

and misery are its accompaniments from first to last; it opens its eyes in the midst of wickedness and vice, and it closes them in death amidst the same surroundings. Nor need we go to the streets and lanes of the city; the houses of the rich and well-to-do are often occupied by those who have so lost touch with God's original design in the creation of man, that they devote their days to killing time, and oftentimes to dissipation and vice. Such as these cannot possibly with any degree of sincerity join in the General Thanksgiving so far as their creation is concerned.

But the sin of man has not altered or destroyed the purpose of God: and therefore we do well, at the anniversary of our birth, to recall to mind what that purpose is, and to stir up ourselves, that we may be fellow workers with God, and not amongst those who, by yielding to sin and Satan, are doing their best to mar and thwart that purpose. God has blessed us with life that we may be channels of blessings, each in his and her degree, wherever our lot in life is cast. "For there is no man, however low in the social scale, who may not do something to make one little corner of human society the greener and brighter for his existence, and in relieving a little that sorrow and suffering which are the dark shadows thrown by sin upon a fallen world." In acting thus we are not only following in the footsteps of our Blessed Lord, who "went about doing good," but we are also so using our present life that we may be prepared for that still higher life, "the life of the world to come," wherein all the powers of the regenerate man shall be fully and perfectly exercised.

If then, from any cause, these words of thanksgiving have not hitherto come as the true expression of our heart, let us determine, God helping us, that our next birthday shall witness a change, that we will lay hold of God's purpose in creating us, and day by day see that our life in all its details is fashioned according to the commandments of God. And this being the case, there will be no more weariness of life, no more killing time, either by wasting the morning hours in bed, or by spending the day on a mere round of gaieties, for life will then be estimated at its true value, and will be wholly dedicated to the service of Him who gave it, and we shall walk "before Him in holiness and righteousness all our days."—A. B. C. in *Family Churchman*.

#### THE EMBER DAYS.

The ordination of ministers to serve in the Church is a most solemn thing. They are devoting themselves to an office which, in spite of Acts of Parliament, they can never lay down, but must retain until the end of their lives. The Act of Parliament which allows priests to give up their sacred calling and drop the title of "Reverend" cannot do away either with the office or its obligations, any more than the Divorce Court can nullify a marriage solemnised by the Church. It can set aside the civil contract, but this does not nullify the marriage (St. Matthew xix. 9). So he who is ordained priest is a priest for life. Extreme care was exercised by the Apostles in such cases. Not only was the selection made most carefully (1 Timothy v. 22; iii. 1-13; Titus i. 5-9), but a time of fasting was observed (Acts xiii. 3), and special prayer was made to God. Conformably with the example of the Apostles, these days are set aside as days of fasting or abstinence (Table III. after the Calendar in the Prayer Book). This is not an empty direction, of easy observance, or no observance at all, just as it suits people. There can be no doubt that the Church of England really intends certain days to be kept as days of fasting—not from all food, as that would be injurious, but certainly as days for the exercise of some kind of bodily self-denial. These Ember days occur four times in the year, always on Wednesday,

Friday, and Saturday (the Thursday being omitted probably because the Holy Communion was instituted on Thursday), after the First Sunday in Lent, Whitsun-Day, September 14 (Holy Cross Day), and December 13 (St. Lucy). A special prayer is appointed, and it is both the duty and the privilege of all Churchmen to pray earnestly for (1) the Bishops, that they may make good choice, and (2) those to be ordained, that they may be faithful.—*Family Churchman*.

Another Subscriber in Nova Scotia writes:— "The contents are generally very useful as well as interesting, and the CHURCH GUARDIAN as handmaid to the Church is very much to be prized."

#### NEWS FROM THE HOME FIELD.

##### DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

**OUR BISHOP.**—It is with great pleasure that we continually notice evidence of the love and affection already so generally shewn the Bishop in his new diocese. We confidently predict a glorious future for the Church in Nova Scotia.

**ORDINATION.**—An ordination will be held in Halifax on Trinity Sunday. The candidates will be examined in Truro under the superintendency of the vicar, Rev. J. A. Kaulbach.

**AMHERST.**—A pleasant social gathering was held at the vicarage on Tuesday evening, the 15th inst, and the ladies of the Sewing Guild, taking advantage of the gathering, held a sale of their work for the quarter. Total proceeds amount to upwards of \$35, which will be devoted exclusively towards improvements on the interior of Christ Church. Several gentlemen very kindly contributed excellent music, which greatly added to the enjoyment of the evening, and to them hearty thanks are due.

