

News from the Home Field.

DIOCESE OF FREDERICTON.

To the Rural Deans and other Clergy of the Diocese of Fredericton:

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN:

A Bill having been introduced into the House of Commons of the Dominion at Ottawa, and hurried through that House, to legalize marriage both with a deceased wife's sister and with a deceased husband's brother, I earnestly request you to send petitions against the said Bill to the Senate, now assembled at Ottawa, whilst there is yet time to stay the progress of a measure so injurious to public morality.

Not a moment should be lost, and petitions may be forwarded to the Hon. Senator Odell, or any other member of the Senate, with a request that they may be at once presented.

I avail myself of the columns of the CHURCH GUARDIAN to address you, as there is no time to address you individually by letter, and remain,

Your faithful friend and Brother,

JOHN FREDERICTON.

Either the form used by the Bishops against the Bill, already published, may be used, or any other.

Fredericton, March 18th, 1880.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.—The Committee appointed to interest Sunday Schools in the work of Home Missions has provided Missionary boxes, free of cost, for any children willing to take them. These boxes are to be taken home, and the offerings are to be sent twice a year through the Rector or the Superintendent of the Sunday Schools to the Treasurer of the D. C. S. All receipts will be acknowledged on a leaflet. It is hoped in this way the children will be able to help in the support of the Missions of the Diocese.

SUSSEX.—The choir of Trinity Church is preparing for a concert in Easter week.

SHEDAC.—Rev. O. S. Newnham has been unanimously elected a School Trustee.

WESTFIELD.—The late Rev. E. S. Woodman.—The funeral of the late Rev. E. S. Woodman, late Rector of St. Peter's, Westfield, took place on Wednesday morning, 17th March, at 10 o'clock. Fifty sleighs, containing parishioners and friends, followed the remains from the residence to St. James' Church, near "the Station," where service was performed in the presence of 200 people. The clergy present were Revs. G. M. Armstrong, (Rural Dean), W. H. DeVeber, T. E. Dowling, Thos. Neales and Joseph Smith. The psalms were read by Rev. Thomas Neales, and the lesson by Rev. T. E. Dowling. An impressive funeral sermon was preached by Rev. Geo. M. Armstrong, and two appropriate hymns were sung. The remains were then conveyed to their final resting-place. The service at the grave was read by the Rev. Canon DeVeber. All present seemed deeply sensible of the loss they had sustained by the removal of their beloved pastor and friend—kind and amiable, affectionate and self-denying, particularly successful in his treatment of the young, the late Rector of Westfield had endeared himself to all with whom he had come in contact during a ministry of nearly 21 years. He was ordained Deacon in 1857 and Priest the following year by the Bishop of Fredericton. From 1857 to 1857 he was Curate to the late Rev. S. D. Lea Street, Rector of Woodstock, whence he removed to Westfield.

The following resolution passed at a meeting of the Deanery of St. John, shows the esteem and affection in which the late Rector was held by his brethren the clergy:—

Resolved, That the clergy of the Deanery of St. John, while deeply deploring the loss which the Church has sustained by the death of their dear brother, the late Rector of St. Peter's, Westfield, and tenderly sympathizing with his family and parish in their bereavement, desire to acknowledge the loving-kindness of "the Master" in consoling his servant under severe bodily suffering and vouchsafing him a calm and

peaceful issue out of his afflictions, an earnest and a pledge (they trust) of the rest of Paradise. They commend his surviving relatives to the loving care of "the Father of Mercies and God of all comfort," and they pray "the Good Shepherd" to send the bereaved flock a pastor after his own heart.

(Signed)

G. W. ARMSTRONG,)
WM. H. DEVEBER,) Committee.
St. John, N. B., 16th March, 1880.

St. JOHN.—Rev. G. M. Armstrong delivered his last lecture on the life of St. Peter, on Friday evening, March 19.

