

News from the Home Field.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

CHRISTMAS IN ST. JOHN.—The churches though not decorated as elaborately as on former occasions, looked very well. St. Trinity had little decoration. The pillars and gas standards were wreathed with the prayer desk and lectern. A white antependium was on the pulpit and behind the Holy Table was a temporary Gothic retable, from a design by R. C. John Dura. There were three services—at 8, 11 and 5. Rev. Canon Brigstocke was assisted by Rev. R. Mathers.

St. Paul's, Portland.—Much has been displayed in this Church. The prominent features are the retables and the painted panels in the chancel apse painted by some of the members of the congregation. The whole effect is very fine. Services were held at 7.30 and 11, Canon DuVeler being assisted by Revs. F. S. Sill and G. Schofield.

St. John's Church was little decorated but more care has been given to detail and the introduction of a little colour an improvement. The pulpit banner was white, edged with green, and having in the centre a scarlet I. H. S. There were three services—at 11, 3.15 and 7 p.m.

St. Luke's, Portland, is neatly trimmed. There were two services, one in the evening being for children.

At St. Mary's Church, Waterloo street the Rev. G. M. Armstrong preached on Christmas Day at 7 p. m. He chose his text from Luke ii. 14th verse:—"When he arose he took the young child and his mother by night and departed into Egypt." The church was handsomely decorated for the occasion, the congregation having spent much time and labor in effecting transformation of scene very pleasing to observe. The chancel and chancel windows, transept and pillars of the church were elaborately trimmed with evergreen and Scriptural texts were distributed about the edifice, worked on handsome designed banners. The young men of the congregation presented the church with a new fit-out of seats for the choir at a cost of about \$75.

At St. James' Church there were 2 decorations.

St. Jude's, Carleton.—There were the usual services on Christmas Day, the sermon being preached by Rev. M. Uniacke, who took his text from Matthew i. 4—"Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for he shall save his people from their sins." Rev. Mr. Parther preached Sunday morning, from Galatians iv. 4—"That when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of woman: made under the law."

St. George's, Carleton.—St. George's Church was handsomely decorated. There was a triple arch of spruce over the chancel. Extending across the arch was the text "Unto you is born this day a Saviour of the Lord." Above this were the words Glory and Honor were in His presence. The texts were in blue letters on a white ground wreathed with evergreen. On the rear wall of the chancel was the motto, Glory to God the Highest, in a scroll. There was also a cross, in the centre of which were the letters, in gilt, I. H. S. The cross was surmounted by a star, and on either side were banners with a crown above them and the mottoes: "I am the bread of life, and I am the True Vine." The chancel rear wall was separated into panels of red and white, on each side of the retable. Running along the wall in the rear, with a border of fleur de lis, was the text, "This do in Remembrance of Me." The walls of the church were hung with evergreen, and the windows and columns were tastefully decorated, as was also the font. Rev. T. E. Dawling took his text from Psalms xviii. 9—"He bowed the heavens also, and came down: an darkness was under His feet."

All the Institutions in the city participated in the Christmas cheer.

FREDERICTON.—St. Ann's Church and the Cathedral were simply and tastefully decorated.

MONROE.—This year the decorations were more beautiful than at last Christmas. The nave was trimmed with festoons, wreaths, shields, handsomely designed devices in scarlet and white, and texts in alternate red and white letters on red or white ground. The chancel arch was covered with a text in blue letters on white from the Christmas Hymn,

The font and pulpit were beautifully trimmed. The windows had frames with wooden emblems covered with green. The prominent feature in the chancel was an elaborate retable, extending the width of the chancel, 18 feet, in scarlet, white and blue. The centre panel had a white cross; above it was a star with rays streaming upon the cross. In the other compartments were emblems, and above was "Emmanuel, God with us." The effect was most brilliant and striking, and the decorations were admired by large numbers for their beauty and the taste displayed. About thirty persons assisted in the work. The Holy Table was vested in white cloth and frontal; the pulpit banner, book marks, &c., were white and gold. On Sunday there were three services, one being for the children. The music on Christmas Day and on Sunday was a special feature.

