

NIAGARA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

MARYBOROUGH.—Every recorded item of Church life and activity is, in its nature, a benefit to the whole Body. What some members of the Body have accomplished, others may be stimulated, encouraged to attempt. The more successful undertakings of any kind are made public the stronger becomes the force of example. And, moreover, the variety of manner in which the same general object is carried out, gives additional suggestiveness and value to the multiplication of published accounts, duly condensed, of the Church's acts and deeds in all parts of the great field. And as I have looked in vain for any record of the Harvest Home Festival in the Maryborough Mission, I will now supply the lack. It was held on Wednesday, the 29th August, which fortunately proved fine after a very wet day preceding. The Mission includes three Stations, Moorefield, Rothsay, and Drayton. The Festival was held in St. John's Church, at the first named place. But great numbers of people came from the other Stations, and generally from the country round. Public worship was held at 11 a.m., and the Church was crowded. The interior of the building had been very neatly decorated with grain, fruit, flowers and vegetables. Besides other suitable sentences the Chancel wall was arched over the window with the very appropriate words "Thou crownest the year with Thy goodness." By a happy coincidence this sentence was also the text of the sermon preached on the occasion by the Rev. L. Yewens of Mount Forest. The other clergy present, each of whom took some part in the service, were the Rev. C. E. Thomson, R. D. of Elora; R. Cordner, of Harriston; G. H. Hooper, of Arthur; and P. L. Spencer, just removed to Palmerston; and the Missionary, Rev. W. M. Tooke. About 2 o'clock dinner was served in the open air, under the extensive sheds, (nicely cleaned and prepared for the occasion), which, with the Church, form an enclosed square. A cabinet organ had been set on a platform erected under another part of the sheds, and the rest of the afternoon was occupied with music and addresses by the clergy already named, with the addition of the Rev. R. C. Caswell of Fergus. Another interesting feature of the occasion was the presentation of a verbal address of thanks and farewell by one of the leading laymen of the Mission to the Rev. Mr. Tooke and his sister, who were on the point of removing to Port Sydney, in the diocese of Algoma. Mr. Tooke's brief ministry of three years, in the Maryborough Mission, has been marked by a great increase of active interest among the Church people, and much improvement in the Church buildings, &c., as well as the providing of a Parsonage at Moorefield.

HURON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON.—*Christ Church*.—The eighteenth Sunday after Trinity was a joyous festival in Christ's Church. On that day were conducted in this church the services of thanksgiving for the ingathering of the harvest. Though this festival has always been duly observed in the Church of Old England, it has been but recently introduced into this western diocese. In Christ Church it was first observed in this, the cathedral city. In this "Evangelical Diocese," as it has been called, we have seen some few changes within these few years, not departures from the good old Church, but returning to her long neglected usages. We congratulate the Rector of Christ Church on the very happy result of the Harvest Home Festivals, as year after year pastor and flock offer to Him, who has blessed the labours of the husbandman with seedtime and harvest, the glad offerings of praise and thanksgiving.

The sacred edifice bore on the thanksgiving Sunday the manifestation that the day of rejoicing had come. The pulpit and, above all, the chancel was elegantly adorned and enriched with flowers and the fairest of orchard and parterre. On the walls were baskets ornamented with the grain from the harvestfield and the most beautiful foliage from our Canadian forests. Attached to the pillars were sheaves of wheat and maize, and clusters of rich fruit. The lower parts of the

windows were covered with moss, and, as if springing up through the moss, were beautiful flowers. The doors and windows were arched, not now with stone or brick, but with the produce of the harvest fields; and over the baskets of fruit and foliage were mottoes skilfully worked with grain. "The gifts of God," "Our First Fruits," "Our Harvest Home," and many such texts spoke of the grateful hearts that had adorned the sacred edifice for their Harvest Home, and, though "in solemn silence, all" bore testimony to the willing hearts and skilful hands of the fair artificers. Rev. A. Zimmerman was preacher at the morning service; the text Eph. v. 18, 19. A very large audience seemed to drink in every word of the very appropriate thanksgiving discourse. At evening service, Rev. Dr. Darnell, of Hellmuth College, preached, taking as his text St. Matt. xiii. 30. An appropriate sermon and a large congregation.

DURHAM.—A year ago on the 5th September the village of Durham, Grey County, was visited by a fire that destroyed, among other buildings, Trinity Church. It was a wooden structure, and somewhat inferior in style. The zealous Incumbent, Rev. T. W. Magahy, set to work at once to raise funds for a new and better one. He succeeded so well that a neat brick church has been erected on the site of the old wooden Trinity. It was opened on Sunday the 9th inst. with three very satisfactory services. It has a nave, about thirty by sixty feet, and a chancel some fifteen feet square, with a commodious vestry on the north side. A neat little turret surrounds the western end of the roof, which last is pitched high, and pierced on each side by three windows, more for ventilation than for light. A new bell hangs in the turret. The opening services were very largely attended. The Presbyterian and Methodist bodies gave up their usual services, and came to church in large numbers, especially in the morning and evening, at both which times the building was filled to its utmost capacity. Of several clergymen invited, only the Rev. Mr. Short, of Walkerton, was present to assist the missionary in the morning and afternoon. He preached both times. His texts were Haggai ii. 9, and Malachi iii. 1. But in the afternoon the Rev. H. L. Yewens came over from Mt. Forest, and preached from Gen. xxviii. 17. An insurance of \$1000 was received for the old building and another \$1500 was raised by subscription. But the new church has cost something more than \$3000. However, of the few hundreds still due upon it, the handsome sum \$105 was obtained by collections on the opening day.

