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St. John's Church Record.

And Parish Notes.

Vol. 2.

MARCH, 1892.

No. 14.

PARISH OFFICERS.

Rector
REV. JOHN deSOYRES, M. A.

Wardens.
J. R. RUEL.

Deputy
W. M. JARVIS.
GEORGE F. SMITH.
G. W. JONES.
W. H. MERRITT.
T. B. HANINGTON.
W. H. B. SADLEIR.
R. B. EMERSON.
C. MASTERS.
W. K. CRAWFORD.
G. E. FAIRWEATHER.
J. R. ARMSTRONG.
A. T. THORNE.

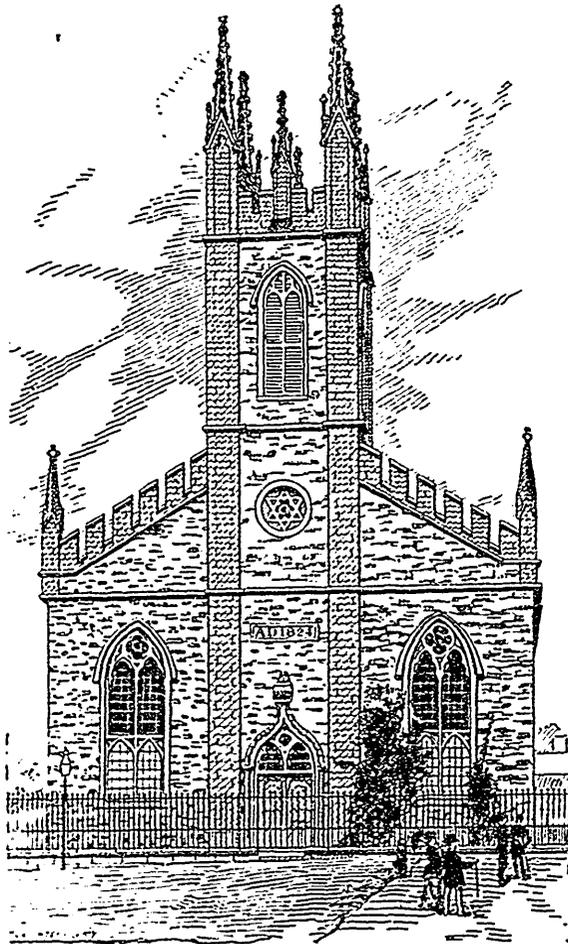
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FRANK O. ALLISON.

Auditors:
A. W. ADAIS.
F. W. DANIEL.

Delegates to Synod:
W. M. JARVIS.
G. E. FAIRWEATHER.

Delegates to D. C. S.
J. R. ARMSTRONG.
G. G. RUEL.

Organist:
JAMES S. FORD.



SOCIETIES, &c.

Ladies' Association of Church Workers:

Patroness:—Lady Tilley.
President:—Mrs. G. F. Smith.
Sec'y. Treas.:—Miss Lawrence.

Young Men's Association:
President:—A. O. Skinner.
Vice-Pres.:—G. G. Ruel.
Secretary:—H. C. Wetmore.
Sec'y. Debating Club:—C. F. Sanford.

Girl's Association:
(Seniors). Treasurer:—Miss A. Puddington.
Secy.:—Miss Jarvis.
(Juniors). Managing Committee:—Mrs. McAvity, Miss Hunter, Mrs. T. S. Adams, Mrs. Lordly.

Sons' Association.
Captain:—W. Hare.
Vice-Captain:—S. Kaye.
Secretary:—H. Allison.

Dorcas Society.
President:—Mrs. Armstrong.

District Visitors.
Miss J. Barlow, Mrs. Kaye, Mrs. Lawton, Mrs. G. L. Robinson, Miss Sadleir, Miss Thorne.

Deaconess.
Mrs. G. Whiting.
Treasurer of Poor Fund.
W. K. Crawford.

Superintendent of S. School.
G. E. FAIRWEATHER.

