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THE MISSION FUND OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

To the Lay members of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Diocese of Toronto;

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

I feel myself constrained to address you at this time upon a subject closely affecting the well-being of our beloved Church,—I mean the condition of the Mission Fund of this Diocese.

From this fund 32 Missionaries in all receive assistance. One Missionary [to the Indians] receives \$240 per annum; 29 receive each \$200 per annum; one under the peculiar circumstances of his remote position, \$300 per annum; and one, in consequence of a special local provision, \$100 per annum. The congregations to whom they minister are expected, in every instance, to provide as much as will raise their stipends respectively to \$600 per annum.

Great efforts have been made from year to year, for some time past, to obtain from the several parishes of the Diocese the means of supplying the amount engaged to be paid by the Mission Board. Deputations have gone through the country, and earnestly and forcibly pleaded the claims of this Fund; and the addresses of these gentlemen have always been heard with great interest and respect.

Yet notwithstanding all these exertions and the liberality they have evoked, the Mission Board of the Diocese finds itself year after year in a state of embarrassment. The amount contributed for the support of our Missionaries appears regularly to fall about the commencement of the third quarter of the year, and the means have to be obtained by loan to secure the payment of their stipends until the Collections of the succeeding year are made. On the 1st October last \$1300 had to be borrowed to meet the salaries due on that day; and \$2260 more must be obtained in the same way, in order to secure the means of paying these stipends on the 1st January.

The Mission Board, at their quarterly meeting in November, in order to remedy this unpleasant condition of periodical embarrassment, passed a resolution by which, from and after the first of January 1868, \$100 per annum,—or one-half—was to be taken from the salaries of a portion of their Missionaries. They selected for this reduction such parishes as, in their judgment, were most able to endure it; believing that they would be able, and, under the circumstances of the case, willing, to make up the deficiency themselves.

The Congregations who are called upon to supply this deficiency will, no doubt, in many cases consider it a hardship; and very probably the Board of Missions may feel themselves constrained, in order to equalize the burden to be sustained by the parishes as well as to recruit their own resources, to make this reduction general.

But the greatest hardships may prove to fall upon the Missionaries themselves whose stipends are thus reduced. They would naturally, as years advanced and their expenses increased, expect an augmentation rather than a diminution of their means of living; and we should not account them unreasonable if they cherished the hope that, at all events, this little boon from our Mission fund would be continued to them undiminished. You will, I am persuaded, respect their feeling in regarding this payment of \$200 per annum,—contributed by their better provided brethren throughout the Diocese,—as a sort of *independent* stipend. It serves to mitigate, in some degree, the discomforts attendant upon the pure voluntary