

DIocese of
HURON, C. W. }

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE UPON MINISTERIAL INCOMES.

Your Committee, appointed at the last meeting of Synod (September 1858,) "To take into consideration the most Scriptural and practical methods of remedying the present insecurity of Ministerial Incomes," beg to report :-

Your Committee feel that the duty imposed upon them is one of very solemn character, many of the Clergy being, at the present time, in circumstances of distressing perplexity; a condition in which the Church of Christ cannot permit His Ambassadors to remain, without herself incurring deep guilt. In the view of your Committee, however, it is the moral necessities of the people themselves, the sad danger lest the Church should languish from the want of an adequate number of efficient and duly authorized Clergymen, and the consequent sore punishment which the sordid disobedience producing such ruin would be sure to incur; it is these things that give to the subject under consideration its most vital importance.

The famine, then, of the Word and Ordinances under which this Diocese is at present suffering, is something positively appalling; your Committee understand that there are, at this moment, about ninety well-settled Townships without a resident Clergyman; the large majority of their settlers being our fellow countrymen; yea, and no small portion of them "fellow-heirs with ourselves of the promises," being baptized members of the Church, but now, alas, entirely cut off from her ordinances and means of grace. Nor is even this the most alarming feature in the future prospects of our Diocese, if the present sordid scale of provision for the maintenance of the Ministers of God is to continue; since, in such case, even many of the older parishes must, on the death, or removal, of their present incumbents, whose incomes are principally derived from the Clergy Commutation Fund, be left without any successors, and the flocks there, also, be consequently scattered to the four winds of heaven.