Librarian.
W. H. Merritt.
Assistant:—F. Hunter.

Organist.
Miss A. Wilson.

SERVICES IN THE CHURCH:

Sunday.—Morning Service at 11; Evening Service at 7. | The HOLY COMMUNION will be administered on the first Sunday in the month, after Morning Service, and on the third Sunday, at 8 A. M.; also on great festivals.

Wednesday.—Evening Service according to notice.

Applications for pews to be made to the Vestry Clerk, F. O. ALLISON, at the Shipping Office.
The Ushers will show strangers to vacant seats.

St. John's Church Record, And Parish Notes.

EDITED BY THE RECTOR, ASSISTED BY MEMBERS OF THE
YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Publisher:—MR. G. A. KNODELL, Church Street, to whom all Sub-
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MARCH, 1892.

PARISH NOTES.

Sickness and death have been again the common topic, and in one sad week (Feb., 7-14) no less than four funerals followed one another. In Mrs. Hatheway our church lost a faithful friend and generous helper. Mr. Hanford's long illness and consequent retirement had not weakened the memory of his former prominent and respected citizenship. And Mr. Ruddock was not only a striking specimen of pre-eminence in his own special work, but had attached to himself many friends whose sympathy must have lightened the sorrow of the mourners.

As a natural consequence of illness, the congregations have been somewhat less numerous of late at our Sunday services, and the attendance at Sunday School has been also diminished. But while noting the facts, there is every sign of healthy life and activity in our church, and every hope of future prosperity. This was sufficiently proved by the good attendance at the Annual Meeting of the Ladies' Association of Church Workers. No less than twenty-six names were proposed for the Managing Committee, the elected candidates together with a synopsis of the Secretary's report will be found in another column. The Young Men's Association suffered most from the causes of depression already alluded to. Not only was Dr. Alward's excellent lecture delivered to an audience inadequate in all but heartiness of appreciation, but the debates were sparsely attended, although the speeches (especially on the last occasion), were of remarkable ability.

The Boys' Association enjoyed their usual weekly meeting, with a few unavoidable interruptions. Mr. Tilley has gradually trained the "Company" into creditable drilling form, and we look forward to the time when our boys will be able to form a Guard of Honor, and ultimately to join the Boys' Brigade of the city. The winter gymnastic competitions were kept up with great interest, a very close struggle between H. Allison, H. McLeod, and A. Berton being the result. A report of the public athletic entertainment held by the S. M. B. A. last Tuesday will be found elsewhere.

Our readers will see that we have at length adopted a title more appropriate to the present form of our periodical. A correspondent pointed out to the Editor, not long ago, the curious omission to state *what* parish furnished the "Notes." We trust that the neglect will be attributed to its proper cause. It will not be needful to remind our readers that, in order to prevent mistakes, copies of the 'CHURCH RECORD' will only

be sent to subscribers. Those members of the congregation and others who desire to receive it, must therefore send their names to our publisher, Mr. G. A. Knodell, who has kindly undertaken the sole management of the financial department.

TWO GREAT POETS.

As one contemplates the increase of wealth of the great English speaking nations on both sides of the Atlantic, together with the corresponding selfish indulgence in luxury of every kind and degree, one can scarcely be accused of merely falling in with the pessimism of the last decade in quoting the words of another prophet as applicable to those we are about to consider, "They come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as My people, and they hear thy words but they will not do them; for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness."

Robert Browning, who so lately passed away into the unknown country, may with reverence be called the high-priest of our literature leading the hearts of men straight up to God.

We are beginning to see that we had to *grow* up to him, he had made such immeasurable strides beyond us. Though it must be admitted his form of expression is somewhat involved at times, yet he himself declared he had not been wilfully obscure, unconscientiously careless, or perversely harsh. "It has surely been Browning's brave endeavor to reach out after truth and spread it abroad in the land; his is the gospel of love, no lower motive avails in 'this present evil world.'" He exemplifies this with wonderful power and beauty in the story of Lazarus, living a dual life on earth after his resurrection, the normal type of a christian according to the teaching of the N. T. who "risen with the Christ seeks those things which are above," yet stoops to the lowliest earthly cares and duties joyfully as in the path of God's will; to quote from "an Epistle,"—

Heaven opened to a soul while yet on earth,
Earth forced on a soul's use while seeing heaven.

