

ASCENSIONTIDE APPEAL, 1897.

REVEREND SIR,—It is our desire that this address from the Board of Management of the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Church of England in Canada be read, as a sermon or otherwise, in the hearing of every congregation in our dioceses, on Sunday, May 23rd, 1897, and that the offerings of the people on the following Sunday be given to Domestic Missions.

J. T. ONTARIO, *Metropolitan*.
W. B. Montreal. Charles Ottawa.
Arthur Toronto. F. Nova Scotia.
H. T. Fredericton. A. H. Quebec.
Maurice S. Huron. J. Philip Niagara.

GEORGE ALGOMA.

To the Reverend the Clergy and the Laity of the Church of England in Canada:

BRETHREN BELOVED IN THE LORD,—Time in its yearly course has again brought us to the period when we have to appeal to our people in behalf of what are called "Domestic Missions," i.e., missions within the Dominion of Canada, but outside the settled dioceses of this Ecclesiastical province.

As we examine carefully the present condition, and the needs, present and future, of Domestic Missions, we are driven to the conclusion that there never was a greater call for practical faith and prayer than at present. Past success has entailed the necessity for fresh efforts.

1. The first claim upon your sympathy and generous help is of course our own missionary Diocese of Algoma. Here there is much to encourage us. Its Mission Fund for carrying on the general work of the Church, indeed, was in arrears last year to the amount of \$3,200. But on the other hand we have the encouraging fact that the Episcopal Endowment Fund has now become available for the bishop's stipend. This sets free the assessments hitherto levied for that purpose upon the other dioceses of Eastern Canada. The Provincial Synod has appealed to these dioceses to continue paying these assessments for the present, and to give them to the *Algoma Mission Fund*, out of which the missionaries of that diocese are paid. We feel assured that all the Synods will cheerfully comply with this appeal, as several of them have already done. There is abundant evidence that the hearts of our people are with the loving and devoted bishop who, at the call of the Church, has given himself to the work in Algoma; and we trust that your largely increased offerings on Sunday next will make it clear to him that he possesses in fullest measure the confidence and sympathy of the Church.

Bishop Thornloe asks, first, for annual contributions, to keep up for the future the work so well begun by his devoted predecessors. He next suggests that an Endowment Fund should be begun, so that the mission work may be permanently established. A third need, perhaps more urgent, for which he pleads is that of a Superannuation Fund for aged and infirm clergy. Besides these greater matters, there are of course constant local needs, where the people are poor and churches have to be built or enlarged.

Lastly, there are the missions to the Pagan Indians, and the religious education of the Christian Indians in the Shingwauk and Wawanosh Homes—the latter for the moment in abeyance—which must be maintained and if possible enlarged. The work being done in the Shingwauk Home is reported by Bishop Thornloe to be of the most satisfactory character.

2. Passing, now, to *British Columbia and the Great West*, mention may be made, first, of the Diocese of *New Westminster*, in which, besides the wants created by a growing white population, there are some 7,000 Chinese, with about the same number in the adjacent Diocese of *Columbia*. These natives of a

great Pagan Empire have in God's Providence been brought to our shores, and are here isolated from many of the heathen influences which oppose their conversion in their old homes—for what purpose but that we should do our best to win them to the Gospel of the Son of God?

The development of the gold and other mining interests, in Kootenay especially, calls for missionaries to minister to the large bodies of men who are there being brought together. If this want be met at the present time to any adequate extent, it is likely that with the great increase of population self supporting parishes might easily be formed.

