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PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

You are all aware that the members of our beloved church residing within the Dioceses of Huron and Ontario, before receiving permission to elect their respective Bishops, were required to provide an endowment for their decent maintenance.

This reasonable condition they have from their christian liberality fulfilled, and thus have they secured the permanence and independence of their bishoprics.

The minimum sum thought necessary to satisfy this important object, was ten thousand pounds currency, or forty thousand dollars.

Perhaps, it would have been better, had this diocese also commenced to collect its episcopal endowment when the other two began, but not being under the same urgency it was thought more judicious not to move in the Toronto endowment till the Dioceses of Huron and Ontario had completed theirs.

Five or six years ago, we had many church members amongst us, who would not have hesitated a moment in giving several hundred pounds each towards the support of their Bishop. But now, although the same liberal spirit still exists, a change of times and circumstances has deprived them of the ability of contributing so largely.

We have nevertheless the good example of the two Dioceses of Huron and Ontario before us, the church inhabitants of which are respectively less numerous than we are, and yet they have generously contributed the required amount. Hence, what they have done with increased exertion, our church members (being I trust equally willing) can do with greater ease and convenience.

But it does not seem necessary for me to dwell upon this subject, or to enter minutely into the details by which it may be accomplished; these are matters which more especially belong to the committee on the endowment of the see, appointed by the Synod, a preliminary report of whose proceedings is annexed to this notice. I shall therefore content myself with mentioning a few points which appear necessary to be carried out to secure the proposed endowment of the See of Toronto, with as little delay as possible.

I would first remind you, that all true and zealous sons and daughters of the church, within the diocese, should consider themselves religiously bound to promote with all their might this great object, a maintenance for their Bishop, and manifest an abiding interest in its accomplishment, let it therefore be the work of the whole church as of one man.

The clergyman of each parish or mission, with the churchwardens, might form local boards throughout the diocese, in communication with the great central committee of the episcopal endowment fund in Toronto. The parochial boards of each township might occasionally meet to forward the work, going from house to house, soliciting donations and subscriptions, and accepting the smallest contribution with thankfulness, and in this way reaching every friend and individual member of the church in the diocese, while reminding all as they proceed, that in so good a cause it is a privilege and a blessing to give even the widow's mite.

County and district boards might also be employed, so that every grown-up member and even children might be enlisted in the service, and made joyful partakers in helping forward this labour of love.