

THE HALDIMAND DEANERY MAGAZINE.

EDITORIAL.

The Rural Dean purposes, D.V., spending September in Manitoba and acting as locum tenens for Rev. J. T. Roundthwaite of Deloraine. The latter will take a vacation in Ontario.

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DEANERY CONFERENCE

To the Rev. the Clergy and the Lay Members of the Church in the Deanery of Haldimand :

MY DEAR BRETHREN, —

The Bishop of the Diocese has signified to me his intention of holding (D.V.) a conference with us in Dunnville on Tuesday, October 7th, 1902.

His Lordship named the following subjects for discussion, each to be introduced by a 10 minutes paper by a Clergyman or Layman :—

1. The Deanery Report as contained in the "Report on the state of the Church"
2. The bearing of the Ontario Census on the Church in the Deanery.
3. The Sunday School work of the Church.
4. Non-attendance at the services of the Church—causes and cure.

The Conference will be opened by a celebration of Holy Communion in St. Paul's Church at 10 a. m. ; and a Confirmation Service will be held in the evening, at which the Bishop will preach a sermon on the Conference.

While the laity generally are cordially invited to attend this Conference, it is specially urged upon the Wardens and Lay-delegates of the several parishes to be present.

I ask my brethren the incumbents of our parishes to exert their influence towards securing a goodly attendance of their officials.

Just before the Conference a circular will be issued by the Deanery Secretary as a reminder.

Yours very sincerely.

C. SCUDAMORE.

THE MISSION OF NANTICOKE AND CHEAPSIDE.

The early history of this mission and the beginning of things in general in it are largely involved in shadows of uncertainty. No Registers or documents are at hand to say definitely when the mission was established, who were the first clergy, or what were the dates of their incumbency. We go largely upon tradition. However, it appears that work in the mission began in the neighborhood of Cheapside. The first services were held, in what was then known as McGaw's schoolhouse, by the Rev. Francis Evans of Woodhouse township and about the year 1846. He was followed by the Rev. B. C. Hill, of York. These clergymen paid only monthly visits to McGaw's

schoolhouse. During the last years of Rev. Hill's incumbency Mr. John Vencke of Nanticoke was licensed as lay-reader to assist in the work at Cheapside and other stations. About this time also another layman, Mr. Wm. Wood, was licensed for the mission, and under him the first church in Nanticoke was erected.

Mr. Wood was followed by the Rev. Thos. S. Campbell, who lived in Nanticoke as the first resident clergyman. Rev. Campbell was in turn succeeded by Rev. Solomon Briggs, whose six years' incumbency began in 1858, or twelve years after the mission was opened. It is said that under him the present church at Cheapside was built. Then followed the incumbency of Rev. Jas. Morton, 1834-1868. It must be remembered that during all these years Nanticoke and Cheapside were but parts of a large mission whose bounds were rather undefined but which must have embraced almost the whole township of Walpole. The country was a wilderness. There were no railways, and the Bishop in his annual visits travelled from Toronto in open sleigh or carriage.

We now come to the incumbency of the Rev. John Francis. According to the annals of the Parish of Jarvis, as contained in the Feb. number of the Deanery Magazine. Mr. Francis labored in Walpole for ten years, 1868-1878. It was during this period that our present church register was opened, the first entries recording the baptism of Hannah and Harriet Cooper, Nov. 1st, 1872, by the Rev. John Irwin. Hence we conclude that in about the fourth year of Rev. Francis' incumbency Nanticoke and Cheapside were constituted a mission by themselves with Rev. John Irwin as first incumbent, 1872-1874. Rev. Irwin was followed by Rev. John H. Fletcher, 1874-1875, he in turn by Rev. Percy Smith, 1875-78. Under Mr. Smith the present parsonage was begun and almost completed. The next pastor was the Rev. Gabriel Johnston in 1878, who stayed only a short time. Then followed the comparatively long incumbency of the Rev. John Seaman, 1879-1890. Judging by the register the Rev. Seaman's work was almost equal to that of all the others combined who had charge of the mission since it was founded. These brief incumbencies follow: Rev. Alfred Bonny, 1891-1893; Rev. Alfred Gaffen, 1893-1896; Rev. C. Walter McWilliams, 1897; Rev. E. H. Molony, 1897-1900. From June 1900 to June 1901 the work was taken by Mr. J. D. Hull, a student of Wycliffe College, Toronto; and at various times in the absence of the incumbent or in case of a vacancy services have been held by two licensed lay-readers, Mr. A. R. Low and Mr. S. A. Thompson both of Nanticoke. In June, 1901, the Bishop appointed the Rev. T. H. Cotton, who continues up to the present time incumbent of the mission.

The first church building in Nanticoke,