

## NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

Gathered specially for this paper by Our Own Correspondents.

## DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

**HALIFAX.—St. Mark's and St. John's Parish.**—A Confirmation was held in the parish church last Wednesday evening by the Bishop of Nova Scotia when forty were presented for the reception of that sacred rite. His Lordship's pastoral staff was borne by the rector, the Rev. H. J. Winterbourne, and Evening Prayer was said by the curate, Rev. J. O. Crisp. The Bishop took occasion in his address to congratulate the congregation in their endeavour to improve the musical part of the services by procuring a handsome new pipe organ; regretting his enforced absence from the approaching dedication of the instrument on account of his long Confirmation tour in his Diocese. He also gracefully referred to the "earnest work of the parochial clergy which has resulted in pressing need for additional church accommodation. Everyone present could not fail to be impressed with the Bishop's kind, loving, and fatherly words of exhortation and advice to the young people. St. Mark's Church will at present seat about 350 people comfortably, but it is desirable to have a building large enough to accommodate 500, there being a constant demand for pews, the existing ones being all rented. There were 150 communicants in the parish who received the Lord's Supper on Easter Day, more than half of whom partook at the two early administrations of the Sacrament. Several were unable to be present on account of sickness, but notwithstanding this there was a marked increase to any previous year.

**St. John's Chapel.**—The annual meeting of this picturesque little church was held on St. George's Day with satisfactory results. The financial report was better than it has ever been in the history of the Church, particularly in the matter of offertories, which were much larger than in any former year. The rector's stipend was increased. The Church has been painted both externally and internally, and presents a nice, fresh appearance. The new wardens are Mr. Alderman Taylor, and Mr. Carnell, both of whom take a lively interest in the affairs of this church.

It ought to be mentioned that the Halifax correspondent to the GUARDIAN by mistake included the financial report of this chapel in that of the parish church. In justice to St. Mark's, we beg leave to state that the accounts of this and the other chapel are kept separate and distinct, although they are always examined at the Easter meeting.

**North-West Arm Mission Chapel.**—At the annual meeting of this prosperous little church it was decided, on the approval of the rector, to dedicate it to St. James, which will be done formally when the greatly needed church is built. Bishop Bickersteth's "Hymnal Companion" is shortly to be introduced here.

The stipend of the popular and energetic curate in charge, Rev. J. O. Crisp, was augmented.

The curate of St. Luke's has returned from his West Indian trip, and is now quite recovered from his indisposition. We regret to learn that the Diocese is about to lose one of its most promising and learned young men, in the person of Rev. W. B. King, of St. Peter's, Charlottetown. It is said that the rev. gentleman will take work in an important church in Boston.

Rev. Samuel Davies, from the college at Warminster, England, was ordained deacon last week by the Bishop of Nova Scotia. The rev. gentleman proceeds at once to take charge of the important mission in Cape Breton recently worked by the Rev. S. Gibbons.

The Rector of Rawdon, the Rev. W. J. Ancient, has recently refused another tempting offer of work in another field. To his credit, this is the fourth offer that the rev. gentleman has refused since he took charge of his present parish.

**St. Luke's.**—There was a very large attendance at St. Luke's Hall to hear the concert given in aid of the Church of England Coffee Rooms. The concert was a very enjoyable affair, and the Rector deserves great credit for his activity in thus helping forward an extra-parochial object. The following ladies and gentlemen took part: Mrs. Rigby, Mrs. Gregor, Miss Shannon, Mrs. F. Tremaine, Miss Prince, Miss Murray, Miss Wainwright, Rev. R. N. Raven, Capt. Clarkson and the talented members of the Glee Club.

**C. W. M. S.**—The Church Women's Missionary Society held a sale of fancy work last week in aid of the funds of the Society. We believe that the sum of over one hundred dollars was realized. It is the intention of the Society to hold the sales every three months.

**AT HOME**—Quite a brilliant company assembled at the Free Masons' Hall last Tuesday, at the invitation of the Church of England Sunday-School Teachers' Association to an "At Home." Over 300 teachers and their friends were present. Tea, coffee and cake were served round and the evening was pleasantly spent in listening to some first-rate piano-forte playing and singing, and in the agreeable conversation usually prevalent at a conversazione. Short speeches were delivered by the Rev. F. R. Murray and Rev. Dr. Partridge. The Lord Bishop and nearly all the city clergy were present. The following ladies and gentlemen added greatly to the success of the "At Home," by their musical talents: Mrs. Gregor, Miss Shannon, Miss Taylor, Mr. J. G. Smith and Mr. Foster (Dartmouth). The next meeting of the Association takes place on May 4th, at St. Luke's Hall, when a model lesson will be given by the Rev. K. C. Hind, and a paper will be read by Mr. F. C. Sumichrast.

**ALBION MINES.**—The Rev. D. G. Moore lectured on Tuesday, the 21st April, for the widows and orphans of the Vale Colliery employees lost in the late explosion; giving a description of what he saw during the winters 1882-1883 spent by him in Europe. England, Scotland, France and Italy, were included in the lecturer's notes, which were most attentively listened to. The rector ended with a reference to the large charities of the Masonic Fraternity; the lecture being delivered in obedience to the call of Keith Lodge, No. 23, A. F. & A. M. of Nova Scotia.

