried on by it. His liberality extended beyond the limits of his own parish, and he was a generous contributor towards Diocesan work, and to the general charities of the city. Few, however, knew of his charitable donations as in most cases his name did not appear, a *nom de plume* or initials being used. He was at the time of his death a Governor of the Montreal General Hospital; of the House of Industry and Refuge, and of The Mackay Deaf and Dumb Institute. To the former there will ultimately come as a bequest towards the erection of a Convalescent Home a sum of \$10,000, and to the Widow's and Orphans Fund of the Diocese \$2,000. Unostentatious and unassuming he was ever kindly and true, and many a one will sadly miss him. He took a good deal of interest in St. Stephen's Church, (built as it is in a section of the city in which he and his father before him carried on business for many years), and contributed towards its erection and also presented it with a Chime of Bells. On the Sunday following his decease Ven. Archdeacon Evans, Rector of St. Stephen's, made a feeling allusion to him and to his gift, concluding: "as we listen from Sabbath to Sabbath to the sacred melody of our Chimes, let us thank God that so amiable, so generous, so good a man once lived amongst us his unostentatious but most consistent and exemplary Christian life. Thus by the voice of those bells, 'he being dead shall yet speak,' and let us teach our children who are growing up around us, familiar with St. Stephen's Chimes, to remember kindly the name of that Christian gentleman, Miles Williams, whose gift they are." *Requiescat in pace.*

Grace Church.—The fifteenth anniversary of the consecration of Grace Church, Point St. Charles, was celebrated by special services in the church yesterday. Holy Communion was administered at 9 a.m. and at the 11 o'clock service His Lordship Bishop Bond preached, taking for his text Hebrews x, 55: "Not for saking the assembling of ourselves together." The musical part of the service was very hearty. The rector, Rev. Canon Belcher, preached in the evening. There were good congregations at both services.