

readiness. This is the first Confirmation held at this mission, and is an indication, I trust, of real progress. Only a few of our Indians had assembled on account of the scarcity of provisions. Daily service was held for them. After a sermon on the duty and benefit of reading and studying the Scriptures, several applications were made for books. Here, too, death has been busy, and the native lay reader mentioned the case of an old woman who had died rejoicing in the hope of a happier life in the next world. She told her sorrowing relations not to weep, because she was going to a better land.

Scarcity of provisions also kept the Indians away from Fort Wrigley, so that during my week's stay there in the early part of June I saw but very few. Daily evening prayers were held for those few, and I spent the time pleasantly, and I trust profitably in instructing a few individuals. A young woman applied for admission into the Church, but I thought it advisable to postpone it until she has received a little more preparation. The Indians are very desirous of having a resident missionary, and one is much needed. Would that the need could be supplied!

(To be continued.)

Diocese of New Westminster.

The diocese is doubly bereaved in the loss of its Bishop and Archdeacon. The Synod has been called by the three senior priests to meet on Feb. 20th, in the Cathedral.

It is proposed to build a Convalescent Home and House of Rest at Yale, B.C., as a memorial to the late Bishop Sillitoe. Mrs. Sillitoe has generously offered to take charge of such a work without remuneration. It was the late Bishop's wish that such a Home should be established. The cost is the modest sum of \$3,000, and it is believed that when once started it will be self-supporting. Contributions can be sent to Rev. H. G. F. Clinton, Vancouver; or Rev. G. Ditcham, New Westminster.

HATZIC.—Five acres of land has been given for an orphanage, and one will be erected for twenty inmates, to cost \$3,000.

ENCOURAGE THE YOUNG TO READ.

Life in the country has its drawbacks, but it also has its compensations. If the young people living in farm homes have not the opportunity of having as many things new and strange as their cousins in the city, they have what is far better, viz., plenty of leisure for reading and digesting what they read. If any inclination in this direction on the part of the child should be noticed by the parents, the child should be encouraged to spend time in acquiring useful information in this way.

It may take a little money to secure suitable papers and books, but how can money be spent that will give a better return? In this way slumbering ambitions will be awakened. The mind will be well stored with useful information which, in all probability, will be turned to good account in the future. A capacity to think and reflect and analyze is also begotten, which brings along with it a power that idlers never know. It may be that, to get these periodicals and books, some sacrifice will have to be made in other directions; but our advice is to make it, so long as it can be done. It may be that some article of clothing of the nature of adornment will have to be gone without. Then let it be so. It may even be necessary to dispense with luxuries in the form of food; if so, dispense with them; for while it may be allowable sometimes to adorn the body and feed it to some extent, on luxuries, it is always much more important to properly clothe and nourish the mind. It is a beautiful sight to witness

the members of the household, as the shadows of evening fall, gather around the family table, and spend an hour or two in feasting on wholesome mental food.—*Selected.*

WHY ARE THEY SHUT?

Why are our churches shut with jealous care,
Bolted and barred against our bosom's yearning,
Save for the few short hours of Sabbath prayer,
With the bell's tolling stately returning?
Why are they shut?

If with diurnal drudgeries o'erwrought,
Or sick of dissipation's dull vagaries,
We wish to snatch one little span for thought,
Or holy respite, in our sanctuaries,
Why are they shut?

What! shall the church, the house of prayer, no more,
Give tacit notice from its fastened portals,
That for six days 'tis useless to adore,
Since God will hold no communings with mortals?
Why are they shut?

Are there no sinners in the churchless week
Who wish to sanctify a vowed repentance?
Are there no hearts bereft which faint would seek
The only balm for death's un pitying sentence?
Why are they shut?

Are there no poor, no wronged, no heirs of grief,
No sick, who, when their strength or courage falters,
Long for a moment's respite of relief,
By kneeling at the God of mercy's altars?
Why are they shut?

Are there no wicked, whom, if tempted in,
Some qualm of conscience or devout suggestion,
Might suddenly redeem from future sin?
Oh, if there be how solemn is the question,
Why are they shut?