MAGUERVILLE.—Few of our country parishes have a brighter Church or more hearty Xmas Services than that of Maguerville, so long the home of the faithful and devoted Loyalists. This year the services were of an unusually interesting character, from the large number of Communicants present, the earnest and practical sermon addressed to all by the indefatigable Rector—the Rev. G. H. Sterling—from St. John's Gospel, i. put of verses 38 and 39, and the joyous carols so well rendered by both choir and people. The decorations were particularly suited to the place and season. On the west end wall the sentence, "Alleluia, Christ the Lord!" in illuminated text appeared. On either wall of nave ran the verses, "I am Christ," and in the first and last, "The Almighty." "There shall come a star out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall arise out of Israel." On chancel walls, "King of Kings, Lord of Lords." "Thy Throne, O God, forever and ever." Over the altar, in white and gold, the Angels' Song, "Glory to God," etc. The pulpit, lectern and reading desk were trimmed with white panels, edged with fir and immortelles, with wreathings of fir. The white font bore, also, evidence of loving care in its graceful green garlands and flowers. One feature in the service I was, as a visitor in the Parish, much impressed by, and that was the singing by the entire congregation, standing, at the presentation of the alms by the priest, the hymn, "Holy of holies, rich and rare," etc., which is, I believe, the mode always observed in the Parish.

SHEDDIAK.—The Christmas decorations in the Parish Church of "St. Martin's in the Woods," though generally beautiful and appropriate, were this year much more elaborate and attractive. The improvements may be accounted for in part by the additional help and interest brought out by new free seats (for many years warmly advocated by the Rector), freshly painted walls, and a wider circulation of the Church Guardian among the parishioners. For some time past, the congregation has been increasing. Our Christmas Services, as usual, were well attended, and a large number of Communicants partook of the Bread of Life. The Rector was celebrant, assisted by his son, Rev. H. M. Jarvis. Back of the altar, and within the chancel window is a large crimson cross, wreathed with evergreens and immortelles, and over this a crown of green moss, studded with white and crimson flowers. On either side of the cross is a velvet shield, each with a different and suitable design beyond them to the right and left are appropriate illuminated texts, bordered with evergreens, and between them double triangles made of cedar. The pulpit and lectern are wreathed with cedar and autumn leaves, and a velvet frontal hangs from the pulpit with a cross on it, and the sentence "Christ is born, Alleluia," in gold colored embroidery. A monogram on the pulpit is encircled with a wreath of immortelles. Around the summit of the walls of the chancel and the nave are two rows of festoons overlapping each other, so as to form triangles. Wreaths of fir are around the pillars. On each side of the Church are three banners, in the form of a shield, six in all, of crimson and white, each ornamented with a different cross, viz., the Latin, the Greek, the Cross of Calvary, the Cross Crosslet, Cross of Jerusalem, and the Maltese Cross. Upon the eastern walls of the nave are two white monograms on a green ground, bordered with cedar. Circles of evergreen, etc., adorn the western wall. Upon the north and south sides are ornamented circles, and then illuminated texts, bordered with green and red, "Unto us a child is born, Unto us a son is given." The font is adorned with a wreath of cedar and autumn leaves, and the whole surmounted by moss ferns, and immortelles, from which rises a white satin cross. Much credit is due to the young people of this Parish for the interest and energy they have always displayed in Church decorations.

WATERFORD.—The loss to the Rev. Mr. Lockward by the burning of a barn in which his horse and carriages were kept, which we reported last week, was a serious matter. Everything was burnt but the horse, which was saved with difficulty. Carriages, sleighs, harness and hay were all consumed. Mr. Lockward himself was seriously injured about the head, and was insensible for some time. It is reported that in Sussex a purse is being made up. We trust that this is true. Waterford is one of the poorest Missions in the Diocese, and the loss to the Missionary is serious. Remembering that God has said, "Silver and gold are mine," and that His are "the cattle on a thousand hills," we feel sure that well-to-do Churchmen will not allow, at this holy season, such a loss to be long without being repaired.

RICHMOND.—We understand it is probable that the Rev. F. H. Almon will fill the vacancy in this Parish.

ALBERT Co.—This Mission is not yet filled. We learn that negotiations have been in progress with a young man from Nova Scotia, but nothing definite has been decided.

