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PRICE ONE PENNY.

JANUARY 29 1898.

THE CHURCH MESSENGER

A
MONTHLY MAGAZINE
FOR
THE PEOPLE . . .

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VOL. III. No. 6.

JANUARY 29, 1898.

PRICE, ONE PENNY.

1897—DISSATISFACTION.



1898—HOPE.

UNLESS a man or a woman be a perfect saint (self sufficiently so constituted), dissatisfaction is the one keynote in which the retrospection of a by-gone year is dwelt upon by each alike; and this is true, whether both be earnest Christians or lax ones. Well that it is so! The former may have been all that the world has taken them to be. Their lives, through all the four seasons, may have been one long striving after doing good, one long round of consistent self-denial, and yet they will not feel contented with themselves. It will occur to them that at certain times or in certain situations their efforts to do good might have been doubled, or that they ought to have pursued some different course from that which they followed to gain their ends, or they will grieve over disappointing failures where they fought so hard for success. Taking, perhaps, one of the holy men of old as their ideal, they will confess to themselves in self-abasement, how very far short they have fallen whilst aiming at such a glorious standard. But although dissatisfied, they will not be disheartened. Thankfully they will feel there is that within them to lead them on from strength to strength, and, buoyed up by this consciousness, they will

joyfully and hopefully look forward to the new year to be an improvement on the old. A very different feeling of dissatisfaction, however, comes to those who look back upon the past twelve months now gone from them for ever, with nothing attempted, nothing done, with opportunities wasted, and their religious duties either totally neglected or but perfunctorily attended to. That is, if they trouble to take a retrospective view, and hardened indeed must those mortals be who blind their eyes to life's backward pages. To such the year may have brought its full complement of loaves and fishes, with a few basketsfull to spare, may be; and how have they shown their gratitude? A beggarly crumb thrown here and there, perhaps, nothing more. They may remember now, when it is all too late, how a little of their substance might have been the means of saving a life or two; they may call to mind the impoverished state of the church to which they belong, and their refusals to help it, or to respond to the many charitable appeals made to them during the year. All these and many other unpleasant recollections may come up before them, and they will feel, or ought to feel, heartily ashamed of themselves, thoroughly dissatisfied. But wait! There is hope yet. "Hope," the welcome watchword of the new year, rising eternally in our hearts to encourage us, and sounding alike to the saintly and the sinful, and without which life would not be worth the living. The thought may arise, however, that perhaps ere the next New

Year chimes are ringing out, the passing bell may have tolled for them. But hoping that time may still be left them to retrieve the past, many a good resolution will be made for the future. "Yes," they say, "the way is clear to us now, heretofore we have been in darkness, and that of our own making." May they, may all of us, formulate some good resolve for the new year, and manfully hold hard to it whilst it is yet the day. Then again, let us miss no opportunity of doing good. Our homes, our business, our church must ever have great and lasting claims upon us, but oh, wrapped up as we may be in these, let us ever remember Christ's poor and ailing amongst us as having also some right to a place in our thoughts and attentions.

We have just mentioned the church. All over the land just now there is a sore cry of lack of support, with the stipends of the clergy unpaid, and the good work lagging for want of funds. Do let us make every effort to keep that in a flourishing condition—let that be one of our resolutions.

In conclusion, by the time this number is in our readers' hands one month out of the twelve will have nearly flown away, so the opportunity will present itself of reviewing the working of the good resolutions made at the commencement. If they have already become lukewarm, let these few words of brotherly interest fan them into a flame and keep them brightly burning, until the time again comes round for yet another retrospective musing.

OURSELVES.

IT will be good news to our readers to hear that continuity in publication of the "Messenger" is now assured, owing mainly to a generous advertisement list having been secured. We cannot write too gratefully of those who have so willingly and promptly acceded to our request to make these columns their advertising medium, and herewith we tender them our hearty thanks. It is very encouraging to the conductorate that there are so many parish notes in this issue. To give publicity to these was one of the main objects in starting the magazine. At the risk of being considered wearisome, we will reiterate what has been said more than once in these pages, and that is, that these notes are a great power for good in country districts, as being the medium of communication between the clergy and their people in large and thinly populated districts; and, as it has been remarked before, it is a very poor and lifeless parish, indeed, that is not able to have some items of interest to record once a month. Our country correspondents will also greatly help by regularly transmitting their notes, as thereby the subscription list is sure to be increased. But in this connection, and in the large space required for the advertisements, there is an alloy, as in many other good things, and that is to be found in the few columns remaining available for articles, papers, general information, and what not. For the present, publication being undertaken on such fine lines, it is quite out of the question to increase the volume of the magazine. For a small sum monthly four pages could be added, but even that is beyond our means; at least, the responsibility could not be undertaken with any degree of safety. If, therefore, any of our readers have the inclination to further our interests, and the wherewithal to follow that inclination up, we shall be very glad indeed to hear from them, and will be as duly grateful.

DIOCESAN CONFERENCE.

THE first Diocesan Conference held last year was organised with some anxious feelings, not only through unavoidable postponement, but also on account of its being a new departure. The general verdict was that it proved a success, and that the next one would excite deeper interest and develop into greater importance. The second conference is now soon to be held; the date is fixed for Wednesday and Thursday, February 9 and 10. The fact that it will occupy two days instead of the previous one shows some growth. The readers of papers and speakers last year included some of the most prominent clerics and laymen of Melbourne, and our own dioceses. This year we hope to welcome help from Sydney, Brisbane, and Ballarat, as well as from Melbourne, and the advent of our own Dean and other clergymen, who have promised papers, leads us to expect great things. It is just possible that our Bishop may be with us. The first Bishop of New Guinea will be in Launceston on Sunday, the 6th, and in all probability will arrange to attend the Conference. Amongst the invited speakers from the other side are Dean Parkyn (Ballarat), Canon Potter (Melbourne), Rev. Willoughby Flower (Sydney, late Archdeacon of Grafton), Rev. J. B. Gason (Malvern).

A complete programme will be soon submitted to the Administrator for his approval, and will be published in the February issue of "Church News."

Clergymen who wish hospitality in Launceston during conference should notify the same to the Rev. W. Harry Edwardes, clerical secretary, without delay.

The secretaries are corresponding with the General Manager of Tasmanian Railways about special fares, due notice of which will appear in the newspapers, and the ordinary official notices of excursion fares.

The following is the programme which has received the sanction of the Administrator of the Diocese:—

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9th.

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.
10 a.m.—Devotional Meeting. Papers on (a) "Reverence" by Dean of Hobart; (b) "Services," by Rev. S. Bucknell, M.A.; (c) "The Holy Eucharist, the centre of Public Worship," Rev. H. H. Yale.

The afternoon is left free to enable members of Conference to be present at the Laying of the Foundation Stone of the new Church for Holy Trinity Parish.

7.30—Evensong at S. John's Church.

(Choral service, united choirs of S. John's, Holy Trinity, and S. Paul's.)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10th.

8 a.m.—Holy Communion.
10 a.m.—Papers. (1) "Interpretation of Certain Words of the New Testament," Archdeacon Hales, B.A.
3 p.m.—(2) "The need for aggressive Church Work," Archdeacon Whittington, L.L.B.
(3) "The Reformation and Doctrine," Canon Potter.
(4) "Young Men for Christ," Rev. Dr. Craig.
(5) "Definiteness of Belief," Rev. J. L. Clougher, B.A.
(6) "Church Day Schools," Rev. R. J. De Coetlogon.
(7) "Sunday School Organisation and Instruction," Rev. C. R. Pollock.

8 p.m.—Conversazione.
Special speakers, including the Bishop of New Guinea, Rev. Archdeacon Whittington (Administrator of Diocese), the Dean of Hobart, and others.

On the eve of the Conference, Tuesday, February 8th, there is to be a large Missionary Meeting at the Mechanics' Institute. The Bishop of New Guinea, Rev. J. B. Gason, Canon Beresford, and others will be present.

TALKS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

BY WOODPECKER.

VII.

WILL you tell something about the Tasmanian cuckoos?"

"Yes, with pleasure, but I must warn you that there is still much to be learned about them."

"How many cuckoos have we here?"
"Four. Let me give you their names—

1. Pallid cuckoo (*Cacomantis pallidus*)
2. Fan-tailed cuckoo (*C. flabelliformis*)
3. Broad-billed bronze cuckoo (*Lamprocoecyx plagosus*)
4. Narrow-billed bronze cuckoo (*L. basilis*).