He holds on firmly to some thread of life—
(It is the life to lead perforce),
Which runs across some vast distracting orb
Of glory on either side that meagre thread,
Which, conscious of, he must not enter yet
The spiritual life around the earthly life:
The law of that is known to him as this,
His heart and brain move there, his feet stay here.

Indeed the especial marking of the man
Is from submission to the heavenly will—
Seeing it, what it is, and why it is.

One of the offices of the priest under the old dispensation, next to his attendance in the tabernacle or temple to offer sacrifice and burn incense, was the instruction of the people; also, the discovery in the house or person of an Israelite, of leprosy, that remarkable type of sin, the more so, that we

are told that the ancients regarded it as a disease peculiar to Egypt, so that the children of Israel must have brought it with them from the house of bondage. Sin is the subject of many of the creations of this master-mind, sin in its various expressions, the perishable lust of glory—deceit, malice, envy, cruelty, and then as its only remedy and cure, he shews the need of the soul must be met by a personal Saviour. We must add just one more quotation from "Saul" in conclusion in proof of this—

"I believe it! 'Tis Thou God, that givest, 'tis I who receive:
In the first is the last, in Thy will is my power to believe.
All's one gift Thou canst grant it, moreover, as prompt to
my prayer,
As I breathe out this breath, as I open these arms to this air."

* * * * *

"'Tis the weakness in strength that I cry for! My flesh that
I seek

In the Godhead! I seek and I find it. O Saul, it shall be
A Face like my face that receives thee: a Man like to me,
Thou shalt love and be loved by, forever! A Hand like this
hand

Shall thou open the gates of new life to thee! See the
Christ stand!"

* * * * *

No allegiance to a sectarian creed limits this man's vision,
fearlessly he studies Nature, Science, and Revelation, and
gives us the benefit of his knowledge and experience. We
may take courage while he "being dead, yet speaketh."
What is a poet? Let him tell us himself.

"The poet in a golden clime was born,
With golden stars above;

Dower'd with the hate of hate, the scorn of scorn,
'The love of love."

May we be allowed to say a poet is also an artist, one who
makes word-pictures. In one sense his great aim is to disco-
ver to himself and then to others, the beautiful in nature, in
art, in character, and in religion; his sphere is thus wide as
the world, nay, as the universe; and though, perhaps, lacking
in the ruggedness of the prophet, and power of the priest,
Tennyson atones for the absence of these qualities by the
exquisite perfection and musical rhythm of his language,
not that he is, by any means deficient in depth or breadth of
thought or feeling. Every emotion finds adequate utterance
through the medium of his facile pen, "*In Memoriam*" sub-
stantiates this assertion. We ask the forbearance of our
readers in inserting the following stanzas, where doubt and
unbelief struggling through the mists of bereavement and
sorrow, end in a triumphant declaration of faith:—

"Love is and was my Lord and King,
And in His presence I attend
To hear the tidings of my friend,
Which every hour his couriers bring.

Love is and was my King and Lord,
And will be, tho' as yet I keep
Within his court on earth, and sleep
Encompass'd by his faithful guard."

* * * * *

"And hear at times a sentinel

Who moves about from place to place,
And whispers to the world of space—
In the deep night, that all is well."

Loyalty, honour, chivalry, and highest worth are nobly
sung in "The Idylls of the King," but we are doubtful whe-
ther his drama of "Queen Mary" has won its meed of
praise, or the intelligent appreciation due to it, by the many,
though it will live in the memory of those who know our
author best.

