

LUNENBURG RURAL DEANERY.

A meeting of the chapter of the above Deanery was held at St. Margaret's Bay, on April 22nd, special services also were held in the parish on the previous and following days. The clergy had to regret the absence of their Rural Dean, who was prevented from leaving his parish by urgent parochial duties, the bad state of the roads prevented the attendance of some of the most distant, but the following assembled at the meeting at St. Margaret's Bay:—The Revds. C. Shreve, J. Ambrose, H. Stamer, H. S. Wainwright, and G. W. Hodgson. The Revds. J. Abbott, J. C. Edghill, W. H. Bullock, from Halifax, were also present.

On Tuesday evening a very large congregation assembled in St. Paul's Church, where after Evensong, the Rev. J. C. Edghill preached on "the state of the faithful viewed in the light of Easter." The preacher taking for his text St. Matthew xxii. 32, shewed that in God's sight the dead are the living—that their life now is higher than our life here—but that the highest life of the holy dead is yet to come.

On the following morning the Deanery service proper was held. Matins and the Litany having been said by the Rev. C. Shreve—Hymn 193 was sung, and then the Rev. J. Ambrose, assisted by the Rev. H. Stamer and Rev. C. Shreve commenced the Divine Service. The sermon was preached by the Rev. G. W. Hodgson (the preacher and substitute preacher appointed by the Rural Dean both being absent); the text being St. John xxi. 1-11 compared with St. Luke v. 1-8. The fishes drawn by a broken net into the ship still on the sea, were contrasted with the one hundred and fifty and three taken from the right side of the ship and drawn by an unbroken net to Jesus on the shore. While the very different action of St. Peter on the two occasions was used to shew that the longer we know Jesus, the more we must trust and love Him. All of the congregation remained until the end of the service, and about eighteen of the faithful received the Blessed Sacrament.

In the afternoon the meeting for mutual edification was held in the new School room in the Rectory, where papers on *Lay Co-operation* were read by the Revds. C. Shreve and J. Ambrose. A long and interesting discussion followed; the conclusions arrived at being embodied in the following recommendation:—"That each member of this Deanery, as soon as possible, draw the attention of his parishioners to their privilege and duty of assisting in the advancement of Christ's Kingdom. And that meetings of the communicants be held in the various districts as well for the consideration of subjects connected with the Lord's Supper, as for the purpose of mutual consultation as to what each may do."

In the evening, Service was held in St. Peter's Church, Lower Ward, where the Church was crowded, and the Rev. H. Stamer preached from Acts xvi. 14, 15,—expounding the passage by showing that in this real conversion, the heart was the seat of the feeling, the Lord was the author of the change of heart, using the word spoken by St. Paul as an instrument,—that Lydia's antecedents had prepared her to receive the gospel, and that the reality of her conversion was shown by the blessed effects.

On the following morning, at an early hour, clergy and lay people met again at the Table of their Lord. The Rev. J. C. Edghill celebrated and gave a short address urging all "to seek in faith for oneness with Christ through the Blessed Sacrament of His Body and Blood," and always to come to that Holy Communion with due preparation. After this the clergy separated for their several homes, feeling encouraged and strengthened by united prayer and mutual counsel. It is only right to notice the large and attentive congregation and the excellent singing, especially at the Parish Church. Though none of the services was a full choral one, in all the Psalms were chanted to the Gregorian tones according to *Helmors's Manual*, the canticles and hymns being sung to more modern music.

The next meeting will be held at Lunenburg, in August. The subject for discussion will be "The authority committed to Ministers at their ordination by the words 'Whose sins thou dost forgive they are forgiven, and whose sins thou dost retain they are retained.'" A discussion arose upon this point during the reading of the service for the consecration of a Bishop, and though opinions were various, it was seen that so much was held in common, and that so great advantage would arise from a clear definition of the various tenets, that it was unanimously wished that the subject should be fully discussed at the next meeting.

GEORGE W. HODGSON, Sec'y.