"My word, those two last names are jaw-breakers."

"Oh, no, not when you know them. *Lamprocoecyx* is only the Greek for 'shining cuckoo,' the English 'cuckoo' and the Greek 'kukku' being merely onomatopoeic words."

"Whatever does that mean?"

"Well, I think I must refer you to the dictionary. Now here we have four species, belonging to two genera, and these, together with all other cuckoos, belong to the natural order of Scansores, or 'climbers.' They do not, however, climb with their beaks like parrots, nor with their feet like the woodpecker, but chiefly with their wings and long tails; they are quite unable to get up a branch that does not slope a good deal. All the mem-

bers of this order have weak bills, and are short-winged, feeble-flying birds; in fact, they do not appear to fly much, except from tree to tree, on the look out for their favourite insect food, though some species are fruit-eaters. The English cuckoo, whose peculiar note has given the name to the order, arrives from North Africa in April or May, and leaves about the middle of July. Of our visitors, the pallid and fan-tailed cuckoos come in spring from Victoria, and the two bronze species a little later from Queensland, and they are all generally gone back by the end of March. By the way, these bronze cuckoos are lovely little birds, and rival anything we can show in the way of brilliant plumage."

"What do the cuckoos come here for?"

"Chiefly, I think, to breed, but there may be other reasons which we do not understand. Of course, you know these Tasmanian species, and many of the others, are what naturalists call 'parasitic birds,' because, in a manner of speaking, they live on other birds, though not exactly as the mistletoe lives on the oak, but they never make nests of their own, but deposit their eggs in the nests of other birds, and leave the foster parents to hatch them and bring up the young."

"What a curious habit. I wonder why the cuckoos do this?"

"That question did not escape the mind of the great Darwin. He thought it was for some reason connected with climate or food supply, which prevented their staying long enough to build nests and rear their young themselves."

"Well, it seems a lazy and selfish way of doing things."

"Yes, you may say that; for my part, I could never see a 'shred of grace' in the life of a cuckoo from start to finish. Almost as soon as a cuckoo is hatched, and before he has the sign of a feather on his ugly body, he wriggles about amongst his little foster brothers and sisters, until he gets under them, and then throws them, one after another, out of the nest. By this means he makes himself pretty secure, for his foster mother appears to neglect her own offspring, lying on the ground, and works herself almost to death to keep the ruffian alive."

"I suppose the cuckoos lay their eggs in the nests of other birds?"

"No, not in the nest; they lay a single egg on the ground, and then carry it in their beak to the nest of some bird they have selected, and put it in amongst the eggs already there."

"Do they make use of any nest they find?"

"No; the pallid cuckoo usually selects the nest of the black-capped honey-eater, or that of the shining fly-catcher; the fan-tail prefers one of the robins; and the bronze cuckoos look out for the nests of the blue wren, or those of our old friend, the yellow tail."

"Have you often found cuckoos eggs?"

"Yes. One one occasion I peeped into the nest of a flame-breasted robin, and 'Have you often found cuckoos' (L. plagosus), together with four of her own. I took the cuckoo's egg and went again, after a few days, to see if 'plagosus' had paid a second visit. Sure enough there were still five eggs in the nest, but this time the odd one belonged to the other bronze cuckoo (*L. basilis*). This I also took, and found afterwards that the robin hatched out her own brood in safety. On another occasion I happened to be a long way up the Nile River, beyond Lillyburn bridge, and came upon a very pretty spot. There was a level stretch on one side, with tall trees; on the other, the bank rose, and was covered with thick, low bushes, and the river rushed in between at a great pace. However, I found a log which I could cross on, and wandered about amongst the trees. Here there was a great number of large brown butterflies, sailing about in the still, warm air. Presently I saw a shining fly-catcher sweep down and seize one of the butterflies, bearing it off to the limb of a tree, upon which was perched a full-grown pallid cuckoo. I watched that poor little bird catch at least two dozen butterflies for the sake of the monster, and it was wonderful to see how clever she was in seizing the insects, and clipping off their wings, during her flight back to the limb, where she fed her unthankful foster child."

"Have the cuckoos any song?"
"Hardly a song, in the true sense, but they each utter peculiar and distinctive notes, which you frequently hear without seeing the birds themselves. The pallid cuckoo always seems as if he were trying the musical scale in a weak, plaintive way; this has a melancholy sound. I once heard it while I was 'camping out' in the bush; it was the last thing I heard before dropping off to sleep, and the first sound that greeted me in the morning, and I verily believe the bird had been at it all night. The fan-tail utters a sort of mournful rattling whistle, if such a term can be used; and the bronze cuckoos have a low, doleful note as well; in fact, they all appear to be a restless, dissatisfied lot, as if they were expiating some crime, or were disappointed with their existence, as, perhaps, they ought to be."

"I think you said these bronze cuckoos come from Queensland. Surely this is a long way for them to come?"

"Yes, so it is; but supposing they travel via Wilson's Promontory, and the Kent and Flinders groups of islands, and so on to Cape Portland, they will have easy stages and resting places along the way. But I will tell you something that is far more wonderful."

"What is that?"

"One of these little bronze cuckoos actually migrates to New Zealand, and breeds there."

"Can this be so?"

"Yes, I believe it is quite true; and it is certainly a most astonishing thing that such a diminutive bird should be able to pass over a thousand miles of one of the stormiest seas in the world without a single halting place."

"I wonder what can be the reason for this; no doubt there is a reason?"

"Certainly there must be, and I think a reason can be found; but it would take too long now, besides our space is exhausted. This interesting fact in bird life belongs to the great question of migration, which, if you like, we will discuss at some future time."

"I should be very glad."

"Meanwhile let me beg of you to study the habits of these cuckoos. Try to recognise each of them by your ear, as well as by your eye; then look out for the times of their arrival and departure, and do not forget to record your observations in a note book. This is the true way to acquire knowledge of this beautiful world and its varied inhabitants, which a bountiful Creator has given us senses to study and enjoy."

Jan. 19.

MISSION NOTES.

FROM the Dublin Brotherhood in Chota Nagpur we have an interesting story. It illustrates alike the family trials which follow many a conversion, and the peculiar difficulties created by the Hindu system of marriage.

The Rev. E. Chatterton wrote from Hazaribagh:—
"About seven years ago, Monendra, a Jayasth by caste, and Bengali by race, when in Calcutta reading for his B.A. came under Christian influence. He was baptized by one of the Oxford missionaries. His father, who is a wealthy landowner and a most bigoted Hindu, was intensely angry, and for some time did all he could to induce Monendra to recant. However, Monendra remained firm. He had been married according to Hindu custom to a child. Before taking his degree—as she had arrived at years of discretion according to Hindu ideas—she had left her father's house and come to her father-in-law's. When their only child, a boy, was six months old, Monendra embraced Christianity. From that time he was practically cut off from her—an outcast. Occasionally he saw her for a short time in the presence of relations, but everything was done to make him feel he was no longer what he had been. Doubtless his father felt Monendra's conversion all the more, because he is the eldest son and heir to all the property. For a long time Monendra, who is a singularly sweet and quiet character, submitted to this. After he had

been with us, however, for some time, we strongly advised him to make a firm stand and demand his wife and boy. On one occasion he went so far as to visit his home, and took his wife some part of the journey to Hazaribagh, and then, as far as we know, his spirit failed, and he left her with one of his uncles. Without doubt there was strong opposition, and he is not a fighting man. At length we told him that he must either get his wife or resign his mastership. It may seem a hard alternative, but we wanted to bring him to the point. Towards the end of February he went to his home, and while I was in Giridih I received a telegram asking me to go over at once to Suri and assist him. To cut a long story short, after several decidedly animated interviews with his father, an old gentleman who does not like to be contradicted, we told him he was acting contrary to law, and that if the wife and child were not given up at once we would take an action against him in the Civil Court. Before taking this line I had consulted the collector of the district. Well, the end of it all is that Monendra has got his wife, and they are now living within fifty yards of the room in which I am writing. She is still a Hindu and in strict purdah (i.e., seclusion), but we must hope that through his influence, as well as the influence of our lady associates, she may some day follow her husband's example."

NOTES.

