

members, and the necessity for imparting sound Church doctrine were vigorously maintained; and the methods of carrying on lay work in its many forms were discussed in a practical spirit.

A very pleasant feature of the convention was the free-handed liberality with which the members of the St. Thomas churches entertained the whole of the visitors. Hospitality was not, as in some cases, tendered to the clergy only. The lay delegates shared in the cordiality of the welcome equally with their pastors, and the crowded state of the room at the close of the last sitting proved how attractive had been not only the programme of work, but the pleasant social conditions under which it had been carried out.

#### REVIEWS.

**CONCERNING THE CHURCH.**—An Instruction by Questions and Answers on the Nature, Usages, and Teaching of the Holy Catholic Church, Prepared by the Rev. W. I. Miller, A.M., rector of St. Luke's church, Hot Springs, Ark. New York: Thomas Whittaker; Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison.

Nothing could be better than this brochure of 35 pages, and happy are the children of the Church who are taught this small catechism. It is based on the Church Catechism, and expands into good Church teaching; the "Hints on the Services" are very valuable and helpful. But why does all our good teaching come from the American side? Are High and Low so hopelessly at war here that the voice of the Church must be silent between them?

**GOSPEL CRITICISM AND HISTORICAL CHRISTIANITY.** A study of the Gospels and of the History of the Gospel-Canon during the second century, with a consideration of the results of modern criticism. By Orello Cone, D.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons; Toronto: Williamson & Co. Pp. 365.

We cannot be as our forefathers in the simple acceptance of the Scriptures as God's undoubted Word, but we must go out and enquire whether these things are so. The clergy in particular are bound to read both sides of controversy and meet the critics upon their own ground. Everything is gained by a reverent enquiry into the truth of the credentials, and we have a firmer grasp of the Faith when we have realized its difficulties, as we are also more valuable supporters of the weak when we have gone down into the pit and dreamed their dreams. At the outset, then, we may say that we do not agree with the results of this work. And yet there is much in it that the clergy should consider, because the laity will read, and we do not always know how much they are disturbed. They are tempted to believe that we are afraid to follow them and to grapple with their many kinds of difficulties. We go on repeating our common-places of scripture application, and they miss their mark because we have avoided all acquaintance with the groundwork of faith, and the weakness which some imagine to be in our foundations. Controversial sermons are never of value to any one, and the bringing forward of difficulties in order to clear them away is a foolish and dangerous proceeding. But we may show at least that we know as much as our neighbor, and could say more if it were required.

Dr. Cone's Gospel Criticism may be most conveniently divided into three main portions—the formation and fixing of the Canon, the interrelation of the four accounts of the Gospel, and the more particular enquiry into the results. The authorities referred to are for the most part German, and our author is very fair in stating authorities both against and for his views. The least satisfactory part of the work is the second portion, where the usual tradition is largely traversed, the synoptists are hung together very loosely, and the Gospel according to St. John sinks down into a tendency writing supporting a philosophical theory, where the picture of Jesus is represented to suit the writer's views. Inspiration can scarcely be imagined to belong to writers

or writings, and the personality of the Evangelists becomes more and more hazy. "Not to be too precise in the matter of dates, we may place the composition of the synoptics between forty and sixty years after the death of Christ. . . . It should be borne in mind, however, that the synoptists based their records on antecedent writings, one of which can be traced without doubt to Matthew, and found in various fragments in all three narratives. Of this, we, know, indeed, with certainty, nothing more than it contained certain sayings of Jesus. Criticism is unable precisely to determine its extent, and has no means of fixing a date" (p. 321). This will show the tendency of the work, and yet the clergy should study such works, and this one they will find to be provided with a very useful index.

**SUNDAY.** Readings for the Young. London: Wells, Gardner, Darton & Co.; Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison.

The appearance of the volume of *Sunday* for 1892 puts us very forcibly in mind how rapidly Christmas approaches. It is full of good reading and a great abundance of pictures to illustrate its stories. We almost wish that we were young again to receive our volume at the Christmastide, and enjoy the study of our newly found treasure. Some of the wood-cuts are beautifully sketched and finished.

**DARKNESS AND DAWN, OR SCENES IN THE DAYS OF NERO, AN HISTORIC TALE,** by F. W. Farrar, D.D., F.R.S. New York: Longmans, Green & Co.; Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison. Pp. 549.

Canon Farrar's tale is one of great merit, and all the more of genuine value that it deals with one of the darkest periods of Roman history. It is based on a careful review of contemporary records, and forms as fitting commentary on the opening chapters of St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans. It presents a strange mixture of social grandeur and darkest moral pollution. Its central figure is Nero, and around him are grouped his satellites and victims, his follies innumerable, and long array of vices. Yet in the grouping by Canon Farrar there is a wonderful power shown in avoiding coarseness and harrowing feeling. The period embraced is the reign of Nero, A.D. 54-68, and on the one side is the cruelty and crime of the Roman imperial court, and on the other side the quiet growth and unspeakable sufferings of the Christian Church, where many well-known persons are introduced, and the crown of martyrdom is gained for St. Peter and St. Paul. Nero's close connection with the burning of Rome is naturally taken for granted, and the whole course of the story leaves on our mind the feeling of utter contempt and loathing for a Roman emperor who lived and died as did the insane profligate Nero. It is a strange comment on the ancient world, that suicide was the favored road for escape from all human ills: it shows the utter degradation of the Roman mind, and how much there was a demand for the Gospel. Canon Farrar's work is good, and his volume handsome.