Many of his sweet lyrics cannot be surpassed, we mention
only "Break, break, break," "A Farewell," and "The
Brook," though there are many sparkling gems besides.
Among his shorter poems "the Grandmother" appeals to us
as a quaint and homely, though lovely picture of home life,
containing those lines which we now accept as a truism.

"A lie which is half a truth is ever the blackest of lies,
That a lie which is all a lie may be met and fought with
outright,

But a lie which is part a truth is a harder matter to fight"

Probably when the poet conceived his "Medley," "The
Princess," it was in his own estimation nothing more than he
claims it to be, "A dream" which would never be realized,
a pretty conceit though utterly impracticable; yet "Sweet
girl graduates," from just such institutions of learning as he
described may now be met with on both sides of the Atlantic.
Not in vain did he appeal to woman:—

"O lift your natures up:

Embrace our aims: work out your freedom, girls,
Knowledge is now no more a fountain seal'd;
Drink deep, until the habits of the slave,
The sins of emptiness, gossip, and spite,
And slander, die Better not be at all
Than not be noble."

In our humble opinion among the later productions of the
Laureate Tiresias is pre-eminently the noblest and sweetest.
We have spent "Golden hours" in the study of this poet,
and cannot refrain from bringing before our readers' notice
the depth of wisdom contained in the following lines, passing
over the beautiful legend of the goddess and her revenge,
and merely noting the blind Sage's oracles, as applicable
to-day as in the dim distant ages of those old myths:—

"Who ever turned upon his heel to hear
My warning that the tyranny of one
Was prelude to the tyranny of all?
My counsel that the tyranny of all
Led backward to the tyranny of one?"

* * * * *

"Virtue must shape itself in deed, and those
Whom weakness or necessity have cramp'd
Within themselves, immersing each, his woe
In his own well, draw solace as he may."

* * * * *

"My Son,
No sound is breathed so potent to coerce,
And to conciliate, as their names who dare
For that sweet mother-land which gave them birth

Nobly to do, nobly to die. Their names,
Graven on memorial columns, are a song
Heard in the future; few, but more than wall
And rampart, their examples reach a land
Far thro' all years, and every where they meet
And kindle generous purpose, and the strength
To mould it into action pure as theirs."

* * * * *
"The sun, the moon, the stars,
Send no such light upon the ways of men
As the great deed."

It is with grateful affection we watch this peerless peer descending the slopes of time; to his elevating and refining influence we owe much. When his summons comes we trust it will be to pass "to where beyond these voices there is peace." He gives us his own full assurance of this in his last utterance:—

"Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell
When I embark.
For though from out the course of Time and Place,
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have cross'd the bar."

If this poor endeavor to point out some of the beauties of our literature, leads any youthful readers to acquaint themselves with these great minds, the effort will be more than rewarded.

A. D.

RECOLLECTIONS OF CRICKET.

When I first learned that our Rector wished me to contribute an article on the above subject I felt greatly disposed to studiously avoid him, but finally when he bearded me in my den, I soon found that my protestations were of no avail. But now that I have started, I must confess that my first impression of the game was not at all favorable. It seemed very slow compared with the rival game of baseball peculiar to this country. However, when I went to Merchiston School, and was compelled like all public school boys in the old country to practise every day, with matches on Saturdays, I was not long in discovering many charms which greatly heightened my opinion of the game. And now I fully share the opinion of most cricketers that it heads the list of all out-door games. Baseball is a capital sport and particularly adapted to this country where the devotees of outdoor games have not so much time at their disposal as on the other side of the ocean. But if one can give the time let him by all means take up cricket. Those who have had an English school training in the game are fortunate, as many cricketers claim that such an early training is necessary for the attainment of any proficiency in the game. It is very difficult unless one has been coached, and early taught a good style to acquire it later in life. Style is a very essential element of the game, though the casual observer might think

that as long as the runs were made, it made no great difference how. But this is not the case, any good cricketer would much prefer to make a small score in good form than twice the number of runs in a slipshod manner.