THE vacancies in the parishes of Bellerive and Richmond will not, we are officially informed, be filled until the Bishop's return in February. The former is in His Lordship's gift—the latter in that of the southern Board of Patronage.

It was with much pleasure that we noticed amongst the successful candidates graduating recently at our university the name of Mr. Lawrence Green, who took his LL.B. This gentleman is a son of Mr. Alfred Green, solicitor, Launceston—one of our most loyal and generous churchmen.

The Bishop of New Guinea will preach in S. John's Church on the morning of Sunday, February 6, whilst the Rev. J. B. Gason, who is attending as a deputation from the Gleaners' Union of Victoria, will preach at the evening service of the same day. Both sermons will deal with missions to the heathen, and all lovers of foreign missions should not omit attending on these occasions.

On Tuesday, February 8, the Rev. J. B. Gason will lecture on one of our foreign missions, and will illustrate the same with lantern slides. This lecture

will take place in the Mechanics' Institute at 8 p.m. The Bishop of New Guinea will be present. A fuller notice of this will be advertised in the daily press in due course.

New Church for the Parish of Holy Trinity.—It has been decided to commence a new building, and the plans of a beautiful edifice have been accepted. The foundation stone will be laid on Wednesday, February 9. The executive committee of the Diocesan Conference has left the afternoon of that day free in order that clergy and other friends attending the conference may be present at this interesting event.

Juvenile Exhibition.—Though not immediately connected with church work, our readers' attention is called to the exhibition which is being held in Launceston. The object of this exhibition is not simply one of revenue, but to encourage juveniles especially to employ their talents well, and so fit themselves to become good and useful members of the community hereafter. Such an object may well engage the sympathy and patronage of the church. As this exhibition will be open when the diocesan conference is held, viz., February 9 and 10, church folk can arrange their visit so as to enable them to attend the conference.

Canon Finnis took his departure from this diocese to occupy his locum tenency in that of Melbourne early this month. Well may the parishioners of S. John Baptist grieve over their loss, as men like the canon are rarely met with. Gifted as a preacher of a high order, possessed of great energy and force of character, having a high ideal of his priesthood, full of true mission zeal, and love of souls, ever loyal and devoted to his old mother church—we look in vain for one who can exactly fill the sphere he occupied, not so much in his own especial parish, for an able man succeeds him there, as in his work as chaplain to the House of Mercy, as occasional diocesan missionary, and as a member of the diocesan council, and such like parochial organisations. It will thus be seen that he had become a piece of the diocese which is very perceptibly poorer by his disappearance from amongst us. We can only add a prayer that the diocese may not eventually lose him, and that his present work may be greatly blessed.

News from the south brings us the pleasing intelligence of the arrival of our new dean, whose installation has not yet taken place. If first impressions and favourable comments are worth anything at this early stage as indicating a promising future, then certainly we may expect great things from Dean Kite. It is as well, however, for optimists to bear in mind that just now the cathedral and its outlook

as a parish church are at a very low ebb, and we would warn them not to expect too much. The spiritual work at S. David's has suffered irreparably of late from want of a larger staff of clergy. Where once worked four strong men, three of whom were in holy orders, Canon Howell has recently been left quite alone to do his best. That he has managed to keep things going at all speaks volumes for his energy, tact, and powers of endurance. We are bold to say that no other priest could have done better. It is into this delicate and difficult work, with things well nigh as bad as they can be, that the Dean has cast his lot. His splendid success in the old country marks the Dean as a strong man, and without doubt all his strength will be needed in his new sphere. Anyone, however, can do an easy thing, but only heroes can do difficult things. Certainly it will be a work of the first magnitude and importance, full of the heroic, to raise the mother church of the diocese to that high level of influence which it should occupy. Though matters are bad, yet judging from his past career we feel in Dean Kite we have that leader which the cathedral has long needed. We shall watch with prayerful and sympathetic interest the quiet developments which will now, we sincerely trust, take place.

The formal opening of the Launceston Exhibition took place on January 19. As His Excellency the Governor is a member of the Church of Rome and His Worship the Mayor a Congregationalist, there seemed to be some uncertainty as to how the acknowledgment of God in such an important function would be made. We suppose the singing of the "Old Hundredth," and later on of the "Te Deum," and of the "Halleluia chorus" was accepted as a compromise. The people thus became their own priest. Though we should have welcomed some definite prayers to Almighty God invoking His blessing upon the undertaking, yet we were thankful something, even though it was not much, was done.

Was it the result of ignorance or willfulness that the huge assemblage stood during the singing of the "Old Hundredth," the "Halleluia chorus," and the National Anthem, and yet sat stock still whilst the splendid hymn "Te Deum" was sung? Perhaps, as it was Jackson's setting, it was not recognised.

Speaking of the "Te Deum," it might not be out of place to repeat a story told recently by a Tasmanian traveller. It will be remembered that tradition tells us that this matchless hymn, so near inspiration in the magnificent thoughts with which it is full, was composed in verses, alternately said or sung, by S. Ambrose and S. Augustine of Hippo during the baptism of

PARISH ECHOES.

S. JOHN'S, NEW TOWN.

THE CLERGY.—As the Rev. A. Cass intends going to England in the middle of March he has retired, with the close of the year, from his work in the parish. He will be greatly missed in the Invalid Depot, which was his chief duty and care, and where he visited daily, and often more than once in the day. Very many in the parish will heartily wish that a full measure of the delights of leisure will be enjoyed by Mr. Cass, who is one of the senior clergy of the diocese, and has spent the greater part of his life in the service of the colonial church. The Archdeacon has secured the Rev. J. S. Babington to fill up the clerical vacancy. It will be good news to

Mr. Babington's many friends that, although he cannot yet venture upon full duty, he is wishful and able to take light work. Should he find that New Town supplies him with what he feels equal to, he proposes removing into residence in the parish at the end of the current quarter. The Rev. A. Wayne kindly agrees to continue giving partial help, particularly by way of emergency duty. The Archdeacon is very hopeful that with the return of the Bishop and the help of the two clergy who will now share his responsibilities with him, it may be found possible to quicken the life of the parish this year.

Our Day School.—In the morning of December 17 the S. John's Day School broke up for the Christmas holidays. The Archdeacon spoke to the children,

Some surprise was expressed that no watch services were held in any of our northern churches as a harbinger to the so-called New Year on the eve of January 1. Churchmen have always been taught that the ecclesiastical year is ushered in by the solemn services of Advent Sunday. It is comparatively a modern arrangement, by which January 1 is regarded as the first day of the new year. It is, after all, only a commercial quarter day, and as such is not due for the immense worship some give it. Of course it is also the festival of circumcision—a red-letter day of high significance in the prayer book calendar, and as such should find Christians on their knees at an early morning eucharist. But the outer world does not so regard it, and until it does churchmen need not again worry over the hysterical demonstrations or demands of those folk to whom we refer, many of whom never enter a church at any other time, nor do they seem impressed permanently by their annual midnight patronage of Almighty God.

The Bishop of New Guinea is to open the new church of S. Saviour's, Meander, on Thursday, February 3. An invitation from the Rev. Leigh Tarleton, for the clergy and others to be present, will be found in Deloraine parish notes.

PRIZE COMPETITION.

The result of the answering to the questions which appeared during 1897 in the "Messenger," will be announced in our next issue, and the prize awarded.



DENISON GORGE.

some of whom recited and sang, and distributed the prizes, his own for holy Scripture and catechism being taken in the senior division by Myrtle Williams and Nellie Hickman respectively, and in the junior division by Hazel Andrews and Edward Barwick. The school has grown both in numbers and efficiency under Miss Gerrard's rule as head teacher, while Miss Myra Seager continues to give excellent help in managing the young children. It is hoped that this year further progress may be made, and that the school will receive the support in the parish which it has both earned and deserves. The Archdeacon proposes to take a more active part in the teaching of the school now that the demands on his time for diocesan work will be lessened.

Death of Mrs. Sutcliffe.—Deep sympathy has been felt throughout the parish with our good churchwarden and his family in the bereavement which has fallen upon them through the death of Mrs. Sutcliffe. For about two years the deceased bore with cheerful patience the affliction of a painful illness, but when the Melbourne surgeons pronounced the malady incurable she quickly sank. To the last her trust in the Saviour was strong and unwavering, and therefore the solemnly beautiful words of the burial office, "in sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life," sounded like a note of triumph as her body was laid to rest in our churchyard three days before Christmas.

