

LOUISIANA

DAVIS SESSUMS, D.D., Bishop

Death of Capt. J. J. Shaffer—The Epidemic— Tornado Losses — Construction — Golden Anniversary

ON TUESDAY, September 24th, occurred the death of Captain John Jackson Shaffer at his home, Magnolia Plantation. Captain Shaffer had for thirty years been senior warden of St. John's Church, Thibodaux, the parish nearest to his home, and for a long term of years had also served as a deputy to the diocesan council. His illness had been severe during many weeks, during which he had repeatedly asked for and received the prayers of the Church and the Blessed Sacrament. Captain Shaffer was born in Louisiana April 27, 1831, and was one of the most successful and best known of the sugar planters of the state. He served through the Civil War in the Confederate army as a captain in the Army of Tennessee. He is survived by his widow, who was Miss Minerva Cantey. The burial service was conducted at St. John's Church by the Bishop of Louisiana, assisted by several of the diocesan clergy and by a son-in-law of Captain Shaffer, the Rev. N. Dunham Van Syckel of Hamilton, N. Y. Two sons, two grandsons, and two sons-in-law were among the pallbearers.

THE EPIDEMIC of Spanish influenza in New Orleans has become so serious that the city health officers have issued a proclamation closing churches and schools and mass meetings in the interest of the Fourth Liberty Loan. This is the first time in the history of the city that the churches have ever been closed on account of an epidemic. The opin-

ion of church-going people is very much divided as to the necessity for this drastic measure. The order, as it affected the churches, went into effect on Sunday the 13th. The Rev. Dr. Capers of Trinity Church, obeying the letter and spirit of the law, at the hour of morning service, the sole occupant of his church, read from the sanctuary the epistle and gospel for the day, recited the Creed, and read the prayers of intercession for our country, our soldiers and sailors, and the prayers for the sick and the stay of the epidemic. Dr. Capers said that should the closing order continue, as the services of the Church are not only for those who happen to be present but are said on behalf of the people everywhere, he will, with only two communicants to receive, continue the early Communion service as usual. This practice may be followed by all the rectors of the city.

A THOROUGH examination of the ruins of the fabric of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Lake Charles (Rev. C. B. K. Weed, rector) shows that the damage by the tornado of August 6th is so great that the walls still standing must be entirely taken down and the church rebuilt. This was one of the two stone churches in the diocese, and its loss falls heavily upon the congregation, many members having been very heavy losers by the same storm.

THE CONGREGATION of St. Timothy's Church, Eunice, is expecting soon to begin work on its church building. Owing to the heavy expense of building in these times the plans have had to be changed in some particulars, but it is felt that the need is so great as to justify beginning work as soon as possible. The Rev. Walter S. Cooper of the diocese of British Honduras is temporarily in charge.

AN EVENT of unusual interest will be celebrated at St. James' Church, Alexandria, on Friday, October 25th, when the Ven. Herman Cope Duncan, D.D., for thirty-seven years rector of the parish, but who resigned in April of last year, will celebrate the golden anniversary of his ordination to the diaconate by the Rt. Rev. J. P. B. Wilmer, D.D. All but five years of this ministry were spent in Louisiana. Dr. Duncan will celebrate the Holy Communion and preach, being assisted in the Holy Communion by the Rev. W. S. Slack, rector of St. James' Church, and the Rev. Walter Lennie-Smith. It is hoped that the Bishop can be present on Sunday the 27th, and preach in connection with the anniversary. Dr. Duncan is living with his son not far from Alexandria, having resigned the active work of the ministry, but is still secretary of the council of the diocese and Archdeacon of Central Louisiana.