Church of England Institute.—The Rev. Thomas Neales, Rector of Woodstock, closed Wednesday 17th inst., the best course of lectures ever given in St. John in connection with the Church of England. From first to last the attendance has been large, and the interest well-sustained, while the tone and character of the lectures have been of a very high order. The subject assigned to Mr. Neales was "The Growth and Development of the Anglican Branch of the Church." After a few preparatory remarks upon the planting and early growth of the Church, the lecturer took as the starting point of the great and remarkable development of the Anglican Branch the year 1784, when Seabury was consecrated Bishop of Connecticut by the Church in Scotland. Up to that time there was not an Anglican Bishop outside the shores of Great Britain and Ireland, and there were not fifty bishops within them. Now the American Church had 62, the Colonial Church about as many, and in all there were some 200 bishops and 30,000 priests. In 1787 Bishop Inglis was consecrated Bishop of Nova Scotia; he was the first Colonial Bishop, and his diocese was British North America, which has been subdivided into 16 dioceses. Mr. Neales gave also a great number of valuable statistics of the number of communicants; the large annual contributions for church building, and for missionary and home work; of the religious and charitable institutions, and as to the zeal, piety and learning of the clergy, all of which had been developed within a century. He spoke of the arrival of Mr. Cooke at St. John as a British Chaplain about 1793, where and at Fredericton also services were held in private houses and stores, and compared the state of this diocese now, with its beautiful cathedral and numerous other handsome church buildings, and gave a fine testimony to the work and life of the Bishop under whose able and devoted administration this Diocese had become a model among all Colonial Sees.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

To-day (Thursday) is the twenty-ninth anniversary of the Bishop of Nova Scotia's consecration.

We warmly and heartily congratulate his Lordship upon having reached so lengthened an Episcopate, and we most earnestly pray God that his life (which is now so vigorous) may long be spared to the Church and Diocese.

It is a matter for general congratulation that his Lordship has been able to see many very great and important improvements of all kind in the condition of both the material and spiritual fabric of the Church, and a much more Churchly feeling prevailing in all sections of the Diocese, and we may reasonably hope that very much more in these particulars will yet be accomplished.

As a Diocese we owe very much to our present Bishop, and the people at large could not more satisfactorily testify their appreciation of all that he has done for them, than by subscribing liberally towards the erection of a suitable Cathedral, which, while worthily representing our branch of the Church in the capital of the Province, may also take up work yet to be done that will extend in Halifax her influence and growth.

We know that this subject is very near our Bishop's heart, and we trust that before another anniversary, the condition of the country will warrant steps being taken in that direction.

The Secretary of the Diocese respectfully urges the Church-Wardens of the various Parishes and Missions to fill up and return the forms sent to them as early as possible, in order that they may be tabulated, and also directs their attention to the following resolution, confirmed at the 14th session of Synod, 1878—see pp. 49 of Journal:

"That each parish represented in this Synod be assessed for the purposes of

this Synod; that the assessment be due from each parish as soon as the amount assessed is announced to the Rector thereof, and that no representative shall be allowed to take his seat so long as the dues of the parish or district shall be one year or upwards in arrears."

PICTOU.—On Wednesday, the 10th inst., a Parish meeting was held in St. James' Church to discuss the following subject:—

"To take into consideration the advisability of abolishing the system of Pew Rents as referred to the maintenance of the said Parish, and the adoption instead thereof of voluntary contribution by Sunday collection or otherwise as the parishioners shall deem most proper and advisable."

The meeting was well attended, and, after some discussion, a committee was elected to consult the parishioners (not present) and report at next Easter meeting.

HALIFAX.—Trinity.—Next Sunday, there will be a sermon for the children, instead of the regular session of the Sunday School. On Wednesday, 31st, the children will have an entertainment for the purpose of taking leave of their Superintendent and Pastor, Rev. W. J. Ancient. Mr. Ancient will preach his farewell sermon on Sunday evening next.

NEW GLASGOW.—Mr. Pritchard, a member of the Church here, kindly delivered a lecture on Monday, 15th, for the Church of England fund. His subject was "Byron," and he treated it with inimitable skill; he "extenuated naught, nor set down aught in malice," while the moral of his dissection was, that talents given by God should be used to His honour and glory, and that want of early training has much to answer for in the future career of man. Mr. Pritchard excels in recitation of poetry. Miss Stewart, Miss Jardine, Mr. Drake, and Mrs. Pritchard, made the evening all the pleasanter for their songs "Hail to the Chief," "The Harp that once in Tara's Halls," etc. Miss Stewart not only sang sweetly, but played the accompaniments. The Rector thanked the Glasgow public for once again showing their kindly feeling towards our Church projects.

RIVER JOHN.—The Rector of this Parish writes:—I have nothing of any importance to communicate in reference to my parochial work. My time is wholly taken up during Lent in extra work. I have week-night services in the Parish Church and at Trinity Church, and a weekly celebration of the Holy Communion. The services are well attended.