Illness of Mr. Ernest Seager.—A shadow of sorrow has also been upon another well-known home in the parish by reason of the severe attack of typhoid fever which has overtaken Mr. Ernest Seager, one of our young communicants and a popular member of the Civil Service. As we write the long strain of anxiety is slackening under a more hopeful turn of the illness, for which all in our town and many beyond it will join in welcoming with thankfulness, and praying that it may be the prelude to a complete recovery of the patient.

A Pleasant Surprise.—When the Archdeacon went into the Sunday-school of S. John's on Sunday morning, 9th inst., he was taken aback by the worthy superintendent, Mr. W. G. Andrewartha, in a very kindly speech, presenting him with a handsome lamp for his study, as a New Year's gift from the teachers and scholars. In acknowledging the acceptable present, the Archdeacon spoke of his deep desire to see the work among the young of the parish grow in strength and in the number brought under its influence, and added that he was much touched by the goodwill shown by the gift which they had made to him.

Our Garden Fete.—There is only one thing this month to note, as to the fete just held, that despite unfavourable weather and many counter attrac-

tions the total receipts, so far as can be at present ascertained, will probably total about £45, so that even after payment of expenses an excellent surplus will remain for the Parsonage Fund.

OATLANDS.

WE have had pleasant Christmas and New Year's services. Since the new rector (Rev. W. Heffingham Root) came he has been endeavouring to take away the old cold and vault-like back of the church and replace it, as far as possible, with something a little more approaching the beauty of holiness. A little has been done, but a great deal remains to be done. The spaces between the windows have been filled with various texts and mottoes. In his sermon on "The gifts of the wise men" he said he would like to see in the church pictures of the life of our Lord from His birth in poverty to His ascension into glory. A step in the right direction was made at the Christmas festival. The Lord's table stood nearly on a level with the floor, and had consequently a pinched and mean appearance. It was decided to raise this a foot higher, and place a retable over it about another foot higher. Then at the back was hung a piece of rich red velvet, falling in graceful folds and depending from a brass rod. Over all was the text, "This is My Body." The result has been to give a dignified and reverential look to the Sanctuary. And the most gratifying thing of all is that it cost the parish nothing, the whole expense being defrayed by a lady and gentleman. The same lady (Mrs. F. Bailey) also presented a beautiful silk banner, with the motto, "This is the House of God." We hear that another lady to whom the church is indebted has on hand a picture for Easter. This shall be duly chronicled. The Christmas services were attended as usual, the attendance at the carol service nearly filling the church, Miss Roche, at very short notice, taking the place of the organist, who was away on her holidays. Miss Roche matriculated at the last senior public examinations, and is sister of the Rev. J. Roche, S. Leonards.

S. JOHN THE BAPTIST, HOBART

CHRISTMAS was prepared for by special Advent sermons on the four last things, and the services were well attended. On the Thursday evening before the great festival there was a service of preparation for the Christian Communion, attended by the members of the Guild of Perseverance. Afterwards the decorators met and arranged their work. The scarcity of flowers, through the long continued drought, made the decorations less elaborate than usual, but they were carefully and reverently done. On Christmas morning there were 127 communicants: the Rector was the cele-

brant, assisted by the Rev. J. S. Babington. The office was chorally rendered to Dykes in F. At midday the Rev. J. S. Babington was celebrant, and the Rector preached. The sermon was on the text, "Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." The matins was choral; the setting of the "Te Deum" was the composition of Mr. Bradshaw Major, and was well sung; the Benedictus was Stainer in A, and the anthem was by Goss, "Behold I bring you glad tidings." At the second Celebration there were about 30 communicants. On the Sunday after Christmas Day the midday Celebration was choral, and the preacher was the Rev. J. C. E. Lefroy. S. John's people were pleased to have Mr. Lefroy's help, and the House of Mercy inmates had their Christmas feast solemnised by Mr. Lefroy giving two services in the little chapel—an early celebration and afterwards matins with sermon and Christmas hymns.

The Rev. J. S. Babington has, during the period of his invalidism, given very substantial help at S. John's. At the last meeting of the Parish Council the members of that body, supported by the Rector and churchwardens, passed a resolution in acknowledgment of Mr. Babington's services, and subscribed among themselves, with the help of a few other parishioners, a small sum wherewith to purchase something to remind him of his connection with the parish. The present, with letter from the Rector, was laid upon his plate at breakfast on Christmas morning. A reply has since been received from Mr. Babington in acknowledgment of the gift, and expressing the pleasure it had given the recipient to work with and for them all with his friend the Rector.

A very tuneful and reverent setting of the "Te Deum," by Mr. Bradshaw Major, was sung by S. John's choir on Christmas Day. The several changes of subject were well and appropriately marked. The composition has, we have been informed, been sent to an eminent musician for criticism, and we shall be very much surprised if his opinion does not turn out to be very favourable.

Examination in Religious Knowledge.—I received from the Sunday School in this parish 45 papers—11 on the New Testament subject, 31 on the Catechism, and 3 on Church History—from 31 candidates, of whom 3 were in the senior, 7 in the upper middle, 17 in the lower middle, and 5 in the junior division. In 1896 there were 31 candidates with 46 papers, so that the school maintains the advance made in that year, and also in 1895. There was some improvement in the quality of the work, 35 per cent. of the papers satisfying the examiner, in place of 30 per cent. last year. Of questions taken directly from the Catechism, in the upper division 4 out of 8 were answered correctly; in the lower middle division, 16 out of 28; and in the junior division,

6 out of 16. This is not a good average. It is important that the words of the Catechism should be accurately learnt, and embedded in the memory of the child. There was a fair general knowledge of the doctrinal purport of Baptism and the Christian Covenant. In the senior division, Minnie Russell passed in Catechism with 70 marks. Edith Andrew took up Teachers' Church History papers. In the upper middle division, H. Finnis was placed in the third class in New Testament and Catechism, 89 and 96 marks, and receives the Bishop's Prize. Ida Wickens passes in both subjects. J. Johnston is placed in the third class Catechism, 98 marks. In the lower middle division, Minnie McAlister passes in New Testament, 65 marks, and is placed in the fourth class Catechism, 110 marks; as are also Lillian Norris, 109 marks; Isabel Weeding, 100 marks; and Olive Collier, 98 marks. All these were good papers. In the junior division, Lucy Doran passed with 64 marks.

J. B. W. WOOLLOUGH,
Diocesan Inspector."

Baptisms.—December 1st, Eva Emma Caroline Levis; December 9th, Arthur Leslie Doran; December 15th, Berenice Mary Tate; December 22nd, Rita Mary Hodge.

Weddings.—December 8th, Arthur Henry Chatterton to Katie Fredericka Pike; December 30th, Walter Henry James King to Lily Devine; December 30th, Norman John Brown to Margaret Meikle.

DELORAINÉ.

AHAPPY, glad New Year to all our parishioners. May God bless and prosper the work of His Church throughout this huge parish, and lead many souls to be more earnest and devoted than in the past. The record for 1897 shows that we have fairly held our own. Though we have had our trials and sorrows, and many have passed home to rest, there was much to be thankful for, and the year opens brightly and hopefully. One of the chief events was the very successful show and sale of work held in November. The sum of £45 has just been handed in, and many more things are left. The Churchwardens passed a special vote of thanks to Miss A. Smith, the energetic Secretary. She was ably supported by the following ladies, in charge of stalls:—Mrs. Freeman, Mrs. A. Horne, Misses Field, Doyne, Pitt, E. Pitt, Archer, Tuthill, Gregory, Thomas, E. M. Horne, and Slater, with many active assistants. Over £57 was raised in all. The corner stone of S. Saviour's, Meander, was laid by Canon Beresford on 22nd September, and it will be opened by the Bishop of New Guinea on Thursday, 3rd February, at 2.30 p.m. There will be a public tea afterwards, and the Bishop will give an address in the

evening. Admission in aid of New Guinea mission. Clergy are invited, and requested to bring vestments. Brakes, etc., will be awaiting morning trains. There will be lunch, and tea, and an evening entertainment; such an unusual event should be well supported by church people. The church (after Mr. Freeman's plan) will be the finest outside Delorainé, and will seat 150. It has an apsidal chancel and vestry, and will cost £150, much of which is being raised outside the parish. Funds are much needed, to open out of debt. Who will help?