**PARRSBOROUGH.—St. George's.**—The Lenten services in this parish were better attended than ever before, and in each evening in Holy Week the congregations were large. Easter Sunday was fine and the attendance at church good, with a fair number of communicants. Flowers for decorating the church were difficult to procure, many house plants having been frozen during the winter; still there was a fair show, principally contributed by Mr. Beatty. The pulpit, lectern and desk were ornamented with beautiful banners presented for the occasion by Miss Ratchford, of Amherst.

The meeting on Easter Monday was well attended and more harmonious than such meetings generally are. Messrs. Townshend and Upham were elected churchwardens. It was unanimously decided to make every effort to raise the necessary funds for retaining the services of Rev. M. C. Wade, the energetic curate residing at Port Greville, twelve miles from the parish church.

Application to the B. H. M. for a grant of \$150 per annum towards that object, had already been made by the rector, but no answer was forthcoming at the time of the meeting. Since then, the Executive Committee B. H. M. have decided, owing to the state of the funds, not to make a grant to Parrsborough; therefore the local efforts will have to be more strenuous, and the contributions to the B. H. M. may be decreased.

**LOWER STEWIACKE.**—The church here has been undergoing improvements, and a new Kearn organ (a fine toned and handsome instrument, purchased from Miller Bros., Middleton) has replaced the old one.

## DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

**ST. JOHN.**—A Confirmation was held in Trinity Church on Wednesday, April 22nd, by the Most Rev. the Metropolitan, when forty persons were confirmed, twenty-four of whom were females and sixteen males.

His Lordship the Bishop Coadjutor has been visiting Sussex and Hampton in the interests of the Diocesan Church Society; from thence he proceeds to Carleton, where he will administer the holy rite of Confirmation.

**ST. JOHN.—St. James.**—The rector, Rev. S. O. Troop, delivered an interesting and instructive lecture, under the auspices of Johnston Orange Lodge, on "The First Church."

**FREDERICTON.**—At a meeting of the Cathedral congregation held in the vestry, April 9th, presided over by the Most Rev. the Metropolitan, the following delegates were elected: To Diocesan Synod, Geo. E. Fenety and G. R. Parkin. Substitutes, John Black and Mr. Justice Wetmore. To Diocesan Church Society, Sheriff Sterling and A. F. Street. Substitutes, G. E. Stopford and S. A. Akeley. The Synod meets in Fredericton on the first Wednesday in July.

**KINGSCLEAR.**—The annual meeting of the parishioners was held on Easter Monday, the rector, Rev. H. Montgomery, in the chair. The following were elected members of the corporation: Churchwardens, John H. Lee, Esq. and John C. Murray, Esq. Vestrymen, Lt.-Col. Maunsell, Capt. Powys, Charles E. Murray, S. Murray, E. R. Murray, C. H. Giles, W. Leger, W. Jennings, F. W. Clements, A. W. Rainsford and T. C. Lee. Delegates to the Diocesan Synod, Capt. Powys and A. W. Rainsford. Delegates to the Diocesan Church Society, Lt.-Col. Maunsell and John H. Lee. Vestry clerk, Percy Powys.

The statement of the wardens for the past year shows the finances to be in a healthy state, and considerable increase in the offertory collection and also in the subscriptions for general purposes. It was resolved to immediately proceed to remodel and renovate the rectory in accordance with plans submitted to the meeting, and which, if carried out, will make the rectory, which is now in a very dilapidated state, commodious and comfortable. It was with regret that the meeting learned of the removal of several families from the parish during the year, thereby reducing the church population as well as the substantial help which they rendered in the support of the Church.

**NEW MARYLAND.**—The annual vestry meeting of this Mission was held on Easter Monday, the missionary, Rev. F. Alexander, in the chair. The churchwardens, Mr. James Homcastle and Mr. W. H. McKnight were re-elected to office and Mr. Lewis Fisher chosen as delegate to Diocesan Synod. The accounts since last Easter shew an increase of ten dollars in the offertory collections, also a considerable balance to the church's credit after meeting the past year's expenses.

Half-an-hour on Sundays at the close of the afternoon service, has of late been devoted to the practice of the responsive portions of the Church's worship; the portions, we may remind our readers, in which the priesthood of the laity is specially recognized, and the rendering of which might be almost everywhere improved. The worship of the angels, of the ten thousand times ten thousands goes up, we are told, to the ear of God as the voice of one—not as the voices, but the voice of many—the voice of a great multitude, teaching us surely that the responsive worship of the Church on earth should be as far as we can make it also as the voice of one, the voice of Christ's people in their corporate character, blessing and praising God. How often, however, it is found that persons are guided in this matter solely by their own individual notions and feelings, and, without regard to the spirit of Christian worship or the rubrics of the Prayer Book, rush with unseemly haste through the sacred sentences of confessions and creeds, or