

Some of the leading citizens of the place, tired of the unceasing clamor and rigid sectarianism around them, are looking to "the old paths," and desiring to walk therein. We are striving to encourage this feeling in the community, by quietly presenting the claims of the Church in the order and beauty of her services, and many earnest prayers ascend to the mercy-seat, that a multitude of precious souls may here be gathered into the fold, of such as shall be saved. Pardon the length of this communication, and ascribe it to the deep interest of a spiritual husbandman, for the field committed to his care and keeping.

ILLINOIS.

Gillespie, Bunker Hill, etc.—Rev. T. W. Mitchell.

GILLESPIE, Jan. 2d, 1865.

I AM happy in being again able to report progress. The work of the Church here, continues to go steadily on. On Thanks-giving day, our beloved Bishop paid a visit to this place, and consecrated our beautiful little church. The Rev. Mr. Pedelupe, of Shelbyville, and myself, were the only clergy present to assist. The congregation, however, was large, and evidently much interested in, and impressed by the services. The Bishop's sermon was an eloquent and beautiful description of the temple in heaven. A collection for parochial purposes was made, which amounts to some four hundred dollars. We have since received an elegant and costly silver communion service for the church—the gift of a liberal-minded and generous-hearted lady in Kentucky, Mrs. L. L. Dorsey, Jr., a relative of our senior warden.

We have just been enjoying our Christmas festival, and our church is tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens.

No appointment had been made for the Bishop at Bunker Hill. It was supposed that his time here would not permit him to visit that new but important and promising field. A goodly representation of the people, however, came to Gillespie, and after an interview with some of them, the Bishop very kindly taxed his energies to meet an extra appointment, and accordingly visited Bunker Hill the morning following the consecration here, November twenty-fifth.

This was the first visit of a Bishop to the Church to that place, and never was a Bishop more cordially received, or more fully appreciated, than was our worthy Diocesan, and never was a Bishop's visit productive of more manifest and immediate good. As an illustration of this, one gentleman, who knew nothing of the Church until quite lately, and who had generously subscribed two hundred and fifty dollars to a building-fund, after hearing the Bishop's persuasive and impressive eloquence in the church, and meeting him socially, at once proposed that he and other subscribers should double, or, if need be, triple their subscriptions. The good people of that station, zealous before the Bishop's visit, have been much more so since.

The Ladies' Sewing Society there, concluded some months ago to work for a fair, in behalf of our building-fund. This fair was held in the Academy Hall, on the evenings of Thursday and Friday immediately before Christmas, when their energy and labors were fully appreciated by a liberal public. The gross receipts of the fair came to a little over twelve hundred dollars, leaving, after all expenses are paid, an available sum of probably not less than a thousand dollars. The Church there has thus become a fixed fact.

Steps have been taken to form a parochial organization. The preliminary paper, with the requisite number of signatures, has already been sent to the Bishop, who will, no doubt, give his approval as he expressed himself gratified and pleased at his visitation.

The Bishop at that place confirmed five, all of the first social standing.

There are two candidates for confirmation in Litchfield, but owing to untoward circumstances, they could not attend the Bishop's visit, either at Gillespie or Bunker Hill. Litchfield is a place of promise for the Church, if I had only time and opportunity to cultivate it sufficiently. I am now unable, on Sunday evenings, to hold service in that place. It does not appear that much can be accomplished by holding service on any other day.

It is proper for me to thank the Committee for the prompt payments of their generous aid. But for the depreciation of our currency, and the consequent increased and increasing price of the very necessities of life, the mission here could already sustain itself.

Illinois Central R. R.—Rev. J. W. Osborne.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27th, 1864.

During the past quarter, we have been very much blessed of the Lord in our different congregations. The services have been of the most solemn character. Our good Bishop Whitehouse visited Bement, Arcola, and Salem, and we enjoyed a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord. Those confirmed at Bement and Salem are heads of families, and they are among our very best citizens.

At the request of the Bishop, I went with him from Salem down the line of the Illinois Central Railroad to Cairo and Mound City, assisting him in all of the services. The Bishop consecrated the church at Cairo. It is a beautiful building, finished throughout, and all paid for. I was the first Episcopal minister who introduced the service of the Church at Cairo, and I rejoice that my labor, and the foundation laid, have not been in vain in the Lord. On the whole, the trip, to me, was one of a highly interesting character. The Church is on the rise in the lower part of the State, in spite of all our difficulties. The prejudice and ignorance of the people are giving way to the power of the Gospel; and at length the beauty of the service of the Church is appreciated.

It would relieve me very much, could a minister be obtained for Salem, and other places near that station. It is a long, and laborious journey for me to serve them, but I will continue to do so, until relieved.

In reviewing the missionary labor of the past year, I rejoice that God has been more to me than all my fears. He has enlarged our coast, kept us from evil, and His pleasure has prospered: to His holy name be all the glory.

WISCONSIN.

Fox Lake, etc.—Rev. L. D. Brainerd.

FOX LAKE, WIS., Dec. 22d, 1864.

I HAVE been officiating regularly at Fox Lake and Markesan since I wrote you. Our Sunday-school at Fox Lake is now in a very flourishing condition; we have fifty scholars. All are quite interested in getting up the long talked of Christmas-tree. We are prospering I trust spiritual-

ly. The congregations are uniformly good in both places. As for temporal affairs here, I can say that things are looking a little better than when I last wrote. Our good Bishop has given us one hundred dollars as the last payment on the church. This makes one hundred and seventy-five dollars that he has given us. We are yet, however, some in debt. We had to build a fence, and get lamps, etc. About sixty dollars will have to be raised to pay this small indebtedness before the church can be consecrated.

Oneida, (Indian).—Rev. E. A. Goodnough.

December 15th, 1864.

The mission services have been, for the past quarter, regularly kept up.

The mission-school has also been in session, and it has been quite well attended.

The small-pox has broken out amongst the Indians, and it has already destroyed several. We are now in hopes that the cold weather will check it.

Columbus—Rev. P. B. Morrison.

COLUMBUS, February 13th, 1865.

The last four months and a half have been months of work in our little parish. Though my report is only up to January first, 1865, yet I must speak of what we have done since I last wrote you. When we got settled in the new hall, the congregation began to increase, and I can safely say it will well compare with the older congregations in the village. The room is well lighted and comfortably seated, and that may be one reason why people are attracted. But besides, our own people are in earnest in their work, and to hear the responses, and see the readiness with which they use the Prayer-Book, would delight you. We have made the hall as church-like as possible, and the services are conducted in a churchly manner.

Immediately after getting in our new place of worship, the ladies organized a society for the purpose of procuring a melodeon. By Christmas, they were at work in earnest; when, much to the surprise of your missionary and the congregation, a new melodeon found its way into our room. A noble-hearted parishioner had advanced the money, and purchased a very handsome instrument, and gave us the time to refund the money to him-