In foreign climes mechanics have their tasks
To breathe a passing prayer in their cathedrals;
There they have week-day shrines, and no one asks,
When he would kneel to them, and count his bead-rolls,
Why are they shut?

Seeing them enter sad and discontented,
To quit those cheering fanes with looks of gladness—
How often have my thoughts to ours reverted!
How oft have I exclaimed, in tones of sadness:
Why are they shut?

For who within a parish church can stroll,
Wrapt in its week-day stillness and vacation,
Nor feel that in the very air his soul
Receives a sweet and hallowing illustration?
Why are they shut?

The vacant pews, blank aisles, and empty choir,
All in a deep sepulchral silence shrouded,
An one more solemn and intense inspire,
Then when with Sabbath congregations crowded,
Why are they shut?

The echoes of our footsteps, as we tread
On hollow graves, are spiritual voices;
And, holding mental converse with the dead,
In holy reveries our soul rejoices.
Why are they shut?

If there be one—one only—who might share
This sanctifying week-day adoration,
Were but our churches open to his prayer,
Why—I demand with earnest iteration—
Why are they shut?

—From the Living Church.

NEW BOOKS.

[From THOS WHITTAKER, 2 and 3 Bible House, New York.]

LENT. Past and Present: A Study of the Primitive Origin of Lent, its Purpose and Usages; by Herman Lilienthal, M.A., with an introduction by John Williams, D.D., LL.D., Bishop of Connecticut. (Cloth, pp. 161; 75c.)

This timely and admirable volume, bearing the commendation of the Presiding Bishop of the Church in the United States, presents in a plain, attractive and clear manner the history and uses of Lent, and supplies a considerable amount of very useful information. The book contains the substance of six Lectures delivered on the Sunday mornings of last Lent, and, having examined them, we can fully endorse the statement made by the author: "It is hoped that this book will be found helpful to clergymen pressed for time; to Lay Readers who may wish to give connected instructions during Lent on its origin, etc.; to the congregations under their charge; and also to earnest laymen and laywomen who desire to know more of the early origin and usages of Lent than is usually known."

A LENT IN EARNEST: Daily Readings for the Season; by L. E. Guersey. (Paper, pp. 198; 50c.)

This is volume 22 of "Whittaker's Library," published monthly at an annual subscription of \$3 per annum. Those who desire a short daily instruction of a devotional and practical character, either for private or family use, will find it in this work now brought within the reach of everyone through the enterprise of this well-known publishing house.

ON ROMANISM; by the late Rev. John Henry Hopkins, S.T.D. (Paper, pp. 200; 25c.)

This is No. 21 of Whittaker's Library. It contains Dr. Hopkins' trenchant and convincing articles which appeared in the *American Church Review* in 1884-85, in answer to Monsignor Capel's treatise on the word "Catholic," an essential and exclusive attribute of the True Church; and the author's review of the late Dr. Littledale's "Petrine Claims." A wide circulation of this work amongst Church people would—assuming it to be carefully read—do much to provide ready answers to the assumptions of the Church of Rome, and strengthen them in their allegiance to the purer Anglican branch of the Church Catholic as a sister guide than Rome to both Truth and Unity. Every thoughtful Churchman should have this book.

PAPERS AND SPEECHES—Church Congress in the United States. (Paper, pp. 234; \$1.)

Under this title the official report of the proceedings of the 16th Church Congress, lately held in Boston, November 13-16 1894, is given to the world by the Rev. J. W. Kramer, one of the Assistant Secretaries. It will afford matter for weeks of study, and whilst evidencing the widely differing views entertained by leading members of the Church on many important subjects, will also show the spirit of toleration and charity which generally prevails.

Notice to Subscribers in Arrears.

We regret to be obliged to say that owing to inattention to notices and requests heretofore given, we shall be compelled to place all accounts for Subscriptions over due for more than three years and, remaining unpaid at the end of the present month, in the hands of our legal attorney.