The organ recitals at S. Mark's have been much appreciated, but the choir does not improve as it should do. We have just lost the whole of the Winter family by removal. A great debt is due to them, especially to Mrs. Winter, who so readily took a solo when required. Our loss is Red Hills' gain. There a new day has dawned, and, with a new and larger organ and practices, the music should rival Holy Cross, where it is very good. There seems to be a revival in church affairs at Chudleigh, though the choir ought to be much better, and would be if only people would practice. The Mole Creek services have been kept up, but everywhere more men ought to attend, especially at Delorainé. At Meander they come very well, and take much interest. Owing to the special jubilee effort (£22), the offertories (£142) have been larger than for years past. The number of communicants should be much larger. Statistics for 1897:—209 Sunday services, 131 week day, 57 celebrations for 819 communions (average 14), 154 communicants, 88 baptisms, 20 funerals, 15 marriages, nine centres for service, £142 13s 6d (offertories). There might be five more centres worked if only a curate could be got.

The Church school is doing fairly, but unless larger support is given now by church people, it cannot be kept going.

The annual meeting and election of Wardens and Synodsmen will be held on 31st (Monday).

BRIGHTON.

WE are glad to note in the report sheet to this parish from the Diocesan Inspector that he says, "I received from this parish 36 papers from 23 candidates made of late years in using the Diocesan subjects and examinations. At S. Mark's Sunday School, Pontville, Winifred Wilmer takes the Bishop's prize, and at S. Augustine's Sunday School, Albert Ferguson also takes the same. At the Upper Broadmarsh Sunday School, conducted by Miss Chivers, at Sydney Cottage, Maggie Chivers obtained a second class in catechism. Of Mr. Henry Nichols, a Sunday school teacher who took a first class in catechism and prayer, the Inspector writes:—"Henry Nichols'

papers, now a twelfth year candidate, are the best received by me since I have conducted these examinations. The answers were not only full and accurate, but showed much study and thought." For the encouragement of other teachers who do not know Mr. Nichols, we would mention that he is totally blind.

A great debt of gratitude is due from the parents of the children to the Sunday School teachers, who take so much interest in their children, and we wish that they would show it more by taking more interest in the religious education of the young.

FORTH AND LEVEN.

OUR anniversary services in connection with Holy Trinity Church, Ulverstone, have just been held, and have been most satisfactory. The children sang their special hymns extremely well, and their behaviour in church was admirable. About 175 excellent prizes were distributed, and large congregations were present at all the services, the offertories amounting to some £5 10s. We offer hearty congratulations to the superintendents and teachers of this Sunday School on the evident good results of their earnest and self-denying work. Many visitors are in Ulverstone just now, and more would be here if accommodation were forthcoming. It is a matter worth serious attention.

Tenders are being invited for the much-needed enlargement of Abbots-ham Church, which will soon be commenced. A church school is about to be built at Riana. The Rev. H. Blakeney is due by the Tongariro this month. We shall indeed be glad to welcome him, and see him at his post in this large parish. Sunday School anniversaries and picnics are being held this month at the Forth, Penguin, Abbotsham, Sprent, North Motton, and West Pine.

LOW HEAD.

PERHAPS a short account of a pleasant innovation in at least one corner of the parish of North Dorset (Low Head), in connection with the happy Christmas-tide of 1897-8, may be not uninteresting to some of your readers. I allude to the revival of the good old English custom of carol singing during Christmas week, with the kindly hope that the practice may become general throughout all parishes in Tasmania, coupled with the assurance of the writers that any little trouble taken would be amply compensated by the pleasure derived by all participating. Our esteemed Parish Priest (Rev. A. J. Ross), to whom all the credit is due for their introduction, had been indefatigable for two months beforehand, coaching up the members of our little community, and rehearsing a number of those quaint old English carols, some of which dated back to the reign

of Queen Elizabeth, unique for their beauty and simplicity. I know not, Mr. Editor, if you are English born, but if so you will readily endorse the writer's opinion of the pleasing effect of a number of fresh young voices suddenly breaking the stillness of the night by bursting forth in song—the old, old story, yet ever new, of the "glad tidings of peace and goodwill toward men" in words and tunes of the pure old English type, with no modern or foreign innovations or embellishment; bringing back from dreamland the slumbering inmates of neighbour's houses, and vividly recalling old-time associations; their scarcely awakened faculties unwilling to become disillusioned, and break the spell of childhood's happy memories. I ask, Mr. Editor, where is the old English heart that would not feel young again, and gladly welcome such disturbers of their dreams? I frankly confess I feel a sort of pity for those who could not.

I may perhaps mention that a few were reserved for serenading the sleepers on New Year's Eve, as being more appropriate for that festive occasion than for celebrating the nativity of our Saviour.

The following old wassail carol is a sample of those having a strong flavour of the mediæval:—

"Love and joy come to you,
And to your wassail, too;
And God bless you and send you a
happy New Year,

And send you a happy New Year."

In conclusion, I may state that, although it may seem invidious to particularise when all worked so well, yet I cannot help making special mention of our talented young organist, whose efforts, ably supplemented by an accomplished young lady, who frequently acts as her "locum tenens" when absent (Miss L. Dale), were chiefly instrumental to the whole going off with eclat. Wishing you a happy New Year.—I am, Dear Sir, Yours respectfully,

"OLD SALT."

Low Head, January 15, 1898.

EVANDALE.

OUR anniversary Sunday School services, on the 1st Sunday in December last, were very successful. The children had been carefully trained by Miss Atkinson, and acquitted themselves most creditably. Mr. F. Macdonald, of S. John's Lay Reader's Association, preached in the morning, and the rector in the evening. The congregations on both occasions were, as usual, overflowing, and very orderly and attentive, and the collections were good. The weather on the day of the school treat was all that could be desired, and the usual display of good things graced the tables in the pavilion. Our hearty thanks are due to the kind friends who have conducted this school during the past year, and especially to

Mr. A. J. Sutton, the energetic Superintendent, and also to all the willing helpers who contributed to make the Anniversary and treat so successful.

Subjoined is the prize list:—

Girls.

First class, Rhoda Southerwood, Myrtle Cunningham. Second class, Hetty Sutton, Ella McEnnulty. Third class, Elsie Sutton, Jemima Horton. Fourth class, Clea Cunningham, Ivy Cunningham.

Boys.

First class, John McEnnulty, Vernon Dowie. Second class, Edgar McEnnulty, Robert Eastoe. Third class, Roy Eastoe, Ingraham Heyes. Fourth class, Roy McEnnulty, James Horton.

CARRICK.

A SAD event happened on December 19, when Thos. Johnstone, one of our most promising Sunday School scholars, was drowned.

The prizes were awarded to the scholars on January 9. Mrs. John Millar was to have presented them, but, through unforeseen causes, was not present. Much credit is due to the Superintendent (Mrs. Christie) and the teachers (Mesdames Dineen, Guest, McLead, Selby, and Mrs. George Dineen) for the steady improvement. It is hoped the parents will heartily co-operate with them, and try to have their children in attendance at Divine worship.

We lost lately one of our esteemed church people in Mrs. Eliza Temple, of Hadspen, aged 73 years. During an illness borne with Christian patience, she was comforted and fortified with the solemn last rites of the Church. She will be missed by all, especially the little children of Hadspen. Her last act was to give money to buy their prizes. She erected a handsome fence in front of our church at Hadspen, besides giving a large subscription towards its completion. Her funeral was largely attended, and showed the respect she was held in, on January 11th. May she rest in peace.

JERICO.

S. JAMES'S, Jericho, was very chastely decorated with white and green for the Festival of the Nativity. There were crowded congregations at the carol service on Christmas Eve, and also at the service next day. The carols were well sung under the direction and leadership of the Misses Harrison and Moxon, nearly the whole congregation joining in. In his Christmas sermon the rector told how he had a few days previously met a bright, intelligent girl of about 12 years of age who did not know who was born on Christmas Day, nor had been taught the Lord's Prayer. The child had attended the State-school from seven years of age. Mr. J. S. Mitchell, who with Mrs. Mitchell is on a visit to England, did not forget his

Jericho friends, for nearly everyone received from him a suitable present, and amongst the fortunate ones was our rector, who was the recipient of a silver pocket communion service in a leather case for fastening to the saddle, just the very thing for a large bush parish like Oatlands. Indeed, Mr. Root has been made happy by many Christmas gifts from his people, representing the kind feeling existing towards him, for all know he lives for his people, and for them alone

HUONVILLE.