I was hardly fourteen when I entered Merchiston. I started in the fifth eleven, and although the hope of finally reaching the first eleven,—which, I must confess, the majority of us boys thought much more of than promotion in class—was a strong incentive to practise hard and attend to the instructions of the "professional" employed for that purpose, as in all large English schools, still the gulf between the two elevens seemed so wide that I hardly hoped to ever reach what was every boy's ambition. It was a very pretty sight to see as many as ten different elevens at Merchiston practising at the same time, every boy anxious to improve himself, both for his own sake and the school's, for to assist in the defeat of a rival school is a pleasure not surpassed by perhaps much greater successes in after life.

Matches were played by most of the elevens every Saturday and frequently on Wednesday, and whilst each boy was particularly interested in the success of his own team, still it was to the first eleven that the eyes of the school were turned. Upon its success depended the standing of the school in the struggle for the championship which was always very keen.

I was a proud boy in my second term, when I saw my name posted as a member of the first eleven. But my happiness was considerably marred by one fear, that I might not be able to maintain my position. I can well recall many restless nights before important school matches. In consequence I was so nervous and shaky that I was almost unfitted for play. If we were defeated we would return to the school feeling that we had lost credit with our friends, with but the comfort of recalling previous victories over the same school and the determination to practise hard and possibly retrieve ourselves. It often happened towards the end of the season that two or more schools held the same position in the race for the championship, and one fear would then be that one of these schools might score a victory whilst we might suffer a defeat and be thus set back, but on the other hand if we won, our hope would then be that our closest competitors might have lost their games on the same day. No cricketers are appreciated to the same extent as the first eleven in a school where there is the proper "esprit de corps." "Strawberry Grubs," dozens of oranges and apples being offered "ad libitum" to the various members of the team if they would come off with a fifty after their names. And to be honest, the team was not above requesting such rewards which were rarely refused unless the person was disliked, but no schoolboy could be so unpopular that a large score at cricket did not convert him into a hero for the time being. His performance would be talked of for many a year afterwards amongst the past and present pupils, whilst prizes taken in his studies would be forgotten the next day.

I well remember a match we played against Edinburgh Academy, which will illustrate the enthusiasm felt by the school in cricket matters. One of our number scored 96 not out against them, and when we returned to Merchiston,

the news of our victory having already arrived there, the whole school turned out to cheer him and carried him on their shoulders into the castle. I do not remember the exact figures but that boy got something like 80 dozen of oranges and a dozen or more "strawberry feeds." But perhaps the most exciting match I ever took part in was in my final year. I was Captain of the school at that time and, of course, personally very anxious that it should have a good year. We had won the football opening championship and all the school cricket matches with the exception of that against Loretto, — a school which was usually our strongest opponent both in cricket and football. The match I refer to was against it. If we could win it we would lead all the schools in every branch of sport in which we had been pitted against them. The day of the match was not favorable, the ground being soft, and at intervals we had to stop owing to rain. I do not know which team was helped most by this condition of the elements and crease. Loretto depended for its success upon their slow bowlers, whilst we looked to our faster ones. Loretto to our dismay won the toss and went to the bat, thus getting the best of the wicket. We were very much pleased at getting them out for less than a hundred runs, but with such a slow scoring wicket we knew our work was cut out for us so that we would have to fight hard to win. Our great object was to get over their score no matter how little. Our wickets fell pretty much as theirs had, and it was as uncertain as the toss of a penny who would win. Each team was of course doing its utmost to gain an advantage, whilst the spectators too shared in the anxiety. They appeared to almost hold their breath when nothing was happening, but when a wicket fell or a run was made the applause was spontaneous and lasting. I watched the greater part of our innings, but as one after another of our wickets fell the strain was too much for me, and with another anxious member of the eleven I climbed the wall into another field, with the hope of finding consolation by getting away from the scene of the struggle. I soon found however, that if it came to the worst I would have to be an eye witness. The excitement lasted out the match as we were but one run ahead when the last wicket fell and Merchiston could be put on record as champions in cricket as well as in the other sports. That year happened to be our jubilee year, the fiftieth year of the school's existence, we were very proud to be able to lay our record before a meeting of about 250 of the past pupils of the school at a dinner given to celebrate the event. Our head master Dr. Rogerson, of whom every Merchistonian is so proud, and who has been called the Arnold of Scotland, joined in the general merry-making.

