

The idea of *Christmas in church* is too deeply rooted in the Church of England conscience to enable either rain or mud to cause any very serious deflection or variation in traditional habit. Indeed, there were some churches where the congregations are peculiarly zealous, where these obstacles serve to act as incentives and stimulants, if we may judge by the reports of music, flowers, greenings and smiling faces, as well as increased offerings. In those churches where the midnight service is in vogue, the commemorations assembled by the hundreds. Indeed, in several instances, this has become the service of the day, when music, members and enthusiasm are of the best that the place can afford.]

EAST TORONTO.—St. Andrew's.—On Tuesday, the 22nd inst., a very successful fancy fair, opened by E. E. A. Du Vernet, Esq., Toronto, was held in the Y. M. C. A. hall, in order that the proceeds might relieve the debt upon the new church. On the stalls was laid out a great variety of fancy goods, works of art, toys, provisions, and whatever was likely to suit the taste of old and young. The attendants were attired according to different nationalities, and throughout the evening the sales were interspersed with a musical entertainment, in which the choir-boys, under the able leadership of Mr. Wilson, and with Mr. H. Moor at the piano, took a prominent part, and were much applauded. The fair formed a centre of attraction for the whole community, and all denominations were very fairly represented, as they always are in a good cause. This and similar entertainments are the result of the energy and enthusiasm of the young people's society, and Dr. Gammon is to be complimented on having the co-operation of such willing assistants in his congregation.

COLBORNE.—On Tuesday, December 22nd, we laid to rest in the quiet cemetery of Lakeport, one who for many years had played a leading part in the history of Colborne. In Scotland she would have been termed "the wife of the laird"; in England, "the lady of the manor." We Canadians regard her as the kindly, genial lady whose presence brought brightness to the village, as she daily interested herself in the welfare of one and all of its inhabitants. However we speak, all know and feel that a loss has been sustained by the death of Mrs. Donald Campbell which will be long and deeply felt, not only in her immediate circle, but by all in and around the village, near which she had made her home for more than twenty years. For some time Mrs. Campbell had interested herself heartily and perseveringly in buying and paying for a commodious rectory house for Trinity Church. As president of the Ladies' Aid, she, with a noble daughter, who delighted to carry out her every suggestion, bid defiance to every obstacle, and with others who bravely helped to carry on the work, not only undertook the parsonage payments, but collaterally worked for another debt which weighed heavily upon the parish. When suffering under her last illness, this brave woman still urged forward the work, saying that she hoped to live to see the parsonage free from debt, which, indeed, she did, and was able to rejoice with those around her in the fact of all indebtedness being wiped out, a little more than two weeks before she was called away. No monument, of whatever architectural skill, could so eloquently describe the "deeds, not words," of the lamented president and her co-workers than does the Rectory of Colborne. We shall see her no more, nor hear her cheery words of commendation at every attempted improvement, and her oft expressed wish that everything might be made comfortable for the inmates; but her "works do follow her," and cannot fail to perpetuate the kind remembrances which now fill all minds.

#### NIAGARA.

HAMILTON.—Sunday morning an ordination service was held at Christ Church cathedral by Bishop Hamilton, assisted by Rev. E. P. Crawford, Rev. E. N. Bland, Canon Reid (Grimsby) and Venerable Archdeacon Dixon (Guelph). Rev. Maurice W. Britton was ordained as a priest and Mr. Aborn as a deacon. The sermon was preached by Rev. E. P. Crawford.

PORT DALHOUSIE.—On Tuesday evening, at the rectory, some of the members of the congregation visited Rev. Rural Dean Gribble, and presented him with a very handsome fur coat and foot-muff. The address was read by Miss Brooks: "The congregation have much pleasure in presenting for your acceptance a robe and foot-muff, and now express the hope that you may be long spared to use them. They give you the kindest greetings of the season, and express their highest appreciation of your unremitting labours for their spiritual welfare." Fifty-five names of donors towards this testimonial were attached to the address. The Rural Dean, in his reply, expressed his great thankfulness for their valuable

present, and having adverted to the time last year when an exchange of parishes having been contemplated, the congregation so unanimously expressed their desire that he should continue to labour among them, he regarded this as a fresh token of their esteem and affection, feelings which he fully reciprocated. He adverted to the fact that having been over sixteen years ministering to them, this was especially gratifying to him, as it showed that as the years sped ever more and more swiftly onward, the pastoral tie was being cemented more closely—that they were learning to know and understand one another better; and though they might at times see one another's faults, they were learning to throw over them the mantle of Christian love, and to appreciate the more one another's virtues. He ended by wishing to his congregation all Christmas joy, the joy of the services and sacraments of the Church, the joy of the home circle, and that they might ever thus re-echo more and more in their lives and conversation the angel song, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good-will towards men." The evening passed away most pleasantly in music and social converse.

