

## News from the Home-Field.

### Diocese of Nova Scotia.

NEWPORT.—On Tuesday Nov. 10th, the pretty little church in Walton—Newport parish—which had been in the hands of the carpenters and painters, was reopened for Divine Service.

I was much struck on coming up to the church with the exterior improvements; a neat and pretty fence, nicely painted had taken the place of the old one, the grounds were in good order, and everything about the House of God showed the touch of careful hands.

The interior of the church, where the most time and money have been spent is really beautiful; new pews nicely painted, tinted walls; rich crimson felt curtains, running on iron rods, cut off a space on either side of the Holy Table, which serve as a vestry and Bible class rooms—the Church is without a chancel—suitable mottoes on the walls, make a very beautiful appearance. The Holy Table, with its rich frontal, the cross above it, on either side lovely banners, painted by Miss Bessie Cochran of Brooklyn, and given by her to the church, make a picture not easily forgotten.

The service on Tuesday evening was bright and hearty, the people making the responses, lustily. The sermon from the text, "I was glad when they said unto me let us go into the house of the Lord," was preached by the Rev. G. R. Martell of Maitland.

The church people of Walton deserve every praise for their self denying efforts to make beautiful the "House of God."

Led by their energetic and much loved rector, Rev. K. C. Hind, they have within the last 5 years, not only made a worthy temple for God, but have done much to help the work of the church outside the parish.

A more reverent, earnest congregation, it would be hard to find in the Diocese of Nova Scotia.

Mr. Hind is much loved by his people here; not only by word but by example he teaches them the beauty of the Christian life, and in the House of God, his deep reverence, showing by every action that he is ministering in holy things, has made a reverent thoughtful people, who are always glad when they hear the invitation from his lips, "Come let us go into the House of the Lord."

HALIFAX.—A meeting of the parishioners of St. George's was held in the school room on Tuesday evening, the rector presiding.

It was unanimously decided that the services of the present curate, Rev. W. B. Belliss, should be retained. Over \$250 were subscribed by those present towards the stipend and many remarks testifying to the warm regard in which Mr. Belliss is held in the parish were made.

The meeting was most enthusiastic, and the utmost unanimity prevailed.

Mr. Belliss has been laboring in St. Georges parish for the past year, and by his unflinching attention to his duties has gained the good will and esteem of all.

CHRIST CHURCH, BERWICK.—Extensive repairs are now in progress in this church necessitating the suspension of services for a time. The church has been moved out to centre of lot under a stone and brick foundation, making a commodious basement, which will be used for a

Sunday school room, room and business meetings, etc. It is also the intention to put a furnace in, which will heat both parts. The outside work is almost completed. Tenders are now out for the inside repairs, which include reseating throughout with modern pews and walls sheathed with hardwood, also road screen and organ chamber. The work is under the supervision of Messrs. Andrews, Batton and Robinson, restoration committee, who are determined to make it second to none in the Annapolis Valley in all its appointments. All this work means money; it will take about \$600.00 to do all the necessary repairs, and there are only about a congregation of thirty to do this work. Now I think it is nothing to our discredit to ask for outside assistance. Here is this handful of church people, struggling for their existence in the midst of aggressive dissent of all kinds. Who then will be the first rich churchman or churchwoman to send us a liberal donation to this noble work? Surely this appeal will meet the eye of some one anxious to assist the needy and help on a good cause. As this is certainly one of the smallest and poorest missions in the diocese, contributions can be sent to Dr. Davidson, editor of this paper, or to the very Rev. Dean Gilpin, Halifax.

St. Lukes Cathedral, Halifax, has nobly responded to our appeal for help through its energetic rector, Rev. W. B. King, with an offertory of \$53.40, the only church in Halifax (I am sorry to say) that responded to our appeal. Comment is needless. What church will be the next to send us an offertory? A decent chancel window of stained glass is needed to correspond with rest of work, also a font and altar cloth. But if some charitable disposed persons don't make us a gift of these much needed articles of church furniture, we will have to do without them for the present.

### Diocese of Quebec.

#### A Winter in Labrador.

BY THE REV. MR. SUTHERLAND.

Harrington is one of the largest settlements of the Church of England mission of Labrador. I therefore selected it as my winter headquarters for the three months in which travelling is impossible, *i.e.*, from the first of November until the first of February. During those three months the bays are not sufficiently frozen to travel upon, and the country is too rough and mountainous.

As yet there is no church or mission-house for service at this place, so the largest house in the settlement was kindly offered to me; although it was not a very large one, consisting of two rooms, still we managed to do with it, sometimes both rooms being crowded. The most inconvenient part was that dinner had to be cooked during service. I suggested eating a cold dinner on Sundays, but we soon discovered that cold codfish and spruce tea are not good eating. Families would often come a great distance to service, considering it a sin to neglect public worship. Often there would be as many as twelve or fifteen teams of dogs, tied a short distance from the house, and during the singing they would invariably start howling so loudly that frequently we were obliged to stop and give in to them, for it would be impossible to hear the words.

As soon as service would be over and they saw their masters reappearing, they would be

most eager to start and very often would snap their traces off with their teeth; and it was necessary to start one team at a time, for if two teams happened to come in contact there was sure to be a fight and very often one or two left dead upon the battle-field.

During those months I employed my week days teaching school. The children would collect for three or four hours in the day and the grown-up people in the evenings. I had an old lady of sixty learning her letters; she can now read her Bible by spelling out the larger words. By the kind assistance of distant friends I was able to treat the children to a Christmas tree, which was very much appreciated by both old and young. In the afternoon there were athletic sports for the young men and boys, then a supper, each family contributing a basket of food. After supper the curtains were drawn, displaying a tree well laden with presents, after the distribution of which, Christmas games occupied the remainder of the evening. A most enjoyable day was spent, for it was something entirely new for that part of the coast, but alas, it began to storm about ten o'clock, a storm known here by the name of the blizzard. The men managed with difficulty to reach their homes, but sixty or more women or children were obliged to remain all night, and sit it out, for beds were out of the question for so many.

The people in the vicinity of Harrington were greatly agitated in the early part of the winter by the visit of a pack of wolves; they would prowl about the hills and woods during the day, and at night would visit the settlement and carry away the dogs' food, which was kept on scaffolds a short distance from the houses. After firing at them and finally succeeding in breaking the leg of one of their number, the wolves left for the north. A white Arctic bear also came ashore on the drift ice, sixteen miles distant, and getting into a provision store through a window and renewing his visits for three consecutive nights, devoured all the provision a poor Frenchman had provided for the winter.

The clergyman always makes one missionary journey the whole length of the mission during the winter, a distance of three hundred miles each way, calling on every family both going and returning, thus every family is visited twice during the winter, holding services at every house, catechizing the children and teaching them to read, conducting baptisms, marriages, drawing up wills, deeds of sales, writing letters, etc., for the missionary is supposed to fill various offices. Last year I started on my winter's cruise the first of February and finished the sixth of April. The people are always ready to carry the missionary from place to place with their dogs and comitque. About ten dogs generally form a team for cruising. The dogs travel in single file, there being about five feet between each dog, so that when the snow is soft they all travel in the same path. Each dog has his own trace of sealskin which attaches him to the comitque. The guide carries a whip made of sealskin thirty or thirty-five feet long attached to a stock a foot long. With this whip he guides the dogs, using it very expertly, and sometimes, I am sorry to say, very severely, for I have heard of a driver cutting the ear off a dog thirty-five feet away. A well-trained team requires no whip, obeying every word.