3. The needs of the *Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land* are many and pressing. The Archbishop, in his appeal to the S.P.G. to postpone the final cessation of its grants, shows that their wants are in some cases the result of the rapid growth of railways, in the midst of a territory thinly peopled. To enter into detail, the Bishops of Moosonee, Athabasca, Mackenzie River, Selkirk, and Saskatchewan need help for their Indian Missions. The In-

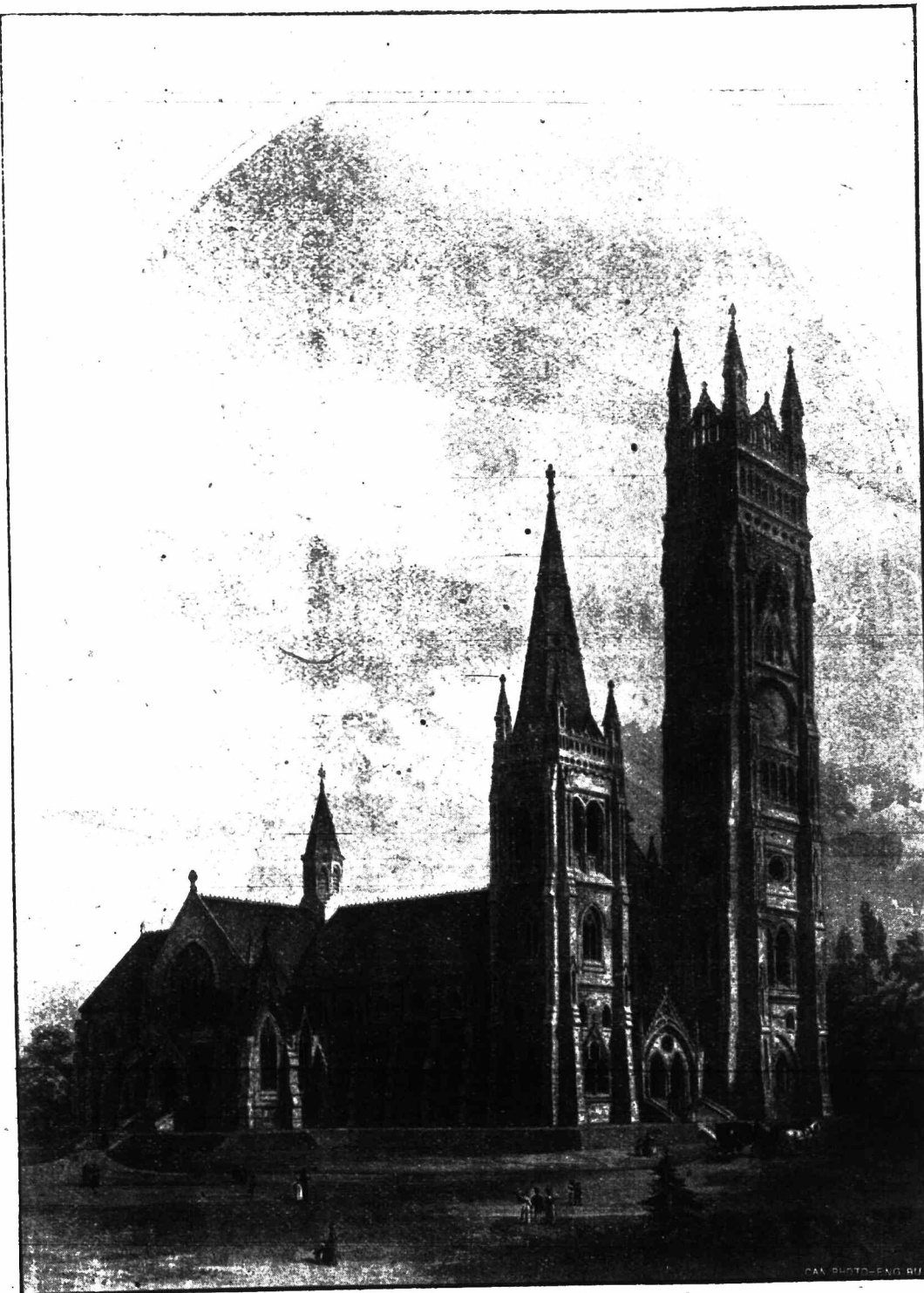
diocese; the other, as to the sufficiency of their efforts to support their own Church.