#### ALGOMA.

PORT CARLING.—The incumbent of the above mission wishes to state, for the benefit of the many kind friends interested in Port Carling and points adjacent, that the annual Xmas festival took place in Victoria Hall, Pt. Carling, on the evening of Monday, Dec. 21st, when the evening passed away very pleasantly, the following programme being dispensed: From 6 o'clock to 7.30, tea was served to the children of the three Sunday schools—Point Kaye, Gregory and Pt. Carling; also to the large circle of friends gathered, numbering over two hundred. From 7.45 to 9 o'clock the first part of the musical programme was listened to with the greatest attention and pleasure. Then after the carol, "Gather Around the Xmas-tree," was rendered by a choir of ten voices, Santa Claus entered, via the fire-place, and addressed the children on the origin and office of St. Nicholas. Then followed the distribution of the presents, which were numerous and very suitable, the children being greatly pleased. Then followed the second part of the musical department. At 11 o'clock the proceedings were brought to a close by the audience rising and singing unitedly the National Anthem, this being followed by the invoking of God's blessing on the assembled audience of children and friends. Before the people separated Mr. Pooler moved a vote of thanks to the chairman, the Rev. Mr. Burt, for the pains taken by him in preparing so enjoyable a programme, and for the able way in which he presided over the meeting. Before closing, we, as a mission, would express our heartfelt thanks to the Bishop of the Diocese in sending us an incumbent in our time of need, and also to the kind friends in St. James' and St. Peter's, Toronto, and St. James', London, Ont., for the presents sent by them for our S.S. children. The boxes from St. Peter's have not yet arrived, but were shipped some time ago, so we are still looking for them. If they arrive in time, the incumbent will distribute the contents on Xmas Eve to those children who kindly consented to wait for their rewards until that time. Thanks is also due to Mr. Goulding of Toronto for Xmas cards.

#### British and Foreign.

At Lucknow, where so many were murdered during the Sepoy rebellion thirty years ago, two thousand children, nearly all of Hindu-Mohammedan parentage, recently marched in a Sunday school procession.

It is said that the Constitution of the Christian Endeavour Society has been translated into the German, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Spanish, Chinese, Tamil and Fiji languages, and it is being translated into the Armenian, Turkish and other foreign tongues.

There is considerable suggestiveness in the fact that a young Jewess who has embraced Christianity has expressed a desire "to read church history to find out how and when Christians came to be so different from Christ." This is a question which every follower of the Saviour should prayerfully ponder.

Since the opening of the year, fifty Scandinavians from the United States, twenty-seven of them women, have arrived at Shanghai, to serve as "evangelists," in response to Hudson Taylor's call for a thousand to join the China Inland Mission.

An invitation to revisit Liverpool has been sent to Messrs. Moody and Sankey, signed by the Bishop

and seventy-five clergymen and ministers of various denominations.

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett is devoting a considerable part of the income she derives from her literary labours to the home for newsboys in Drury Lane, London, that she has founded to the memory of her dead son, the charming original of Little Lord Fauntleroy. The house is called "Lionel's Home."

Count Leo Tolstoi, assisted by two of his daughters, is organizing kitchens in the district of Demkoff for the famine stricken peasantry of that region. The Count believes that there is hardly sufficient grain in Russia to last until next harvest, and is urging on the Government the necessity of taking stock of all the breadstuffs in the Empire.

M. Renan has gone to the south of France, where he hopes to get rid of his rheumatism. The distinguished *litterateur* will, during his residence in the Midi, put the finishing touches to the fourth and last volume of the "Histoire d'Israel," which will finish his work on the origin of Christianity.

A reputed Irish centenarian has just passed away in the death of Julia Cronin, who resided at Ballymount, near Killarney. She is said to have reached the age of 115 years. This is the second centenarian who has died at Killarney within the past month.

The Bishop of Lichfield has intimated that he is prepared to hold confirmations on Sunday evenings where practicable and desirable. The Bishop likewise announces that, except in cases in which a title is given, he will not, as a rule, license curates until they have been at work for two months in the parish in which they propose to minister.

The Dean of Rochester is about to institute short simple services in the Nave of Rochester Cathedral on the first Sunday in each month, the services being specially intended for the working classes. The Bishop of Rochester and the Bishop of Southwark have consented to preach at the commencement of the series.

By the Sunday school children of America there have been built and equipped no fewer than four ships for sending missionaries to the South Seas. All four have been named the "Morning Star." The first three were wrecked, two of them going to pieces with the missionaries on board. The fourth has now been despatched. There was considerable difficulty in collecting a crew for her, sailors regarding the name as one of evil omen. The Sunday school children's subscriptions were limited to ten cents a-piece.

Hospital Sunday Fund.—At Tuesday meeting of the Council of the Hospital Sunday Fund, it was stated that the amount collected this year was £45,330, of which £36,310 was received from 1,711 contributing congregations and £9,019 from special donations and legacies, including £5,000 from the late Duke of Cleveland and £1,000 from Sir Savile Crossley, M.P. The total amount was £2,515 in advance of any previous year. The annual meeting of the Fund was fixed for Monday, December 14th, at the Mansion House. Sunday, June 19th—the first after Trinity—was suggested as the date for Hospital Sunday next year.

The wife of Bishop Lewis, of Ontario, better known under her maiden name of Ada Leigh, is pleading for assistance to enable the Council of the British and American Mission Homes in Paris to erect a permanent home in that city for the benefit of English girls who work in Parisian shops. The original home in the Faubourg St. Honore has, in the course of eighteen years, become too small, and efforts are being made to erect a larger building on a site which the Mission has succeeded in acquiring. A sum of £15,000 will be required.

MILWAUKEE.—A service, in which the several city chapters of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew joined, was held in St. James' Church, the Rev. Edwin G. Richardson, rector, on the evening of the first Sunday in Advent, at which Bishop Nicholson was the preacher. The Bishop took for his text, "Ephraim is a cake not turned," and in the course of the sermon impressed upon the young men, especially, the great necessity for thoroughness in their daily and spiritual life.

A meeting was held in Stamford on Friday in Defence of the Church in Wales, at which the Dean of St. Asaph made a speech calling Churchmen in England to forward the movement in aid of the