

ably gave rise to the legend of Prester John, and the conversion of Tartar tribes by the Nestorians was reported by Christian visitors from the West in the thirteenth century, and notably by Marco Polo. The inscriptions now deciphered are a proof that indeed the Nestorians succeeded in converting Turkish populations not later than the eighth century, for the oldest inscription from Semirjetschi belongs to the beginning of the ninth century, and the latest to the middle of the fourteenth.

NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

PETITE RIVIERE.—Memorable events for the people of this parish have taken place during the past month. On Sept. 14th and 15th a grand bazaar, picnic and tea-meeting was held near the rectory, in aid of the new parish church. Every department was thoroughly organized and carried out by the Church people of Petite Riviere in a most admirable way. The amount realized was over \$200. The congregation, though small, and surrounded by dissent, have worked unitedly, cheerfully, and with faith, and they now look back with thankfulness for such unexpected success amidst such a depressed state of things in the fisheries.

Another event of much importance has been the opening of the new parish church. The day appointed for this was Sept. 29th, St. Michael and All Angels' Day. There was Divine service at 10.30 a.m., and a celebration of the Holy Communion, at which there were 26 communicants. The service was partly choral. There were present Rev. W. H. Snyder, Rural Dean; Rev. W. H. Grosor, Rev. G. D. Harris, and the incumbent, J. Spencer. The Rural Dean was celebrant, assisted by the incumbent. The sermon was preached by the Rev. the Rural Dean, and was full of sound doctrine and wholesome teaching. The morning congregation consisted of our Church people. The choir were placed in their new seats in the chancel, and did their part remarkably well. At 6.45 p.m. the same clergymen, with the addition of Rev. C. T. Easton, deacon in charge of New Dublin, performed the service. Rev. W. H. Grosor preached a learned sermon, full of powerful lessons and excellent instruction, which was listened to with wrapt attention. Rev. W. H. Snyder read a letter from Rev. J. Ambrose, of Digby, a former Rector of this parish, who had promised to be present, but unavoidable circumstances prevented his being able. Rev. G. D. Harris addressed the congregation on the subject of "The Church." The new church was full; about 250 persons were present, and many more remained outside, unable to obtain seats. The morning offertory was devoted to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and the evening offertory in aid of the new church.

Petite Riviere has not had such a stirring season for twelve years. No parish church has ever existed before, and we hope that the power of the Gospel and the Church will be henceforth a growing element in the midst of sectarianism.

The church, we may say, is complete, and all that a thorough Church congregation can desire. The nave is 40 x 22. The chancel 18 x 14. There is also a spacious vestry, ante-room, store-room and organ chamber, with a convenient porch at the west end. There is an emblem of the Christian faith at the east end of the roof, another on the bell-tower over the west end, and a third over the entrance porch. The building is of Gothic style throughout, without any confusion; and the whole presents a good appearance.

The parish is indebted to the C.E.S. for altar frontals, altar linen, sanctuary mats and banners. Several of the families are working to-

gether in weaving a new carpet, and steps are being taken to have the interior painted and stained. The east window and nave windows are supplied by Spence & Sons, Montreal; that in the chancel has the symbols of the two great sacraments, while those in the nave are of cathedral rolled, with ruby border. This is the second much-needed church the present incumbent has erected during the two and a half years he has had charge of the parish.

CHESTER.—The progress of Church work in this parish has been strongly manifested of late years in the erection of new and the beautifying and repairing of the old building. Since the completion of the new churches at Western Shore and Chester Basin, and of the new chancel to the parish church, the next undertaking has been the repairing of the school-house, which is now nearly completed, and in its appearance reflects great credit both upon the designer and the builder, and also upon those who have worked hard in raising funds to meet the expenses. The ladies of the sewing circle, who have been mainly instrumental in this, held a tea meeting and sale on the 22nd and 23rd ult., as the result of which they have handed over to the treasurer the sum of \$133.50 towards this object. We speak of the building as being repaired, but in reality it has been rebuilt, for I am sure that no one who remembers the "old school-house," as it was designated in a recent map of the county, would be able to trace much resemblance to it in the building as it now stands, and St. Stephen's Hall will be much the finest room for concerts, lectures, &c., that the place affords, being the whole size of the building, 52x26 feet, with an arched ceiling at a height of 14 feet from the floor. The main entrance is at the east end, making it quite separate from the church, while at the south-west corner there stands a small tower, in which is the entrance and stair-case leading to an upper room, and an entrance also on to the platform that is to be raised at the western end of the hall.