PETITCODIAC.—Owing to the efforts of a few of the young people of the place, together with the assistance of the Rector and Curate, the Church at Christmas presented a very neat and attractive appearance. On Christmas Eve the S. S. children had a dinner given to them at the Rectory by the Rector and Mrs. Willis, after which each child received a small Prayer Book as a Christmas gift. In the afternoon a Children's Service was held in the Church, near the Rectory, which was quite a success in every way. The children sang nicely the hymns and chants, and the Rector gave a plain and appropriate address. Much credit is due to Miss Nelson, the organist, who has taken a great deal of trouble in teaching the children. A good congregation assembled at St. Peter's Church, Pollet River, on Christmas morning. Most of those present joined heartily in the hymns and responses. The Church was prettily decorated under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Flowelling. Rev. W. J. Wilkinson has been holding classes of instruction once a fortnight at the School House, Coon Ridge, which have been largely attended. At Petitcodiac matins were said on Sunday at 10.30 a. m., followed by a celebration of the Holy Communion, Rev. W. J. Wilkinson being the celebrant and Rev. C. Willis, Epistoler and Preacher. It is now two or three years since Mr. Willis has been able to preach, and the people were much pleased to hear his voice again, and to know he was so much better. On Sunday night Rev. W. J. Wilkinson preached from Heb. i. 1-3. We have an account of the decorations at Petitcodiac kindly furnished us, but our space is too limited for it. They were designed with taste; the retables in red, edged with fine cedar wreathing, and divided into three panels, and is very effective. The rest of the Church looked well in its festive garb of green and red.

APPOINTMENT.—The Rev. G. S. Jarvis, D.D., D.C.L., has appointed his son, the Rev. H. M. Jarvis, M.A., to the Curacy of Shediac of which he is Rector. The appointment has been accepted by His Lordship the Metropolitan, and license granted accordingly.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

The Secretary of the W. and O. Fund respectfully reminds the Clergy that the premiums of Insurance were due on the 1st instant, and directs their attention to the 2nd and 9th Clauses of W. & O. Rules and Regulations, as follows:— 2nd. A standing Committee of seven members shall be appointed, in whom, together with the Secretary of the Board of Home Missions, (who shall be paid as Secretary of this Committee,) shall be vested the whole management of this matter, subject to an appeal to the general Society. 9th. If any person fail to pay the

amount of his premium within 40 days after the payment becomes due, all claim to the pension under his Certificate shall be forfeited, and the same shall thereupon become null and void. But if he desires to have his claim to the pension renewed; it shall be in the power of this Committee to readmit him on such terms as they see fit.

PICTOU.—On Christmas Eve, Rev. J. Edgewood, Rector of St. James' Church, was the recipient of a substantial token of his parishioners' regard for him, in the shape of a purse of money, presented by the churchwardens, Robert Hockin and George J. Campbell, Esqrs. On behalf of the congregation, Mr. Hockin, in a few appropriate and happy remarks, expressed the hope that the gift would not be viewed merely as to its intrinsic value, but as an indication of the hearty good will and attachment existing in the parish towards the Rector.

HALIFAX.—A move in the right direction.—The Council of the Halifax Church of England Institute have arranged that the Lord Bishop, the Clergy of the City and Dartmouth, and the Officers of the Institute, shall be at Home at the Institute Rooms, on Thursday evening, 13th inst., from 8 to 10 p. m., with a view of affording opportunity for social intercourse between the clergy and members of their flocks whom they rarely meet at other times, and to enable members of different parishes, and even of the same parish, who at present know each other by sight only, an opportunity through the good offices of their clergy, churchwardens, and others, to form personal acquaintances with their brethren. We understand that the ordinary amusements of the Institute—billiard room, gymnasium, &c., will be in operation, so that those who are friendly, or even curious, may form an idea of the practical working of the Institution. The apartments are not sufficiently spacious to accommodate the whole Church population, and the attractions, perhaps, too limited to occupy the whole evening for all, but it is hoped that few will neglect the opportunity of meeting their fellow Churchmen Clergy, and Diocesan, and exchanging a pleasant greeting at the opening of the New Year, if their stay should not exceed half-an-hour. We understand that arrangements have been made for providing suitable music through the evening; and the services of the ladies have been called into requisition, to ensure that the wants of the inner man shall not be overlooked. Success, say we, to the move, and may we live to see many more in the same direction.

HALIFAX.—North West Arm Mission. Mr. S. H. Shreve, through whose active exertions this Mission has been made so successful, was presented by the people with a purse containing \$22.50 on Christmas Day.

St. Mark's.—Mr. Winterbourne, the faithful minister of this church, was the recipient on Christmas Day of \$20 in money, several useful articles, and the following address:—

HALIFAX, Christmas 1880.