To complete one's cricket education, a course should be taken either at Cambridge or Oxford. I desired to go to Cambridge with some three or more of our team of that year who afterwards "wore their blues," but upon consideration decided to come home. My cricketing days at school were very pleasant ones, and I have since derived more pleasure from cricket than from any other game. Trips which I have made with the Montreal and Zingari teams recall happy times, and the visits to Toronto and Philadelphia to play with the Inter-

national teams, were full of interest. Lastly the tour of the Canadian team through England in 1887, which we used to speak of as a "tour of a life time," repaid me well for all the time given to practice. I should have preferred to write an article on that tour but our Editor debarred me on the grounds that a book had already been published on the trip, and was perhaps familiar to my present reader.

I have been somewhat limited in time and space, which is probably fortunate for my readers, otherwise I could write more on a subject which has so much interest for me. Let those who condemn cricket try it or "forever after hold their peace." Once understanding it they will like it and their interest will grow as their knowledge of the game increases. It is thoroughly manly and savors less of professional and gambling elements than any other game. It is a good old game and I hope that it always will maintain the position it now holds as an out-door sport.

GEO. W. JONES.

[We must emphatically disclaim any "limitations of space" on this subject, and trust that our contributor will furnish a sequel at no distant time. Ed. S. J. C. R.]

LADIES' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting was held in the School-house on Tuesday, Feb. 23rd. The Secretary's report was read, which our space does not enable us to insert this month. Several cheering features were recorded, as to the good attendance at business and ordinary meetings, and as to the conveniences found in those rooms for which the Association claims some share in obtaining. Naturally the successful sale of December last was dwelt upon with justifiable satisfaction. It has been already recorded that the total receipts amounted to \$701.81, of which sum \$625 was handed to the Vestry Clerk towards payment of the debt upon the Sunday School. The report made suitable reference to the recent loss of Mrs. Hatheway, one of the Vice-presidents of the Association, and resolutions of condolence were passed in reference to this as also to the bereavement of another Vice-president, Mrs. Daniel.

The Rector, as usual, gave a brief address in taking the chair, congratulating the Association upon its past work, and pointing to certain objects which may enlist sympathy and zeal in the future. The election then took place. Lady Tilley was once more nominated as Patroness, Mrs. George F. Smith obtained a unanimous vote of re-election as President, and Miss Lawrence, as Secretary. There were only twelve names proposed for the office of Vice-president, accordingly no ballot was needed. They were as follows, the first four names being permanent Vice-presidents of the Association: Mrs. G. M. Armstrong, Mrs. deSoyres, Mrs. Daniel, Mrs. Crawford; Mrs. J. R. Armstrong, Mrs. C. H. Fairweather, Mrs. J. J. Kaye, Mrs. G. R. Pugsley, Mrs. Butt, Mrs. G. F. Fisher, Mrs. H. D. McLeod, Mrs. Sancton.

For the Managing Committee, after a ballot among twenty-six candidates, the following were declared elected:—Mrs. L. Allison, Miss J. Barlow, Mrs. J. Belyea, Mrs. G. S. De-

Forest, Mrs. Emerson, Mrs. Golding, Mrs. T. B. Hanington, Mrs. Knodell, Mrs. Keator, Mrs. Kimball, Miss L. Lawrence, Mrs. Masters, Mrs. W. H. Merritt, Mrs. J. A. McAvity, Miss Murray, Miss Patton, Mrs. R. E. Puddington.

THE FALL OF JERICO.