### Home & Foreign Church News

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.

#### ONTARIO.

**STAFFORD.**—The Bishop of Niagara, acting for the Bishop of Ontario, held a confirmation in St. Stephen's Church on Sunday, Oct. 25th, when fifty-six persons received the Apostolic rite of Confirmation. Bishop Hamilton's impressive and earnest words to the candidates were much appreciated, and they ought to bring forth fruit unto holiness. The Bishop congratulated the Rev. J. P. Smitheman on having presented the largest number of candidates in any parish in the county of Renfrew. Old residents in the parish say they don't remember such a large congregation—there were over 300 persons—assembled on Confirmation Sunday, Oct. 25.

#### TORONTO.

The Rev. Dr. Sweeney has removed from 140 to 185 St. Patrick street.

The mother of the Right Rev. Arthur Sweatman, Bishop of Toronto, died in London, Eng., on October 26, at the advanced age of 84 years. She was the widow of the late Dr. John Sweatman, surgeon of the Middlesex hospital.

**Thanksgiving Day.**—It is intended this year, in addition to the morning services held in the several city churches, to hold one grand united service for all the city parishes in St. James' Cathedral, in the evening at 8 o'clock. Full choral service will be rendered by combined city choirs. The Bishop of the diocese will be present. The sermon will be preached by the Bishop of Algoma. The offertory will be devoted to the mission fund. The clergy are invited to present themselves, with surplice, &c., at the south vestry, at a quarter to 8 o'clock, enter the church with the procession, and take seats in the chancel. It is earnestly to be hoped that grateful hearts may lead all our city Church people to attend this united service of praise and thanksgiving.

#### NIAGARA.

**NIAGARA FALLS.**—*All Saints' Church.*—*Church History Lectures, Illustrated.*—A series of lectures was given before deeply interested audiences last week, in the large Sunday-school room of this parish, beginning Oct. 26, on the History of the Church of England. They were illustrated by means of numerous and striking pictures shown with the aid of a powerful optical lantern. At the special request of the Bishop and clergy of the Deanery of Lincoln and Welland, the Rev. E. J. Fessenden, B.A., of Chippawa, was the lecturer, and will act as such in the Deanery. Few men possess the rare gifts of mind and memory, of language and earnestness, with which the Rev. Mr. Fessenden is endowed. Besides, from his two recent and long visits in England in the active service of the S.P.G., he possesses a large amount of knowledge and interest in many of the most historic places of that land of history—ecclesiastical and political. The great missionary society (S.P.G.) lately warmly appreciated his services in their behalf for a period altogether of nearly three years' active employment. It may be well understood how successful he must be in the present sphere of labour and love which he has so kindly undertaken in this and other parishes of the Lincoln and Welland deanery. The first illustration given was the Pentecostal scene of the Holy Spirit and gifts of tongues, from which the Church of Christ began its work among all nations. The last subject on the third evening was spoken on but not illustrated—"Christ the Light of the World." The hymn "Son of my Soul, &c.," was then sung, in beautiful keeping with the speaker's closing address; various hymns were sung at previous subjects by the deeply interested audience. The programme at each evening was: Lecture I.—The Making, the Organization, and the Early Missionary Work of the Church. Lecture II.—The History of the Church from the Norman Conquest to Queen Elizabeth, including the Struggle with, and Victory over, Rome. Lecture III.—The Period from James I. to the present time, including the Commonwealth, the Great Revival, and Modern Missions. There was no charge for admission, but silver offerings were solicited for a fund to procure a further supply of lantern slides from England, to carry on this excellent plan of giving instruction in Church history. We have often dwelt upon the great value and importance of history, and especially of Church history, yet it is difficult to render books or lectures on history interesting enough for long to most people, and so they remain deficient in this knowledge, but with the aid of brilliant illustrations, a well-selected variety, and an earnest, pleasing lecturer, this kind of learning is made very easy, interesting and useful. We beg strongly to recommend this plan of teaching to our people throughout each deanery of the diocese.

**ORANGEVILLE.**—A Sunday-school in this parish in the township of Caledon, is now closed for the winter. During the past summer it has been most successful in every respect under the diligent and careful superintendence of Mr. E. Delaney, and the regular attendance and faithful teaching of Misses M. Ellis, J. Armstrong, L. Cavanagh and Mr. J. Reaburn. It would be very much for the interest of the Church if, in country places, even where no churches are, faithful workers could be found who would conduct Sunday-schools in the summer. Also another Sunday-school in this parish, in the township of Garafraxa, has been closed for the winter, as is usual with such schools, but here Mrs. W. Collins, one of the teachers, with very praiseworthy zeal, has determined to conduct a class in her own house during the winter, or as long as children can come over the difficult roads. Such exemplary diligence and devotion should not be hid under a bushel.