SPRIFIELD.—The school-house at this place was erected some thirty years ago from funds collected in Halifax by the Rev. Mr. Cochran (the site being the gift of George Sutherland, Esq.), and was designed for the double purpose of furnishing a place in which Church services, and also a day-school under the direction of the Church, might be kept. For lack of more funds at the time it was built, the building was only partially completed; and the interior has ever since remained in an unfinished state. The missionary in charge at Harrietsfield, the Rev. J. C. Cox, has been making an effort to raise the requisite means to have this small building repaired, finished and suitably fitted up, with the intention that it may be hereafter exclusively used as a Mission Chapel, in which to hold our services and a Sunday School. For this purpose it has been found necessary to call upon our good friends in Halifax, who are charitably disposed, to give us some aid in this too-long neglected undertaking.

The following are the names of those who have already contributed to this object, together with the amount of their contributions:—

His Lordship the Bishop, \$4; G. R. A., 1; W. H. Pallister, 5; Mrs. Ed. Binney, 2; P. Bryant, 4; P. C. H., 2; J. A. Brown, 3; A. G. Jones, 3; Dr. Trenaman, 2; W. Wickwire, 2; R. H. Cogswell, 1.50; Wm. Deal, 1.50; Clayton & Sons, 1; R. I. Reid, 1; R. S., 1; Davidson, 1; J. E. W., .50; C. C. M., .50; Mrs. R. A., .50; Mrs. W. L. Black, \$20; sums promised, \$4.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Rev. G. W. Hodgeson left town for the purpose of celebrating Holy Communion at Georgetown, on Passion Sunday. The clergyman in charge being in Deacon's Orders only, will no doubt be

thankful for the assistance to his zealous flock during Lent. It is under such circumstances as these that we see the need of, at least, two or three faithful mission priests who, having no field charge, could, at the Bishop's command, go to parishes for missions and celebrations, or other extra ordinary work.

CHARLOTTETOWN.—St. Paul's Church Association.—As several members of the Association were dissatisfied with the discussion on the Ritual of the Church of England, a special meeting was held on Tuesday evening, the 16th inst., to consider the Bennett Judgments. The Rector presented a paper for discussion. He was followed by the Rev. Alfred Osborne, Messrs. Thos. Williams, Lieut. Dixon, R. N.,—Mason, Capt. Maxwell, R. N., E. Welsh and Chas. Palmer. Rector replied. The discussion was ended at 10 p. m., each point being debated with considerable ability. Capt. Maxwell conclusively proved the position of Mr. Bennett to be repugnant to the teaching of the Church of England.

An able paper was read on the evening of the 12th inst., by the Venerable Archdeacon Read, D. D. Subject—"Baptism as Taught in the Bible and the Prayer Book." John Ing, Esq., in the chair. The Archdeacon handled his subject well. He was followed by Rev. D. Fitzgerald, Dr. Loeming, Messrs. Chas. Palmer, L. H. Davies, Robert DeBlois, jr., Revs. Osborne and Reagh. The Archdeacon replied principally to Mrs. Davies. The debate closed at 10 o'clock, after two hours of profitable discussion. The points established were—Mode Immaterial; Actual belief of subject not Biblical; and Regeneration not synonymous with Conversion.

St. Peter's.—During Holy Week a series of special daily services will take place at this Church. Holy Communion—Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, at 7.15 a. m.; Maundy Thursday at 8 o'clock. Matins as usual at 9 evening, and sermon daily at 7.30. The subjects for addresses will be the events of the day.

On Good Friday—Litany; and Meditation on the Crucifixion at 9.30. Matins; Reproaches; and part of Communion service, to end of prayer for Church Militant; sermon on the Doctrine of the Atonement at 11 o'clock.

At 2 o'clock a special service of addresses and hymns, on the seven last words from the Cross. Evensong at 7.30 with sermon on "Christ Preaching to the Spirits in Prison."

CHERRY VALLEY.—This important mission, with the handsome little Church, is now under the charge of Mr. Hind. The people are to be congratulated on their good fortune in securing the services of this accomplished gentleman. They must stand by him, and do their duty, refusing to listen to the voice of the enemy who would sow discord among them. A strong, churchly, brotherly feeling, is the thing required in every parish.

DIOCESE OF RUPERTS LAND.

WINNIPEG.—We clip the following from the Winnipeg Times, of March 9th.