ALGOMA.

The Bishop of Algoma has recently appointed the Rev. W. Macaulay Tooke, late of the Diocese of Niagara, to the Mary Lake Mission, Muskoka. Also Rev. J. Ker. McMorine, M. A., late of the Diocese of Ontario, to the Thunder Bay Mission, Prince Arthur's Landing, Ont.

SASKATCHEWAN.

On Sunday, the 5th August, St. Mary's Church, Prince Albert's settlement, took place, the installation of the Rev. Geo. A. Forneret, B. A., late of Montreal, as Incumbent of St. Mary's Church, and the ordination to Deacon's orders of Mr. Ernest Edward Wood, late of the Montreal Diocesan Theological College. Immediately after the 3rd Collect morning prayer the Bishop addressed the congregation in a few well-chosen words, introducing Mr. Forneret as their future Incumbent, and placing him in possession of the church. Next followed the ordination sermon on Exod. vi. 13, preached at the Bishop's request by the Rev. G. A. Forneret. The ordination service was then proceeded with in the usual way, the last named gentleman acting as Bishop's chaplain and presenting the candidate. About seventy persons partook of the Lord's supper, the Rev. Messrs. Forneret and Wood assisting. The neat little church was filled to its utmost capacity. In the evening the church was again well filled, the Lord Bishop and the Incumbent taking the service, the Rev. Ernest E. Wood reading the lessons and preaching the sermon from St. Luke

xxiv. Mr. Wood is to proceed immediately to Battleford, the new capital of the Northwest Territory, where a mission will at once be formed under his charge.

FOREIGN MISSIONARY NOTES.

VOLUNTARYISM IN AMERICA.—A Nonconformist journal, the *Glasgow Christian News*, contains the following instructive comment on the real tendencies of Voluntaryism and Disestablishment:—"DEPLORABLE CONDITION OF CHURCHES IN THE UNITED STATES.—There are 1,074 vacant Presbyterian churches in America, and 1,799 have 'stated supplies,' so that nearly 3,000, out of a total of little over 5,000 churches, are without pastors. From another quarter we learn that several ministers, occupying important churches, have recently resigned, owing to the financial embarrassments. Still more unwelcome are the statistics published in the *Presbyterian*. Nearly a third of the whole number of Presbyterian churches in the United States could not report a single addition to the roll of communicants last year. A friend, writing from a town in the State of Maine, asserts that in general ministers are not much respected, and that the sermons must be such as to please the peculiar tastes of the more important members of the Church, otherwise the pastor must leave. If these facts are true, they reveal a most deplorable state of matters in the Churches."

THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—An old resident merchant writes to us from Penang under date of July 6:—"It is perhaps not generally known in the Church world at home that in several of our colonies Mission work is going on, supported by local subscriptions only, and not connected with any of our home societies, but which are doing much good in spreading the knowledge of Christianity among the heathen populations. A local Mission to the Tamils has been for some years in existence in the island of Penang, one of the Straits settlements, to which new vigor was imparted about two years ago by the arrival of the Rev. Arthur Fearon, a son of the late rector of St. Mary's, Torquay, as colonial chaplain. Mr. Fearon found the Mission in charge of a Tamil catechist, Ballevendrum Royapen, whom he has since, with unwearied pains, instructed in the doctrines of the Church, so as to capacitate him for the office of deacon. The Lord Bishop of the diocese visited Penang in May last, and ordained him. It is noticeable that the Rev. Ballevendrum Royapen is the first Tamil catechist that has been ordained deacon since the foundation of these Settlements, and it has had a very gratifying and encouraging effect on his fellow native Christians."

Correspondence.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by correspondents.

SOLO SINGING IN CHURCH.

DEAR SIR,—In your paper of the 18th inst. is a letter signed "Enquirer," which I regret should have been written, both because of the animus displayed, and of the apparent lack of any good purpose. The trouble would appear to have arisen from some indefiniteness on the part of your reporter—probably not a professional one—in saying, "singing, Mr. Thos. Giles." Mr. Giles was the leader of the singing, which, I presume, was the idea intended to be conveyed. And "in so distant a place" as the back-country mission where this occurred, where congregational singing is at a low ebb and a choir all but impossible, such a member of the congregation is most useful; and it appears to be a lack of charity, to say the least, to wish to deny to one so efficient, obliging, and attentive as Mr. Giles the slight meed of praise conveyed in the paragraph criticised by Enquirer. Allow me to add that so far as I am competent to judge the proceedings on the occasion in question were such as would have been satisfactory, even if not gratifying, to a sound churchman.

The tone of the last paragraph is so irreverent that I shall not notice it further than to recom-