When Joshua 'gainst the high-wall'd city fought,
He marched around it with his banner high,
His troops in serried order following nigh,
But not a sword was drawn, no shaft outsprang,
Only the trumpets the shrill onset rang.
At the first blast, smiled scornfully the king,
And at the second sneered, half wondering:
"Hope'st thou with noise my stronghold to break down?"
At the third round, the ark of old renown
Swept forward, still the trumpet sounding loud.
At the fourth turn, braving the Israelites,
Women appeared upon the embattled heights
And hurled upon the Hebrews stones and dust.
At the fifth circuit came the blind and lame,
And with wild uproar clamorous and high:
Railed at the clarion ringing to the sky.
At the sixth time upon a tower's tall crest,
Appeared the courtiers, loud in scornful jest:
"These valiant Jews musicians are, meseems!"
They scoffed, loud laughing, "but they live in dreams."
The princes laughed submissive to the king,
Laughed all the retinue in glittering ring,
And thence the laughter spread throughout the town,
At the seventh blast,—the city walls fell down.

(Trans. from VICTOR HUGO.)

MARCH-DOUBT.

Will the grass ever be fresh again,
Will the skies ever smile again,
Will the thrushes with clear refrain
My heart to the woods beguile again?
Dull as my eyes and grave as my heart
The woods stand grey with no bloom to cheer;
Will they bud when the frosts depart;
Will the hills wake from their gloom this year?
Never a sign that the thing shall be!
Cold, cold, cold are the gleaming skies;
What shall the flute-throats sing to thee,
Earth, to open thy dreaming eyes?

J. Elizabeth Gastwaycke Roberts.

The Rectory, Fredericton.

CHURCH NEWS.

It is understood that the Metropolitan has transferred to the Bishop Coadjutor the main work of the diocese, excepting the management of the Cathedral. An official notice of this important step will shortly, we believe, be communicated to

the clergy. While recognising the urgency of the causes which have dictated this transfer, the clergy will feel that they can still appeal to the Metropolitan as their friend and counsellor.

The parish of Simonds is in temporary charge of Mr. Maynard, who recently resigned the rectory of Hampton. The latter parish we trust will soon obtain a minister able to cope with the difficulties presented by many churches.

The Committee upon the Consolidation of the Church in Canada agreed upon a report which virtually condemns the proposed synod of the Dominion, as needlessly interfering with the authority of Provincial and Diocesan synods, and presenting insuperable difficulties of practical management. In its place, the convocation of special assemblies, when some great occasion called for it, is suggested.

The Bishop of Rochester (Dr. Randall Davidson) attended Mr. Spurgeon's funeral, and pronounced the benediction at its close. The rector of Newington, in which parish the "Tabernacle" is situated, also manifested his sympathy by attending at a memorial service. It will be remembered that Mr. Spurgeon was the frequent guest of the Archbishop of Canterbury at Addington in his later years. It is cheering to see this truly catholic spirit in the church to which we belong, and exemplified in her most illustrious members.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Church Record:

SIR, You have invited correspondence from members of the congregation upon matters affecting the interests of our Church. Perhaps it may not exceed the intended scope if I give expression to some ideas upon the present state and future prospects of our church, which I know are shared by other minds. What we want, sir, is a little more enterprise—or more properly speaking—faith. Some will say this is the special weakness of our city, but I meddle not with great matters. Our church, without partiality be it spoken, has many advantages. We have a representative congregation and the best organist and choir (probably) in the Maritime Provinces. But we want a little more congregational zeal. When some outlay is needed, the cry is invariably—"have a sale!" and not rather—"Let us give according to our means." And if this were done, I imagine that the amount of subscriptions would largely increase, for it is not the poorer people who are in fault.

More than a year ago, it was mentioned that a committee of the Vestry had considered a plan for the improvement of the galleries. Nothing more seems to have been done, and yet an outlay here would surely be soon repaid.

