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Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

NOTICE TO THE CLERGY OF THE NIAGARA, AND GORE AND WELLINGTON DISTRICTS.

The Lord Bishop of Toronto is obliged to postpone his appointments for holding Confirmations in the above-named Districts. Due notice will be given so soon as he is able to re-arrange his plans.

IMPORTANT.

We have learnt that in some instances no Lay Delegates were appointed by the Vestry on Easter Monday. It is necessary in the western portion of the Diocese, at all events, to remedy the mistake at once, seeing that the election of the Bishop is appointed for the 13th of May.

We understand that on the 16th a deputation from the western portion of the diocese will wait upon the Bishop and submit a statement of the endowment fund for the proposed new diocese; and are prepared to show that the required amount is invested in good securities. We presume that in about a month the Bishop will convene a meeting of those entitled to elect a Bishop. May the Lord, in answer to the prayers of his faithful servants, grant them all grace to come to the work with unprejudiced and sanctified hearts, firmly persuaded that He is the same God who by his Holy Spirit guided the Apostles in their choice of Mathias. The steps to be taken by the church militant, is, humanly speaking, of such importance, that our vigilant adversary will doubtless leave no stone unturned to defeat it, by suggesting to the minds of the soldiers of the cross such thoughts as will lead to dissension in the army. Let each remember that if, in the use of the means, he resists the devil he cannot prevail, for greater is He that is for us than all the mighty hosts, which can be brought against us. If men will presumptuously contend for the purpose of their own aggrandize-

ment, or the attainment of their own preconceived notions of what is for the best, the Lord may leave them to carry on the war in their own way; but if he is not with them, the desired blessing will prove a curse. Believe in the alwise Providence of God and in the power of His might, prayerfully and submissively leave the result to Him, and all will be well.

Since writing the above, we have learnt that the election of the Bishop for the west is to take place on the 13th May.

CHURCH SOCIETY, TORONTO.

This number contains the report of the Midland and Victoria Districts Branch of the Church Society, forwarded to us for publication, with the exception of the page in which the returns of the population, and the numerical relation of the various religious denominations (taken some years since) are given: for this our columns cannot afford space. We must content ourselves with referring our readers to official government documents, which fully attest the correctness of the statement as to the number of those professing to belong to our church in the above-named districts.

We have been in the habit of printing reports sent from various quarters without note or comment, but with regard to this one we feel bound to make an exception, inasmuch as there are statements made in it, which, if not proved to be erroneous, and fallacious, may mislead the public with regard to the working of the only machinery which the church in Canada has for carrying out the noble objects, for the effecting of which it was originally constituted. It is easy to make excuses for the non-fulfilment of duties, but when those excuses are based upon charges against the body of which the accusers profess to be members, the "onus probandi," the burthen of proving the libel should rest with them, which, though we have but read over the proof of the Midland and Victoria Districts Association's report, we defy them to do. Every unprejudiced person can see on perusing the bye-laws that the Society has not confined its management to any particular locality, but invites every member of the Church through-

out this vast Diocese to assist in the distribution of the common fund.

Considering that if the report were to be disseminated without some animadversion, great mischief would accrue to a Society on which our hope for the success for the Church in Canada, under God, mainly depends, we have no hesitation in calling upon them to produce such proofs; and we beg the readers of the Gazette to make notes of the several complaints, by inference at least, made against the distribution of the funds by the Parent Society, then to look over the several reports which have emanated from the Parent Society showing the amount received and expended since the present Secretary was appointed in 1852, and to await the next annual report of the Parent Society, before they come to a decision, as we are ready to pledge our title to veracity, as a church journalist, to the fact that it can be proved that this very wealthy, and, if the report now published is to be believed, greatly injured and neglected district has received more than the share of the Society's funds, to which they were justly entitled. The Secretary of the Society, we are informed, being asked to second the adoption of the report, agreed to do so without having any knowledge of its contents; but when he heard it read, he stated that he had in courtesy agreed to second the adoption of the report of the District Association, but felt called upon to make such strictures upon it, in the course of his speech, as led an old resident of Kingston to get up and question whether he had seconded the report, or not; we wonder that after his remarks, some one did not move, in amendment, that the report be referred to a select committee of the district, to see whether the statements therein contained were based upon correct data, or whether the assertion of the Secretary of the Parent Society (who confessed that not having anticipated such charges, as the report he seconded, advanced, another resolution of a totally different character having been previously sent to him by the District Secretary, he had not closely examined the accounts), that during the last twelve months a larger sum had been expended by the Parent Society for the propagation of religion in this particular district, than had been received from it, though it boasted in the report of having sent hundreds of pounds, which had been expended elsewhere. Since his incumbency this was not the fact, and he was prepared, at any time, to prove that no