IT is some time since there has been anything worthy of note in our quiet parish. Christmas passed very quietly with its message of peace and goodwill, an early celebration at 9 a.m. and a hearty service in the evening. The congregation was good, and the rector preached. On the 15th ult. the first marriage was celebrated in the new church, when Mr. Victor Newbon, second son of our esteemed churchwarden, was married to Miss Bertha Oates. After the ceremony the rector presented the pair with a Bible. We all wish the young couple every happiness and prosperity. Last week we were surrounded with disastrous bush fires, but happily Huonville escaped. Mr. Newbon's residence was in great danger for some time, but a few drops of rain fell, which saved it. Everybody sympathises with the poor families who have lost their all such a short distance from here. We have to acknowledge some more gifts from friends in England, this time a beautiful set of altar linen, and on Christmas Day the church was pronounced free from debt, so we indeed have much to be thankful for. Just before Christmas a number of our young men gave a day, and cleaned up the paths and beds round the church, so that now everything looks fresh and neat.

BOTHWELL.

MY Dear Friends,—Prominently before us is the prevailing dryness and the ruin which is being worked by want of rain; the promise of spring has, in a great part, failed, through lack of sufficient moisture underground.

What food for moralising. How many lessons might be read in the dried up hearts which once enjoyed the refreshing showers of God's grace, but have not retained sufficient to stand the drying influence of long continued neglect of spiritual things.

One noble exception has passed from us, in the late Master of Logan, whose heart never withered, and whose hand was always stretched out in sympathy to help his fellow men.

There has been much sickness among children, and the demands upon Mrs. Webster's help have been too constant for her own good. Many months ago one case of pronounced diphtheria was taken into the Nursing Home, and the

isolation prevented the spread of the disease. This time it has worked about unchecked, except as necessity has arisen for individual treatment. Some of the mothers have begged that their children might be taken into the Home, but it was not possible to open its doors without regular and efficient help for Mrs. Webster, who is weak after her own long illness.

Mrs. Rowe's long period of ill-health has culminated in a serious attack at Thorpe, where her condition has been a source of grave anxiety to her relatives.

I am afraid that this hot weather is enervating; our early celebrations are not well attended. The day is in its prime at 8 a.m., and heart and mind fresh for the service of God.—Your affectionate pastor,

WILLIAM H. WEBSTER.

Baptisms.—Zelda M. Rowe, Ada F. Medhurst.

S. JOHN'S, LAUNCESTON.

NEWS of a local character is not plentiful just now. Town seems to have emptied itself in favour of the country. Visitors from the other colonies stay "as long as they cannot help" in the Northern capital, and then flee south. Meanwhile most of our churches are well-nigh deserted.

During Advent, services with special addresses were held in S. John's, S. Aidan's, and the Mission House on each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. On the whole, the attendance was miserably poor. Most of our people believe in church-going on Sunday only. Is this right?

The Christmas services were, however, very bright and helpful. S. John's was most beautifully decorated. Our warmest thanks are due to the many ladies who helped in this and at the other churches. We are conscious they did this work from a higher motive than to evoke human praise; yet, it is nice to feel one's work is appreciated and especially when that has helped others to worship God more earnestly than if the churches had been left bare. The Communion services in our three places of worship during the octave numbered only a little above 200. This low average was due to absentees. Let us hope Easter will tell a better tale.

Sister Charlotte and Miss Knight are away in Hobart for their well-earned holiday. They will resume their work at the Mission House early in February. All classes and meetings are meanwhile held in abeyance during January. The Friday evening and Sunday services are seen to from S. John's.

The interior of the chapel at the Mission House has been thoroughly cleansed and re-painted. The necessary cost was borne by a number of sympathisers, to whom we are very thankful. It is several years since it was coloured. The bright, new texts give the room a pleasant and cheery aspect.

The following statistics for 1897 are interesting:—

Baptisms, 154; marriages, 20; burials, 37. There were, including S. Aidan's and the Mission House, 146 celebrations of the Holy Communion, with a gross attendance of 2549. Including week-day services, the total number for the year was 548. These are, of course, exclusive of the services for Holy Communion.

Baptisms in December, 1897.—Alice Charlotte Brockett, Dorothy Vera Bertha Palmer, Wilford Walter Lucas, Leonard James Elliot Boscoe, Adeliza Alice Faulds, Ada Isabel Trimble, Effie Briant, William Charles Rusden, Florence Gertrude Walters, Mavis Brenda Smallhorn, Jane Maude Roberts, Rose Mary Roberts, Winifred Maude Hudson, Millicent Hazlewood Edgell, Donald Barnard Edgell, Kathleen Ellen Harrison, Adelaide Matilda Davis, Eva Ida Davis, Victoria May Cox.

Marriages in December, 1897.—Mr. G. Pratt and Miss Fletcher; Mr. W. R. Waters and Miss Jeanette Powell, Mr. E. H. Tucker and Miss I. M. Jeffrey.

Burials in December, 1897.—Arthur Thomas Bushby, Miss Rose Teresa Chamberlen, Rev. John Standrin.

ALL SAINTS, HOBART.

OUR churchwardens have just issued their balance-sheet for the year 1897, and although it shows an increase of over £15 in the weekly offertory, and over £14 in contributions to Parochial Fund, owing to increased expenditure of £100 over that of the previous year, there is an adverse balance of £67. The churchwardens attribute this, to some extent, to the amount raised in the parish (over £150) towards the Church Jubilee Fund, and no doubt this may account for our own needs not being adequately met; but we hope that the parishioners will see their way to a more liberal support of the parish funds, in order to enable the

PAY UP.

(To the Editors of the "Church Messenger.")

Sir,—When a man has but few virtues he cannot afford to lose credit for any of them. Now I always try to pay my way, and in the matter of the "Church Messenger," I asked your publisher after the Bishop's return.

The usual strawberry feast in connection with S. Raphael's Chapel was opened by Sir Lambert Dobson on the 15th inst., and though not so well attended as in former years, was fairly successful. Half the proceeds are to be given to the Tourists' Association. The ladies had got together a fine display of fruit and cakes and sundry other delicacies, which seemed to be highly appreciated. Sir Lambert made a very happy speech, alluding to the fact that for the most part the little Church of S. Raphael had been mainly reared upon strawberries and cream,

which was a unique record in the history of church building. Mrs. Dobson, with her daughters, Mrs. Parry, Mrs. Taylor, Misses Clare and Marguerite Dobson, were most indefatigable in their efforts; as also were the ladies of the only other stall, the Misses Hall and their nieces, the Misses Swifte, assisted by some of their visiting friends. We shall now have to look to this annual feast, ever so popular with our visitors, to provide some of the necessaries for maintaining the services of this chapel, the usual weekly offerings being altogether inadequate, owing to the fact that during the larger part of the year all the lodging houses are empty. Hand-some additions to this chapel have been recently made by the presentation of a silver chalice and paten for our Holy Eucharist, and a fine brass cross, in memory of the late Mr. Churchwarden Housen.

Next month we hope to send reports of our parish meetings at All Saints' and S. Raphael's, at both of which important matters are to be brought up.

QUAMBY AND HAGLEY.

THE Chancel has been very successfully coloured with Muresca paint. Of course, a subtle blending of colours was necessary. There were carols, as usual, on Christmas evening. On the last day of the year, Mr. John Home was called to his rest. The deceased gentleman had been, previous to his removal to Launceston, churchwarden for many years, and always evinced the keenest interest in everything connected with the church, and in the welfare of the people generally. His remains were laid at the side of those of his father, in the beautiful churchyard. He was "E'en as just a man, as e'er our conversation coped withal."

RICHMOND.

OUR three churches were prettily decorated for Christmas tide, notwithstanding the extraordinary scarceness of flowers and evergreens, showing that where there's a will there's a way; for it seemed when we began that there were no flowers, or anything else, to be had.