Grace Church.—The anniversary tea meeting given by the ladies of Grace Church, took place last evening. An excellent tea was served from 6.30 to 8 o'clock. After tea Mr. Thomas Nixon was called to the chair. The Rev. E. Morrow presented the report of the financial receipts of the church, which shows that over \$600 in pew rents, and \$1,000 in collections had been received during the last year. Mr. S. C. Biggs presented a report of the financial expenditures in connection with the church. Both reports were adopted. Excellent addresses were given by the Revs. A. T. Ferguson and O. Fortin, by the former on "Memory," and the latter on "The importance of the Church taking advantage of present opportunities in view of future results." Choice music was supplied by the choir. The proceeds, being voluntary contributions, by those present amounted \$42.50.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.—The congregation of St. Mary's Church, at this place has subscribed \$20 towards the Irish Relief Fund.

DIOCESE OF NIAGARA.

HAMILTON.—The Rev. Mr. Mockridge, of Toronto, has been appointed to Christ Church Cathedral.

EXTRACTS FROM REPORT OF MEETING,

HELD IN LONDON, FEB. 26, 1880,

To oppose the Bill to legalize Marriage (not with a deceased brother's wife, but only) with a Deceased Wife's Sister.

LORD SHAPTESBURY, unable to be present, wrote:

"The sister, under the proposed law, must either leave the house immediately, (after the death of the wife), or become the new wife; public opinion would take objection as to the time, and the husband might object as to the person."

The DEAN OF CANTERBURY (Dr. Payne Smith) said:

"To alter the law would be to open the door to jealousy, intrigue, and suffering. It would simply be impossible for a woman, with any delicacy of feeling, who had been staying with her sister in her last illness, to remain in the house and take charge of the children, if her marriage with her brother-in-law could be regarded as a possible thing."

Mr. SWINTON, Chairman of a Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, upon the subject of the proposed Bill, maintained the scriptural prohibitions of Leviticus xviii. Out of thirteen illustrations of "near of kin" in that chapter, seven were cases of affinity, and six of consanguinity. Inference from 16th verse is positive that a man may not marry deceased wife's sister. The meaning of verse 18 is uncertain, admitting *sic* interpretations, and therefore not in any case to be set against positive prohibition.

He stood there as the representative of the church and people of Scotland. He rejoiced to add that the Free Church shared with the Establishment in the intensity of its convictions, and that the Episcopal Church was with them to a man. What was proposed would be the beginning of a revolution in the social life of the community. You would deprive orphaned children of what the promoters of the bill declared to be the best guardianship they could have. The interests of thousands of God-fearing, law-abiding citizens would be sacrificed to the desires of a few.

LORD HATHERLY, (ex-Lord-Chancellor) said: "It was thirty years since he first stated his views on this subject in the House of Commons. He had not shrunk from advocating changes of considerable magnitude in Church and State, but he was not prepared to take part in what he believed would be the beginning of a social revolution. In the middle of the last century (the Gallican Church being still free from bondage to Rome) the Parliament of Paris decided that a marriage with a deceased wife's sister, being against the law of God, could not be made valid by a papal dispensation.

BERESFORD HOPE, M. P.: Every country that allowed marriage with a wife's sister, allowed it also with brother's widow, and between uncle and niece, aunt and nephew. Cardinal Wiseman had given evidence that dispensations between uncle and niece were granted where great family interests were concerned—that is to say, to the rich, but not to the poor.

CANON GARBETT thought the principle, underlying the happy English life, was the identity of the relationships which grew out of affinity, with those which belonged to consanguinity. He protested, from the bottom of his heart, against depriving young girls of the shelter of a sister's home. If the proposed change were ever made, he did most earnestly believe, that a poison would have been infused into the social body, which would cause tears and sorrows to generations yet unborn.

CANON CARTER: The scriptural principle, that affinity and consanguinity were one, was too deeply rooted in the deepest, kindest, purest and holiest feelings of the heart to be at once uprooted, but he feared it would be seriously undermined, if the law were altered; and he hoped the principle would be maintained, which Holy Scripture asserted, and to the true interpretation of which the Church had ever borne her witness.

SIR R. WILBRAHAM, having had fifty years experience of military life spoke of the great advantage to an officer's wife, on a distant foreign station, of being accompanied by her sister, which could not be, if she were no longer to be regarded as the husband's sister.