

and in other churches. The most noticeable features of these floral decorations was in the Crosses, some of which were very beautiful. Two most lovely ones appeared in the Cathedral, one surmounting the Font which was converted into a Pyramid of Flowers, and another depending in front of the pulpit. In front of the reading desk in St. Paul's, Portland, was a Cross formed of four magnificent callas. Besides these floral decorations, there were in many instances, appropriate texts and banners, that in every way Christ might be preached. Another prominent feature of the Easter services was the excellent character of the music, that in the Cathedral, and Parish Church, St. John's Church, Trinity, and St. Paul's, showing plainly that the choirs of these churches did not offer to God of that which cost them nothing. In many churches there was an early celebration of Holy Communion, besides the usual mid-day one. In that of St. Paul's, held at 7.30 a.m., the Sunday School scholars, with their teachers, took part in the Ante-Communion, while the number of Communicants was one hundred. Many facts might be pointed out in connection with this Easter, which show, not only that the past Lenten season has been one of spiritual revival, but also, that the church in this diocese is steadily growing. But the opportunity seems peculiarly fitting to mention one instance in particular, that of St. George's, Moncton. A little more than three years ago the future of this congregation seemed exceedingly dark. There were those who said it was hopeless. It was rent asunder by dissensions within. The so-called "Reformed Episcopalians" had scented their prey from afar, and had settled on it to their work. The Church itself was burned down. If memory does not deceive, the present Rector came to a parish little more than nominally existent, with no Church, a scanty flock, twenty communicants, and eight children in the Sunday School he at once formed. On this Easter a large congregation met to worship in a new church; the choir contained fifteen voices; sixty persons partook of the Eucharist; and fifty names were enrolled on the register of the Sunday School. At present we hear very little about "the Reformers of the nineteenth century" in Moncton. In St. John, too, only one preacher remains. He, however, has the advantage of being able to exist there even independently of his own religious body. He uses a Church edifice, and enjoys a house and income left some years ago to trustees, by a wealthy citizen of New Brunswick, for the use of "any orthodox protestant denomination." Six years ago this bequest was in the hands of the Congregationalists. Their Pastor came over to the Church of England, and is now Rector of a Church in Montreal. Then it fell into the hands of the Methodists. But their itinerant system left it a prey to the "Reformers from the States"; and they will hold on to it, as something more tangible than the caprice of malcontents from every name of Christians. They are eminently fitted by vagueness of doctrine and elasticity of principle to guide a congregation who change the denomination as often as the Pastor. It is said that the "Reformers" find more congenial soil in Canada than in their native land. If so, the slip planted in this Province was cut from a dying plant. It most decidedly does not thrive. To-day they are either losing the footing they have gained, or are maintaining it with difficulty. There can be no fire without some smoke. The only chronicle of Easter from them thus far is the account of an "Easter Apron Fair," held in connection with this unsectarian place of worship, of which they have charge, in St. John.

New Hymnals.—On Easter Sunday "Hymns Ancient and Modern" was used for the first time in the Cathedral, and the Parish Church of Fredericton. The edition introduced is the latest one, in which the appendices are incorporated in the original book. On the same Sunday the congregation of Trinity Church, St. John, used for the first time the latest edition of the S. P. C. K. Hymnal. The congregation of St. John's Church adopted a little more than a year ago Bickersteth's "Hymnal Companion to the Prayer Book." In most of the Churches in the diocese, a small diocesan collection is used. It is most excellent in character; but as it necessarily contains a limited number of Hymns, and is without music, it is very likely that it will soon be generally re-

placed by some larger and more convenient collection. The use of "Hymns ancient and modern" is always followed by a very desirable improvement in Congregational singing; and the example of the Cathedral, which is in every way a model for the diocese, will probably make this Hymnal the favourite one.

Easter Offerings.—In many places Easter has been made the occasion of devout offerings to God to beautify His House, and to commemorate the departed. In Trinity Church, St. John, these offerings were a new altar, and chancel chairs, in native black ash, a chancel carpet of ecclesiastical pattern, and a handsome altar cloth. In Moncton the ladies' society of "Willing Workers" gave to St. George's Church a suitable chancel carpet. Miss Sisson presented to the Parish Church, Fredericton, an appropriate pulpit frontal. On Easter Even, Mrs. Mounsell presented to St. Peter's Church, Kingsclear, a beautiful and valuable Communicant's kneeling cushion, wrought entirely by hand, and the result of months of devoted labour. At the same time a three light memorial window, designed and executed by J. C. Spence, Montreal, was placed in the chancel. It is a figure and canopy window, the figures being those of the "Good Shepherd" in the center light with St. Paul on the right, and St. Peter on the left. The center light was erected as a memorial to Rev. John Black, late Rector of Kingsclear, and author of "Cantate Domino," by his daughter Sarah Robinson. The side lights are a memorial to the Rev. Canon Lee, a native of Kingsclear, and late Rector of Fredericton, and were erected by his many friends and admirers, through the instrumentality of Mrs. C. C. Tabor. The window is very creditable to Canadian art, and has the advantage of being considerably less expensive than English glass of the same excellence.