The services were tolerably well attended, and the singing hearty. They were held in S. Luke's 11, S. George's 3 o'clock, and from there the Rector drove to Colebrook. On Monday, 27th, the Rector was astir early, and at S. Luke's by 6 o'clock, ready to receive a bride, Miss Alice Lord, and Mr. Silas Jacobs (bridegroom), who were married, and off by 8 o'clock. Notwithstanding the early hour, a goodly number of friends and relations were present to witness the ceremony. The choir sang the Hymn 351, and the party left the church amid a shower of rice and flowers.

On Friday, 31st, the Gleaners and friends met at the Rectory shortly

after 8 o'clock, and when the missionary meeting was over, refreshments were handed round; the evening ending with "Nearer, my God, to Thee," by F. P. Rhyder. At first the piece was played upon the piano with variations, the first and third verses were sung as a duet by two ladies, and the second and fourth by all present. By 11.30 the watchnight service commenced; at 12 o'clock there was a pause for silent prayer. The service concluded with a celebration of the Holy Communion, but only 18 partook, and there were only 68 persons present, many being absent, and several sick.

All Thursday and Friday, 30th and 31st, clouds of smoke indicated bush fires; but not till Monday did we hear of the terrible destruction by fire at Longley and down D'Entrecasteaux Channel.

The greatest sympathy is felt for farmers and orchardists who have suffered so heavily by the excessive drought; but more especially for those who have had the horror of fire added to other losses. Our tanks are empty, and the river water is very bad, and visitors have to leave and go where water is more plentiful; and others will not come until rain has fallen; but until the harvest is all in the farmers do not wish for that now, as they would lose what little grain they have. On February 13th, D.V., the harvest festivals will take place at S. Luke's, 11, with Holy Communion, and 7, S. George's, 3 o'clock; and at S. James' on the 20th.

BISHOPSBOURNE.

A SPECIAL children's service was held at the Church of the Nativity on January 9th, conducted by our esteemed lay-reader, G. H. Arthur, Esq., of Morton, who gave a most practical address to children and parents, which was listened to with deep interest. It is to be hoped many will lay his weighty words to heart. Mrs. Arthur distributed the prizes to the scholars at the close of the service with her grace and kindness of manner. There are 33 children on the books, and, considering it is only its second year's existence, it seems well for Miss A. George, our Superintendent, and her helpers, Miss McQueen and Miss Blake. The children sang their anniversary hymns, under the able training of Miss McQueen, with great credit.

DEVONPORT.

ON Thursday, December 9th, a picnic in aid of the building fund of the Sunday School-room at East Devonport was held at Pardoe Beach. It was to have been held on Wednesday, December 8th, but the morning was so rough that it was decided to put it off till the next day. Although several who had intended to be present on Wednesday were unable to come on Thurs-

day, still, the picnic was very successful, a sum of £7 10s being netted. Our best thanks are due to the ladies who organised it, and to whom the success of the gathering was owing.

The anniversary services of the East Devonport Sunday School were held on Sunday, January 2. The Rector preached at the morning service, and the Rev. W. Hogg in the afternoon and evening. At the afternoon service the prizes were distributed. The elder boys and girls most thoughtfully surrendered their prizes for the augmentation of the building fund of the Sunday School-room. This means about £2 added to that fund. The services throughout the day were very hearty and successful. The annual Sunday School picnic was held on the following Thursday. Within the last few years this has taken the form of a parish gathering at East Devonport, and this year the picnic was undoubtedly the most successful we have had. At dinner time there were over 200 present, but by tea time this number was considerably increased, and there must have been between three and four hundred present. However, a band of excellent workers made everything go without a single hitch. Where everyone worked so well, it seems invidious to particularise any, but we must specially thank those who added so much to the comfort of the workers by erecting on the previous day such a commodious and comfortable tent; and also the members of the Devonport Band, who added much to the enjoyment of those present by their pleasing music.

A very necessary work has just been finished by the painting of the church building at West Devonport. It was finished in time for the Christmas service. We have never seen the building look prettier at Christmastide than it did this year. The services were, as usual, at East and West Devonport well attended and very hearty. On wards its completion. Her funeral was largely attended, and showed respect she was held in, on January 11th. May she rest in peace.

JERICHO.

S. JAMES'S, Jericho, was very chastely decorated with white-green for the Festival of the Nativity. The Rector would be thankful if those intending to take the "Messenger" for the current year would kindly forward him their subscriptions as early as possible. Any subscription owing for the past year or two would also be gratefully received.

RURAL DEANERY OF BRIGHTON

THE next meetings of the Chapter and Conference will be held at Bothwell on Wednesday, the 2nd February next. The proceedings will commence with a celebration of the Holy Communion, and the Rev. J. K. Wilmer

will preach the sermon. The subjects to be discussed, amongst others, will be—1. "The Report of the Diocesan Council on General Church Grants." 2. "The Suggested Re-apportionment of Grants for 1898." 3. "Arranging for subjects passed at last year's Conference to be brought before Synod." Notice of any other subject to be discussed should, if possible, be sent to the Rev. J. K. Wilmer, R.D., Brighton, as soon as possible. The Rev. W. H. Webster and Mrs. Webster have again kindly invited the members to dinner on the occasion at the Rectory.

PARISH OF MERSEY.

THE Christmastide services in this parish were well attended, the number of Communicants being large. S. Luke's Church was especially beautifully decorated with choice white flowers, ferns, ivy, etc., formed into emblematical designs, by many loving hands. The grounds surrounding the church have been carefully tended, and a handsome new fence has been erected along the extensive frontages. A gas lamp has been placed over the principal entrance to the property, and the path leading to the western church door has been asphalted. The choir is much improved under the leadership of our local bandmaster, Mr. Harper. Our church organist, Mrs. Purdy, has left Latrobe to enjoy a well-earned holiday.

The anniversary services in connection with S. Luke's Sunday School were held on the 9th inst., and the church was crowded at each service as usual. This school is a large and important institution, under the able superintendence of Mr. Harris. The reverent behaviour of the children, and their excellent singing during the above three services, produced a very favourable impression upon their elders. The Vicar gave earnest addresses during the day. After the 3 p.m. service a large number of handsome awards were presented to the scholars by the Vicar, who added some most excellent advice and counsel.

On the 2nd inst. the Vicars of Devonport and Latrobe exchanged duties, on the occasion of the Sunday School anniversaries at East Devonport and New Ground. S. George's Church was crowded, a large number being unable to obtain admittance. The Rev. T. H. Hughes gave a very interesting address to parents and scholars, and presented the prizes to the children.

The annual picnic of S. Luke's Church S.S. children was held on the 13th inst., and the beautiful and romantic banks of the Mersey river were the scene of life and gaiety for the day. The children were regaled with the best of all good things, and enjoyed a first-rate outing. During the afternoon the Federal Band discoursed sweet music upon the ground, and as the shades of night drew on all returned homeward well satisfied with their day of pleasure.

SAYINGS OF OUR LORD.

AT S. Peter's Church, Ballarat, recently, the Rev. F. Slaney Poole delivered a sermon on the "Logia, or sayings of our Lord," which have recently been brought to light, and which are causing so much interest throughout the Christian world.

Mr. Poole based his sermon upon the words—"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written" (S. John xxi. 25). He remarked that the discovery in Egypt of the tiny scrap of faded papyrus on which were written the eight "logia" or "sayings" of our Lord had sent a thrill throughout the civilised world, and the excitement had been heightened by the belief of many scholars that that fragment was the oldest bit of Christian literature yet discovered. Some had given it a date of A.D. 150, others thought it as late as A.D. 300, but even taking the latest date it was at least 100 years earlier than the oldest known MSS. of the New Testament. The discovery made one think it possible that others of a like character might be made; that other accounts of our Lord's life and work and sayings might be brought to light; that the whole complexion of Christianity as we now understand it may be altered; and that the Christian creeds may be proved to be unworthy of belief. But he ventured to think we might rest secure. Discoveries that had been made in the past had caused no alteration in any vital part of our religion, and this last discovery was exactly an echo of that which we already possessed in the four Gospels of the Bible. The "logia" did not alter any old truths; they did not even modify them; the centre of gravity of Christian doctrine was not shifted a hair's breadth by the latest discovery. But supposing further discoveries were made, and they were contrary to the teachings of the Gospel, it was, he pointed out, the function of the Church as a whole to settle the canon of Holy Scripture. The Gospels did not claim to give us anything like a complete account of all that Jesus did and taught. The sacred writers, inspired by the Holy Ghost, were content to set out only those events and words which were necessary, and which, as S. Luke told us, were beyond question; for it had to be remembered that a large proportion of the sayings of Jesus, and much of the history of His earthly life, were handed down to the generations who wrote the New Testament by oral tradition, and it could be realised how, even with the greatest care and honesty, it was possible for tradition to become corrupted. Returning to the question of the effect which further discoveries might be expected to