OXFORD.—A supper was held in this town last week, for the purpose of purchasing an organ for the Clifton church. Although the stormy, rainy weather was against the success of the evening, the receipts amounted to about \$100, and the organ will be purchased. The small band of Churchmen here are growing enthusiastic over the proposed purchase of a Mission Hall for services, and before long it is to be hoped that one will be owned by our church.

Rev. W. Hudgell, the travelling missionary, is doing good work here on the Church's behalf, and will soon have a goodly following.

SPRING HILL.—*All Saints'—Special Services.*—For the past month the town has been placarded with large posters announcing that the Revs. F. R. Murray and J. R. S. Parkinson would hold a series of special services in the Church of All Saints. Small hand-bills were freely circulated, containing on one side an address from the Missioners stating that the object was "a call to repentance and newness of life," and "to contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints." On the other side of the hand-bill was the list of services and an address from the Rector, Rev. W. C. Wilson, urging the people to come and hear God's message from the "ministers and stewards of His mysteries," and "to make all necessary household arrangements now, that nothing may hinder you from coming to all the services."

The list of services was as follows: Daily—Holy Communion and Address, 7.30 a.m.; Matins and Address, 11 a.m.; Special Service, Lecture and Sermon, 7.30 p.m. Sunday—Holy Communion and Address, 8.30 a.m.; Matins, Holy Communion and Sermon, 11 a.m.; Children's Service and Address to Children, 2 p.m.; Special Address to Men only, in Fraser's Hall, 3.30 p.m.; Evensong,

5 p.m.; Special Service, Lecture and Sermon, 6.30 p.m.

A special paper containing twelve hymns was printed, all being eminently congregational, and frequent practices therefrom made very hearty singing. For several weeks before the services special sermons were preached on the subject, and the result was that all the efforts combined succeeded in filling every available seat at the first service.

On Friday evening not only was the body of the church packed, but over fifty people were seated in the chancel, and on the Sunday evening many had to go away for want of even standing room. The orthodox mind will be shocked to know that not only was the chancel packed so that there was scarcely standing-room for the Missioners, but the sanctuary was also filled with a motley crowd, and one good woman sat in the Bishop's chair, while the children struggled for a seat on the uppermost steps of the altar. But we all rejoiced as we packed them in, and as one brother was uttering an objection the response quickly came, "Yea, even unto the horns of the altar."

Another remarkable feature was the meeting for men only in the largest hall in town on Sunday afternoon. Although the afternoon was disagreeable and raining, the hall was packed with a solid body of men, and it is admitted by outsiders that one of the most powerful spiritual meetings ever held in Spring Hill followed. The meeting was addressed by the Rev. W. C. Wilson, who told the men that he had asked the Missioners to strike straight and from the shoulder, and speak as men to men on the special sins of man. The speakers, Revs. F. R. Murray and J. R. S. Parkinson then spoke with feeling words on "Infidelity, Impurity and Intemperance," and the plain language and earnest eloquence burned itself into the heart.

Another feature of the Mission was the outdoor meeting. In a mining town there is always a corner for loafers, and here it is called the "rogue's corner." At this rogue's corner, night by night, a large crowd would assemble as soon as a hymn was started, and then the men were earnestly and popularly addressed, and invited to follow the clergy to the church. In these outdoor meetings our Rural Dean Moore took an important part, and spoke earnestly to many who heard him many years ago at the same spot. The Rev. C. E. Mackenzie and Rev. R. T. Hudgell, as well as the Rector and Missioners, also addressed the crowd in the open air, and then would proceed to church singing "I heard the Voice of Jesus say." At early Communion, Rev. F. R. Murray gave addresses on the "Mystery of the Sacrament." At Matins, Rev. J. R. S. Parkinson spoke to the mothers and elder sisters of the congregation, and was followed by a short Bible reading, unique in its way, by Rev. F. R. Murray.

The evening service began with a hymn, then the Creed, a few prayers, another hymn, and then an address by Rev. Mr. Parkinson on the distinctive principles of the Church of England. The subjects were, "The Founding of the Organization," "The Organization at Work," "Baptism," "Confirmation" and "Communion," and these were treated scripturally, uninterrupted custom, and common sense view of the subject. Mr. Parkinson at once carried conviction, and his learned reasoning, coupled with deep earnestness, completely won the hearts of the men of Spring Hill. Then another hymn was sung, and was followed by the Mission sermon of the evening by Rev. F. R. Murray. Piercing calls to repentance and newness of life brought tears to many eyes, and many a soul was brought to its knees, and some ventured even to the chancel steps to there kneel and pour forth its penitence to God.

The reverend gentleman is a born Mission preacher, and the local newspaper says of him:—

"The reverend gentleman is what is termed