

THE CALGARY DIOCESAN MAGAZINE.

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THE EDITOR,

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EDITORIAL.

Thanksgiving Day.

The annual occurrence of Thanksgiving Day brings before the Church people of the Diocese the claims of the Home Mission Fund. This fund is the source from which the stipends of the clergy, in parishes and missions which are not self-supporting, are supplemented and brought up to the level of a "living wage," to use the language of social reformers. Through it the grants from the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel proceed on their errand of usefulness, and the reduction of these grants, now proceeding at the rate of ten per cent. yearly, means a proportionate decrease in the means at the disposal of the Bishop and the Executive Committee who together administer the Home Mission Fund.

Needless to say, among extra-parochial objects, the Fund has a pre-eminent claim upon the members of the Church of England in this Diocese. Its *raison d'être* is the providing the children of

the Church throughout Alberta with the ministrations of that Divine Society in which they were born again unto God. Many are in isolated districts doing the work of pioneers, many are far removed from others of their own Communion, many are poor and unable to do what their hearts would move them to do for the Church they love. Such have a claim, and a rightful one, upon those who live in the more populous centres, those who have more frequent opportunities of Christian ministrations, and those who are stewards of a larger proportion of the Father's gifts.

We cannot, we think, find a better commentary on the duty of Christian thanksgiving than the noble "General Thanksgiving" in our Church Service. The many sermons which are annually preached on this subject can do little more than expand the ideas set forth in it; its grave simplicity and quiet dignity cannot be excelled. It is noticeable that no strongly marked division is made between material and spiritual benefits in it; the Redemption through the Incarnation is regarded as the fulfilment and complement of God's "goodness and lovingkindness to us and to all men . . . in creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life." As the Divine love revealed in the Redemption is "inestimable," so the Incarnation, "the means of grace, and the hope of glory" are "above all." All the gifts of Providence are based upon grace, but the Divine Son tabernacling amongst men is not only of grace but is grace, "full of grace and truth."