

PARISH NOTES.

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ST. JOHN, N. B., NOVEMBER 1, 1891.

The Editors of "Parish Notes" regret to learn that some subscribers have received their numbers irregularly, and that copies have been inadvertently sent to persons who had not subscribed. It is earnestly requested that all subscribers will communicate at once with the editors, in order that any inaccuracy may be rectified.

PARISH NOTES.

LAST month our parish experienced a loss which if not entirely unexpected, was none the less serious, in the removal of Mr. W. J. Wilson who, for so many years, has been a prominent helper in our Sunday School. He brought to his work in this capacity some of the best qualifications, a practical knowledge of education, patience and sympathy, and (above all) that attribute without which no zeal or intelligence avails, a desire to gain the souls of those committed to his charge. The loss to the teaching staff will be long felt, even though a very efficient substitute has been found in Mrs. J. S. Armstrong, who undertakes charge of the vacant class during the present winter. Our own sense of personal loss must not prevent us from congratulating Mr. Wilson upon a deserved and congenial appointment to the Geological Survey of Canada, a career for which his remarkable scientific attainments as a geologist abundantly qualify him. A handsome copy of the Teachers' Bible was presented to Mr. Wilson upon his departure, with a letter from his colleagues. His reply will be found in another column.

DURING the month past the Rector paid a visit to Toronto and Boston. In the former city he had the privilege of taking part in the opening of the new buildings of Wycliffe College, and of delivering an address at the public meeting. In compliance with the request that has been made from several quarters, the address (in substance) is given in our columns.

OWING to the illness of the Secretary of the Y. M. A., it was impossible to draw up a plan of winter lectures and entertainments before the end of the month. As it was desirable to enter at once upon the work of raising money to pay the current debt of the Sunday School, the Rector gave a

lecture on Thackeray in the school room on Thursday, Oct. 29. The full plan of future lectures and other entertainments will be published shortly, and we feel sure that our congregation will heartily support all the efforts that will be made, in order that next year may see the debt expunged.

THE Annual Thanksgiving Service will be held on the day appointed by the Governor General, November 12th, beginning at half-past seven. The offertory will be given to the Diocesan Church Society. Special music suitable for the Harvest, as well as the general thanksgiving, will be arranged by Mr. Ford, and it is hoped that our choir will be represented in its full strength on this occasion. We are sure that every member of the congregation heard with pleasure the announcement that the Oratorio Society had appointed Mr. Ford as their director. None could desire an occasion more grateful than the performance of the Jephthah and the Hymn of Praise to inaugurate the highest function of musician's work.

THE CHURCH CONGRESS.

The annual English Church Congress met this month at Rhyl in North Wales, and was very largely attended. The papers and speeches are reported fully in the last number of the *Guardian*, and it is evident that both were above even the high average of excellence. The discussion upon 'Biblical Criticism and the Church's Gains thereby,'—(a topic which would hardly have been so worded a few years ago,) was remarkable for the virtual unanimity of the eminent scholars who took part in it. The old indiscriminate sneers at and denunciation of *all* criticism applied to the Scriptures were conspicuous by their absence, and even Mr. Lias, who represented the most conservative views, gave his adhesion to all the principles for which true criticism contends, and summed up in these remarks:—

"Let not the humble and devout student of Scripture be afraid of what is going on, or stumble if some of the beliefs he has cherished in an age of less searching investigation should prove to be ill founded. Critical science may modify our belief in the date of this or that part of God's Word. It may discover traces of composite authorship in a work we have hitherto considered homogeneous. It may call upon us to recognise signs of later editing in a book, the whole of which we had believed to be of vast antiquity. It may point out to us interpolations where we had been taught to admit nothing of the kind. We may find that some portions of Scriptures stand on a higher moral and religious plane than others. But these discoveries do not in the least affect the claim of the Bible to be our authoritative teacher on the question of God's dealings with His creatures."

Another most fruitful discussion was upon Church Music, and the paper read by Mr. Hylton Stewart, late Precentor of Chester Cathedral, should be distributed to every church choir in English speaking countries. We have only space for one quotation:— "A thoroughly good chant book is greatly needed; but as no two men agree upon the merits of a chant, it is not likely to be supplied. I would therefore recommend each choir to make its own MSS. collection from