In the ordinary scattered settlements the proportion of the Church population is about one-fourth or one-fifth of the whole. It is hard to realize its scantiness. The average in the country parts is one Church family to eight square miles. Some missions are so extensive that a considerable number of the inhabitants cannot by any possibility attend the services of the Church. In fact, about one-third of the Anglican population are reported by the clergy as unable to do so, owing to distance. Again, there are in the diocese 786 School Districts, of which Winnipeg counts only as one, and some 680 schools with fewer than 20 pupils in each, while in most of the ordinary mixed settlements there are only about 10 families in each case. A great portion of the land is unoccupied, being held by railway companies, loan companies, and by government, so that it needs but few families to occupy the available land within travelling distance of an out-station. This is the natural result of carrying railways through a country in advance of the population.

Then an impression also prevails that the Church people in the Diocese of Rupert's Land and elsewhere in the west, are somewhat supine, and are quite willing that others should supply their spiritual needs. This is alike inaccurate and ungenerous. It must be remembered that there are few, if any, really wealthy people in the Province of Rupert's Land. The total amount contributed last year towards the Home Mission Fund by the diocese in question was \$5,358.57, being an average per family of \$1.17, a most creditable proportion. The Church people of Winnipeg maintain 6 parishes, are constantly opening out new work, and give \$2,000 per annum to country missions. Churchmen in the Province, besides paying a large portion of the stipend of their missionary or rector (for the grant in aid never exceeds one-half of the income of the missionary), raised last year \$5,000 for general mission work. In every town where there are 200 resident Church people, it is held that the parish ought to be self-supporting, and receive no aid from without. Last year the total amount raised in the diocese for Church purposes reached the large sum of \$66,000. So much to prove the zeal of Rupert's Land Church people.

The Indian work in this Province was carried on for many years by the C.M.S. According to the Archbishop's statement \$8,000 is needed to carry on this branch of work satisfactorily, while the sum of \$5,000 or \$6,000 is needed for the efficient maintenance of the organized settlement missions. This appears a formidable estimate, reckoned in addition to the needs of Algoma and the other missionary dioceses. But if

our Church people become fully alive to the duty and privilege of giving, we think that the exigency can be met. The total amount raised in the Dominion for Domestic Missions between August 1st, 1895, and July 31st, 1896, was \$31,126.07. We feel sure that this result can be improved upon. Granted that some of the Canadian dioceses are not enjoying great financial prosperity, they could probably accomplish more than they are doing at present. It would be a reproach to the Canadian Church, if owing to her neglect her children should be gradually absorbed by other religious bodies more energetic and more far-seeing than ourselves. Such a contingency appears imminent, and it can only be avoided by a prayerful and systematic devotion of our means to this great and holy cause. This pressing duty is binding on every individual. The scriptural practice of setting aside the tenth of our income for God's service suggests itself at once. All should aim at it. It is possible for many of us to carry it out, and some, blessed with large means, can



ST. ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL, TORONTO (WHEN COMPLETE.)

dians form the majority of the population in those dioceses. There are also some Esquimaux in Moosonee and Mackenzie River, and some whites in Chapleau (Diocese of Moosonee) and in Selkirk. In Calgary, Saskatchewan and Qu'Appelle there are missions for whites and Indians. The Indian Homes in Calgary require assistance. These are helped by government, but the Church is responsible for their maintenance.

In the Diocese of Rupert's Land itself, extensive mission work is going on. The number of missions is at present about 55, of which 12 are self-supporting. Of these 55, only 40 are served by clergymen, the remainder being worked by licensed laymen for a whole or part of the year. Every one of these should, if possible, be under the charge of a clergyman, and this would require at least an annual sum of \$2,000.

It is well to observe at this stage, that two errors are prevalent among Canadian Churchmen; one, as to the extent of the Church population in this vast