Easter Monday Meetings.—For the most part the annual parish meetings were confined to receiving the vestry clerk's financial exhibit, and electing officers for the ensuing year. In one or two instances, however, matters affecting the welfare of the Church were touched on. At St. Luke's Church, Portland, a resolution was passed, which will prevent the construction of "square" pews in the new edifice. Nothing, probably, would have been more pleasing to the Rector, who is a zealous and able advocate of "free seats," or more gratifying to Church people generally, than the extension of this resolution to the sale of the new pews. In the Fredericton meeting a desire was expressed to ask the Synod to apply for an amendment to the existing law which provides that the Easter meetings shall be held in the Churches. However desirable it might be to hold them elsewhere, to do so would be to destroy their legality. At the same time it is doubtful if the majority of the vestries in the diocese are legal as it is. The Statute defining the qualifications of vestrymen, states that they shall be either pew holders, or, in the case of free seated churches, annual contributors of four dollars to "the funds of Church." The question turns on the meaning of the expression, "funds of the Church." If it means a special reserve fund, beyond the offertories and assessments in the Parishes, we need not, in most cases, trouble ourselves to preserve a legality which we do not possess. Our most pressing need is a Committee appointed by the Synod to take into consideration all acts of the Legislature affecting the Church, and to report on some method of elucidating and simplifying their intricacies and obscurities.

QUEBEC.

(From our Own Correspondent.)

QUEBEC.—It is very gratifying to be able to report large congregations in all the Anglican Churches on Easter Day, and what is more cheering still, as an evidence of spiritual growth, a large number of Communicants. There were two celebrations in the Cathedral, at 8 and 11 o'clock, with over 800 communicants. At St. Matthew's there were three celebrations, at 6, 7.30 and 11 o'clock, with about 500 communicants, over 70 being present at the six o'clock service. This church was tastefully decorated. The altar was vested in a rich white silk cloth beautifully embroidered, on the Retable stood two vases of flowers with a floral cross in the centre. There is,

however, always a defect in the Altar decorations of St. Matthew's as regards flowers, the sombre reredos (not a slightly structure) seems to deaden the effect that flowers should have, a back ground of suitable cloth laid over the wood, would greatly enhance the effect; flowers are so rare at this season of the year, that it is a pity (especially when used in the adornments of the Sanctuary) that they are not distinctly seen from all parts of the sacred edifice. A well executed text, "We Praise Thee O God," in straw work runs in front of the splendid new organ, it is bold in design and would make a suitable permanent adornment. The Font was very beautiful, though here again the dark wood of the font cover detracts from the beauty of the flowers. In the south transept are two handsome illuminations of the Pelican and the Agnus Dei, with an illuminated text. At St. Peter's there were two celebrations at 8 and 10.30 with over 150 communicants, nearly 80 communicated at the early service. The decorations here consisted of a text "He is risen," designed for the back of the Altar, on a white ground surrounded with ivy leaves and ferns. The pulpit and lectern frontals were monograms on a white ground. St. Michael's Church, Sillery, carried off the palm in the way of decorations. Here flowers were introduced in pots and gave a really bright appearance to the Church. The Font was one mass of flowers, crowned with a magnificent lily. Praise is due to Col. Rhodes, who with his usual thoughtfulness furnished sufficient flowers to decorate the whole church. The Lord Bishop preached in the morning and administered the rite of confirmation to 23 candidates, all of whom afterwards partook of the Holy Communion with a large number of the congregation. At St. Paul's church the services were as usual with good congregations. There being no Rector in charge, the services are maintained by different clergymen of the city, until the vacancy caused by the resignation of the Rev. R. Mitchell (now in England) has been filled. I must not omit to mention something respecting the musical portion of the services on the Queen of Festivals. In the Cathedral there was a marked improvement on former years. Mr. Bishop, the talented organist, deserves great credit for the care which he has bestowed in the training and general management of the Cathedral choir. "Garratts" Te Deum in D was most beautifully rendered. The chanting of the Psalms was clear and efficient. In the evening Wesley's anthem: "Blessed be the God and Father" was given in admirable style. On the whole, it is within bounds to say that the whole service of the day was devotional and beautiful. In St. Matthew's there were processional and recessional hymns in addition to the usual chanting, and a choral litany in the afternoon. The latter was well taken by the Rev. C. C. Hamilton, who has a sweet, clear and distinct voice. As regards the music in this (now really handsome) church a visitor naturally feels somewhat disappointed—with a large surpliced choir and grand organ, expectations are raised, which are far from being realized. From some reason or other the organist fails to carry the choir and congregation. Whether it is not having been accustomed to so large an organ as the new one, or want of sympathy with the present style of the music we know not, but there is certainly something wrong somewhere.

The Easter meetings passed off in a very satisfactory manner at the Cathedral, there was a change in Wardens, Jas. Dunbar, Esq., Q. C., replacing M. G. Mountain, Esq., as Rector's Warden, and W. D. Campbell, Esq., replacing Geo. Hall, Esq., as People's Warden. In St. Matthew's the retiring Wardens were re-elected, viz.—W. H. Carter, Esq., and Col. Forrest. In St. Peter's, J. H. Richardson, and James Hamilton, Esquires, retain office. The vestry of St. Peter's passed a vote authorizing the purchase of the property adjoining the church on the west side. The purchase has since been made and thus a suitable residence provided for the Sexton.

The Election of Delegates to the Diocesan Synod takes place Easter 1878.

The great event of the past week has been the Anniversary meeting of the Diocesan Church Society; an account of which will be given in our next.