Rev. and Dear Sir,—We have been requested by a Committee representing the ladies of St. Mark's congregation to present you with the accompanying Xmas present, as an humble remembrance of their affection and esteem. They also desire to convey to you their appreciation of your many good qualities and untiring zeal as their Pastor and friend, and trust a kind Providence may long spare you to labour in this Parish. We heartily join with them in wishing you the Compliments of the Season, and remain

Yours, in love,
J. GOFREY SMITH,
Geo. M. CONNOR,
Wardens.

BRIDGEWATER.—Church of the Holy Trinity.—Great pains are always taken by a band of willing workers, in decorating this Church for the great festivals, but this Christmas season the result is unusually fine. Across the spacious chancel, a short distance from the Communion rails, a beautiful arch, in three divisions, is extended, surmounted by a crown of evergreen, shewing a cross in red. The arches are covered with evergreen, while the spaces at the sides near the top of each, are filled in with scarlet cloth, covered with hemlock, the light from behind causing them to look like

rich tracings on the outside. Across the top of the arch is the word "Emmanuel," in silver letters on a background of evergreen. The chancel window, between the two centre ones, of which are the words—"The Bread of Life," are handsomely festooned with hemlock wreaths. A triangle of autumn leaves and ferns is placed between the two last windows of the chancel, on each side. On the sides of the chancel appear the words in evergreen—"Christians awake, salute the happy morn, wherein the Saviour of the world was born." A noble triangle of evergreens depends from the centre arch, and another from the permanent arch of the chancel outside. The Communion table is covered with a white cloth, edged with evergreens, and ornamented with a triangle of ferns and autumn leaves. The Communion rails are also wreathed with evergreen, and the ends of the choir seats are panelled in scarlet and green. The font is beautifully trimmed with autumn leaves and hemlock, surmounted with different kinds of ornamental grasses. The pulpit has a white banner, edged with evergreens, and the monogram I. H. S., in silver letters. Below this, on a white panel, is a cross and cross, made of different colored ferns. A wreath extends around the pulpit, above and beneath the banner. The desk and lectern are somewhat similarly trimmed.

From the top of the chancel arch depends a heavy wreath, and this is extended from the sides of the chancel to the tops of the windows, and hangs in deep festoons between them, on each side of the Church, being continued in the same way across the gallery at the lower end of the Church, formerly occupied by the choir. Above each of these festoons is an appropriate monogram or other device in scarlet and green—six in all—each differing from the rest. In the centre of each window is a circle of evergreen. A wreath is also hung in small festoons round the whole Church, where the rafters spring from the sides of the building. The pillars supporting the gallery are wreathed, and across the front of it, between double wreaths, are the words, in scarlet letters, "This day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord." In the centre, above this sentence, is a white cross. A heavy double wreath hangs from the rafters in front of the gallery window. The chandeliers and lamps are entwined with wreaths. This somewhat minute account is sent to help in showing that the country Churches are not much behind those of the city in suitable decorations for this joyous season. On Christmas morning the children of the Sunday School, with the Superintendent and teachers, sat with the choir in the chancel, and joined heartily in singing the carols and hymns. The Rev. W. E. Belling, Rector, officiated and administered the Holy Communion to a large number. The responses were general, and the service was most attentively heard. We rejoice, among other things, in a free-seated Church.

ALBION MINES.—The weather on Xmas Day was perfect, the congregations good and the Parish Church and St. George's Chapel both looked better than ever in their decorations. Fewer hands worked at Christ Church, for, alas! there were fewer to work; but the inscriptions and emblems were neater than ever. Of course the east end had most of the beauty, and great credit is due to Miss Hudson and those who helped her for the general effect. Mrs. Poole, as before, provided the pure white dossal for the altar and its cross of lovely fresh cut flowers and vases filled with the same. (Mr. Laurie's beautiful gift only came in time for St. Stephen's Day.) The communicants in the Parish at Christmas numbered 42, and the offerings were for Agoma and the North-West—amounting to \$14.60. St. George's Chapel held all the decoration that could be put in it. The Drake, Townhend, McKenzie, and Stirling families, and others, all lent willing and skillful hands, and on Sunday the little "upper room furnished" was filled to overflowing.

The Free Mason Lodge of Stellarton (No. 23) attended Evening Prayer at Christ Church, Albion Mines, on the evening of St. John the Evangelist's Day. After prayer a sermon on "Brotherly Love" was preached by the Chaplain of the Lodge, Rev. D. C. Moore. Dr. Lewis Johnstone, Acting Grand Master of Nova Scotia, was present in his official capacity.

The Feast of the Circumcision (New Year's Day) was celebrated by Mr. King