have upon the Christian faith, the preacher declared that supposing a discovery to be made of a document of unquestioned early date, which set out a life of Christ contradicting the words and facts as contained in the Gospels, it would not shift ever so little one article of faith. The Church of God did not depend and was not founded upon a book; it existed before the New Testament was written. The last book of the New Testament could not have been written much earlier than 100 A.D., so that for some 70 years after our Lord's departure the Church of God existed, and carried on her work without a complete set of the books of the New Testament. For himself he was firmly convinced that nothing could or would ever be brought to light which would overturn one article of the Creed or controvert one statement of Holy Scripture when rightly interpreted. He had read the "logia" with the deepest interest, and so far as he could understand them they seemed to bear corroborative support to the impregnable rock of Holy Scripture, those ancient writings which men of far-off days spake and wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.—"Ballarat Star."

CORRESPONDENCE.

(To the Editors of the "Church Messenger.")

Dear Sir,—In your last issue the new Dean of S. David's was spoken of. Dean Dundas was, on one occasion, so designated in Synod, when he immediately rose and said—"I am not, and am not competent to be, Dean of S. David's, as I cannot preach in Welsh." The Dean of S. Paul's is, I think, the only Dean in England whose title is coupled with his cathedral rather than the cathedral city.—yours truly,

ORTHAS.

PAY UP.

(To the Editors of the "Church Messenger.")

Sir,—When a man has but few virtues he cannot afford to lose credit for any of them. Now I always try to pay my way, and in the matter of the "Church Messenger," I asked your publisher in the middle of the year to send me an account. This has not been done. While I can understand that your publisher cannot be expected to send out accounts for single copies, or even small orders, yet when the clergy take the whole financial responsibility—as most of us do—for our parish magazines, the "Messenger" must work with us on ordinary business lines; otherwise I fear our loyal desire to support a diocesan publication will be overstrained, and we shall be driven to do, as some of our brethren do, i.e., use an English magazine.—I am, sir, etc.,

FRED. T. WHITINGTON.

Dec. 29.

[The complaint of the Ven. Archdeacon is not undeserved! We have already assured our readers that the "Messenger" starts upon a completely new arrangement as to publishing this month. The present officials are thus in no way to blame for errors committed under the old system, though they deplore them. We trust that a notice of any irregularity in the future will at once be communicated to the Editors, who promise to see it attended to forthwith.—Ed. Ch. M.]

BUSINESS COLUMN.

IMPORTANT STATEMENT.

The "Messenger" will be published as near the middle of each month as possible. All matter should reach the Editors at least by the second Wednesday of each month.

Literary contributions, correspondence, and advertisements should be addressed to Editors, 2 George-street, Launceston, and all other business matters, such as subscriptions, donations, and orders, to the Manager, S. John's Rectory, Launceston.

AS there has been an entire change in the management of this paper, some regrettable accidents have happened during the transition period. Copies have been addressed wrongly; some have been sent twice to the same subscribers; some have not been sent at all; and no issue was published for October. The subscriptions have got into arrears, and in some cases small mistakes have been made. For all this the pardon of subscribers is asked by those who have been to blame, and those who have taken over future responsibility.

The only feasible way of letting the large number of subscribers, who are scattered all over the diocese, know how their accounts stood, was through the medium of the pages of the "Messenger" itself, and a list of subscriptions overdue was printed. This ought to have been immediately preceded by the article on the "Messenger" (see page 61, December), which explained the appearance of the list. We gratefully acknowledge letters from subscribers, who say they are "glad to have seen the list, as they 'did not know when their subscription expired,' or that they 'do not regard it as a 'black list.'"

This list showed the amounts due to the late publisher up till, and including, September, but did not include the subscriptions for November and December due to the new management. Thus, those who have paid only the amount mentioned in the list, still owe for November and December copies.

In this "business column" an acknowledgment is made of the sums received for arrears, also of subscriptions in advance. The subscriptions in advance pay for November and December, 1897, and up to and including October, 1898.

This plain and explicit (though long) statement is made in order that all subscribers may know exactly how things stand, and in order to secure a sound basis for the future under the new management.

If the manager does not receive from past subscribers a renewed authority for continuing to post copies to them, it will be taken for granted that those who do not reply have ceased to be subscribers.

An addressed envelope is enclosed for sending arrears or new subscriptions. Please use them at once if you wish to forward the success of the "Messenger."

Amounts received for Arrears to September, 1897.

Rev. H. D. Atkinson, 8s 3d; Rev. L. T. Tarleton, £1 13s; Rev. E. S. Hughes, £3 17s 6d; Mr. A. Rockwell, 1s 3d; Mrs. Axup, 3d; Miss Muir, 1s 3d; Mrs. Trewhalla, 1s 3d; G. H. Trethewie, 3d; H. E. Wells, 3d; Mrs. Cave, 3d; Rev. F. G. Copeland, 7s 11d; Archdeacon Whittington, £2 5s 9d; Rev. H. J. Edwards, 1s 3d; V. F. Chambers, 1s 3d; J. Coombs, 1s 3d; Miss Cadle, 1s 3d; Mrs. Burk, 1s 3d; T. Perkins, 1s 3d; Miss Abbott, 1s 3d; A. Applegate, 2s 6d; Mrs. Windsor, 1s; Mrs. Mosey, 3d; Mr. Russell, 1s 3d; Mr. Perrin, 5d; Mrs. Bateman, 3d; W. Gard, 6d; Mrs. Astley, 3d; Mrs. J. Gunn, 3d; W. A. Sale, 3d; J. T. Sale, 3d; Mrs. T. Gibson, 1s 2d; Miss Moyes, 1s 3d; Mrs. Cooper, 1s 3d; B. D. Green, 3d; Miss Morris, 3d; J. T. Butland, 3d; Miss Dunning, 3d; Mrs. W. Barnes, 5s; Mrs. Norris, £1 8s 9d; Mrs. Kennedy, 2s 6d; Mrs. C. H. Marten, 3s; Mr. Hugh Anderson, 2s; Mrs. Robt. James, 2s; Miss Gunn, Newstead, 1s 6d; Mr. L. Connop, Thirlwall, 1s; Mrs. Beck, 1s 3d. Total, £12 4s 9d.

Amounts received as Subscriptions for 1898.

Rev. H. J. Edwards, 1s 3d; Mrs. Astley, 1s; Mrs. Mackrill, 1s 3d; Mrs. J. Gunn, 1s; Miss Cadle, 1s 3d; Mrs. Mosey, 1s; J. T. Sale, 1s; W. A. Sale, 1s; H. E. Wells, 1s; Mrs. Cave, 1s;

Mrs. Bateman, 9d; Miss Moyes, 1s 3d; Mrs. Axup, 1s; Mrs. Cooper, 1s 3d; G. T. Thompson, 1s; Rev. W. H. Webster, £2 4s 5d; Mrs. Norris, 1s 3d; Mrs. T. Gibson, 1s 2d; W. Gard, 1s 6d; Mrs. J. Perkins, 1s; Mrs. T. Perkins, 1s; Mrs. Sanden, 1s; Mr. Applegate, 1s; Nurse Dunning, 1s; Miss Morris, 1s; Rev. F. G. Copeland, 2s; Miss Oats, 1s; Miss Moore, 1s; Miss East, 1s; Miss Botrill, 1s; Mrs. Judd, 1s; Miss Girdlestone, 1s; Mr. G. Tilly, 1s; Mrs. Burk, 9d; Mrs. W. Barnes, 7s 6d. Total, £4 7s 7d. Miss Gunn, Newstead, 1s; Mr. L. Connop, Thirlwall, 1s. Total, £4 9s 7d.

Special Donations to "Church Messenger" Fund.

Rev. F. G. Copeland, £1; Miss Smith, Canning-street, £1. Extra donations towards the support of the "Messenger," until it is firmly established, will be thankfully received from those able and willing to give such help.

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