**PERSONAL.**—Mr. E. T. Woollard, of Warminster, has been appointed curate of All Saints' Church, Springhill, and will be ordained deacon at Trinity.

Rev. W. Chas. Wilson is personally soliciting funds for the erection of a new church at Springhill Mines. The object is a worthy and pressing one, and we hope that he will be eminently successful.

Rev. Mr. Gwilym is acting as *locum tenens* at Parsboro, for the next few months.

Rev. Mr. Newnham, of New Brunswick, preached there last week.

Rev. R. Raven leaves Dartmouth for England next month. Several well known names in the diocese are applicants for the position.

##### DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

**ST. ANDREW'S.**—A special meeting of the Rural Deanery of St. Andrew's, was held a short time since in the town of that name, with the parish of the Rev. Canon Ketchum, D.D., to consider the ways and means of supplying a considerable deficit in the funds of the Diocesan Church Society for the year commencing July 1 prox. A scheme had been submitted to the several Deaneries in the Diocese for raising the assessment in each parish, so as to meet the required sum. This was negatived by the clergy of St. Andrew's, and the following resolution was passed as best calculated to meet the emergency: "That the Metropolitan be requested to issue a Pastoral letter, emphatically setting forth the financial needs of the Diocese, such letter to be read the last Sunday in May, and copies thereof be issued to contributors generally; also that the clergy be requested to make their annual rounds in the month of June, and submit to their people the propriety of their coming voluntarily forward, and by increasing their subscriptions free the

Church Society from the burden under which it is labouring." There were five clergy present at the meeting, which commenced with a public gathering in the School-house on the evening of April 24, and terminated by a full service on the evening of the 25th, the Rev. F. Pember, of Campobello, was the preacher.

A very high testimonial letter was signed by all the clergy present, and sent to the Rev. H. W. Winkley, who has lately left the Deanery and Diocese to take the parish of Saco, Maine, whereunto he has been called. Mr. Winkley was much appreciated among his brother clergy, and the reception of such a communication at their hands must have been very gratifying to him.

Very deep sorrow is felt at the resignation by Rev. T. E. Dowling, of the Rectory of Christ Church, St. Stephen. Our regrets are intensified by the cause of this step, namely Mrs. Dowling's continued ill-health, which makes it impossible for her to resist so cold a climate. Mr. Dowling is indeed a great loss to the Diocese, of which he has been a column and an ornament for twenty-seven years. Without wishing to indulge in paragraphs, we really think that it will be a long long time before his work and weight can be supplied. He has our hearty and affectionate wishes.

**ST. JOHN.**—The fancy sale and high tea in the interests of St. Barnabas mission, which was held at the residence of Mrs. William Hazen, afternoon and evening, of the 16th May, was largely attended. About eighty persons sat down to tea. Rev. A. J. Reid presided at the entertainment, which was held after tea and at which the following interesting programme was carried out:—Instrumental duet, the Misses Underhill; recitation, Miss Fitch; solo, Miss Ada Jones; reading, G. H. Lee; instrumental duet, Miss Smith and Master Robinson; reading, Rev. Mr. Reid. Mrs. Hazen proved a generous host, and all who were present enjoyed the entertainment very much.

**LUDLOW.**—On Sunday, 15th of April, Bishop Kingdon held his second Confirmation in the new Hudson Memorial Church here, when six men and six women received the laying on of hands. In the evening of the same day the Bishop confirmed 12 men and 16 women in the parish of Blissfield, which is part of the same Mission; 81 persons have now been confirmed in this mission since last September. At an early celebration on the same Sunday the Bishop administered the Holy Communion to 24 persons.

**WELDFORD STATION.**—His Lordship the Metropolitan held a Confirmation in St. Matthew's Church here, on Tuesday, the 15th inst, and at the parish Church at Bass River on Wednesday.

**CAMPOBELLO.**—On the Island of Campobello the air is charged with rumours about Church enlargement, which, we are thankful to say, is very necessary.

##### DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

**MONTREAL.**—*Christ Church Cathedral.*—The Rev. D. A. Smith has been appointed assistant minister of this the Parish Church of Montreal, and will enter upon his duties in July next. Mr. Smith is a young man (in Deacon's orders we believe) who passed an exceptionally good final at Bishop's College, and subsequently entered the Montreal Theological College and was ordained Deacon by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

*St. John the Evangelist.*—The Work on the new School buildings has been commenced, and will be pushed forward vigorously.

The regular monthly meeting of the Diocesan Sunday-school Association was held on