Then before very long the question of free seats must come to the front. All christian people are unanimous in condemning rented pews, and the system of sales by auction is positively disgraceful. (Pardon, Mr. Editor, my plain speaking!) I know it will be said,—How else shall we obtain the money to "run the church?" How does Mr. Hague manage at Halifax, and Mr. Troup at Montreal, and many others

elsewhere? One thing is obvious, with free seats we should not see, as we do now, long rows of empty pews, but our church would be filled. Courtesy would reserve the accustomed seats of regular worshippers, and early comers would have the proper preference over those whose laziness makes them disturb the service and house of God by coming late.

I have a good many other topics on which I could utter a remonstrance, but I must not trespass upon your space. Next month the congregation will meet to choose a Church-warden. I hope the meeting will be worthy of the occasion, and not the usual lukewarm gathering of some two dozen members to re-elect one another. May the choice fall upon an earnest Christian and active worker, and may he walk in the steps of our late Senior Warden. And may the whole congregation be knit together in love and unity, striving to work in all ways for God's glory.

TIMON.

[While agreeing with much in our correspondent's letter, he should remember the good old adage,—'Hasten slowly.' We also commend to his notice the cheering statistics of offerings for all purposes, which will be published in our next number.

Ed. c. R.]

S. M. B. A. ATHLETIC ENTERTAINMENT.

On the evening of Tuesday last the athletic competitions long talked about were successfully carried out. In spite of a strong attraction at the Palace Rink, a fair number of "elders" assembled to watch the feats of younger relatives. Invitations had been sent to members of all the other Church of England Sunday-Schools, and only urgent limitations of time prevented the extension of the invitation to all the schools in the city. Our space only allows us to record the names of the Prize winners.

GYMNASTICS:—1st, Prize, Arthur Golding; 2nd, W. Hare.

LONG JUMP:—Harry White (Centenary) 13 feet 7 inches.

HIGH JUMP:—White and Berton tied at the excellent height of 4 feet 6¾ inches, and drew lots for the prizes.

SHORT RACE:—1st, E. Roach; 2nd, J. Fairweather, (Rothesay C. C.)

LONG DISTANCE:—1st, E. Roach; 2nd, H. Allison.

WALKING RACE:—1st, H. McLeod.

JUNIOR RACE:—1st, R. Thomson (Rothesay).

The performances were decidedly above the average of junior athletics, the features deserving special praise being Roach's running, the High Jump of Berton and White, little Arthur Golding's wonderful gymnastics, and W. Hare's feat of drawing himself up *nine* (!) times on the horizontal bar. The champion cup was a tie (27 marks) between Roach and H. McLeod, to be decided hereafter. The Prizes were distributed by Mrs. J. R. Armstrong, after which three hearty cheers were given by the St. Mark's boys for the Y. M. C. A. and especially to Messrs. Vincent and McLeod who filled the arduous duties of starter and judge.

The Rector is to be found in his Study in the School-house from half past nine to twelve every morning. It will be a great convenience if calls and communications concerning the Parish could be made at that time.

All applications for aid from the Parish Poor fund should be made in the first instance to Mrs. G. Whiting, 34½ Cliff Street. She will attend at the Vestry room on Mondays and Fridays at eleven o'clock.

It is earnestly requested that notice be promptly sent to the Rector in the case of any illness.

Confirmation Classes for Girls, will be held on Monday afternoons at four o'clock, commencing March 7th. The hour for the Boys' class will be announced later.

Owing to unavoidable delays the chairs and desk provided as the result of the Junior Girls' effort, have not been yet supplied. Notwithstanding this, the 'Busy Bees' are already at work upon a new scheme for the advantage of the Church, and meet regularly on Tuesday afternoons.

We desire to remind the members of the Boys' Association that all are expected to enter the corps under the command of Lieutenant Tilley, unless prevented by domestic reasons from attending the drills.

The 'Hospital Sunday' upon which collections will be taken in all the churches for the purpose of defraying the expenses of District Nurses, has been fixed for the 13th of this month. We trust that a suitable sum will be raised, and that it will become an annual institution in our city. The offertory will be taken at the Morning Service.

The article upon 'College Life in Fredericton' stands over until next month, when Mr. Millidge's essay will also appear.

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