

to consider and act upon any proposed amendments in the minor details which may be for the good of the whole Church.

The Church of England in her representative bodies wastes too much time in mere talk, and lacks promptness and decision in seizing golden opportunities. The report of the Committee on the aggressive work of the Church was another case in point. Why did not the Church rise to the occasion? Form a general board of missions for the United Church, form their new missionary dioceses, give the bishops \$2,000 a year and a sum for travelling expenses, to be paid by the general mission board, and admit the missionary dioceses to the full privileges of the Provincial Synods, when a minimum endowment was raised. More faith, more enthusiasm and more leaders of men are needed. The children of the Church could be made to support five missionary bishops if an effort were made to enlist their aid.

AGGRESSIVE WORK OF THE CHURCH.

SIR:—

There were two subjects of wide practical importance, that occupied the attention of the Provincial Synod just closed. The Consolidation of the Church in the Dominion, which after long debate, has, I think, been practically settled. And the aggressive work of the Church which was discussed with great intensity and enthusiasm. At the session of the Provincial Synod of 1889, the following resolution was unanimously adopted by the Lower House: "Resolved that, in the opinion of this House the Church is called upon by the circumstances of the times in which we live to show greater earnestness in the aggressive work of the Kingdom of God; and that this House therefore respectfully requests a conference with the Upper House with a view to securing (1) A more widely extended use of authorized Lay Readers, (2) An extension of the Diaconate, (3) an increase of the Priesthood, (4) the immediate subdivision of existing Dioceses and the consequent increase of the Episcopate."

Their Lordships the Bishops who sit and legislate by themselves, did not grant the conference asked for, but just at the close of the Synod sent down a message to the effect that owing to the lateness of the hour, "The Upper House regrets exceedingly that it is unable to see its way to a conference of both Houses on the important subject of the Church's aggressive work, and recommends the appointment of a Joint-Committee to report, at the next Session, upon the whole subject, as embodied in the resolution sent from the Lower House." This was concurred in by the Lower House and the Joint-Committee was appointed, this Committee met several times during the three years. The Episcopal members of that Committee insisted that the increase of the Episcopate, which stood last, in the resolution, should be considered first. Accordingly, an elaborate report was prepared, covering all the points in the initial resolution and specially recommending the immediate establishment of five new Dioceses. Their Lordships considered this report, before it was reached in the Lower House, and sent down a message of non-concurrence in the first recommendation, as to the five Dioceses. About the other three points, they said nothing. They, however, expressed their readiness to consent to the formation of a Diocese of Ottawa, and another in Eastern Nova Scotia, and to the subdivision of the missionary Diocese of Algoma, as soon as any of these had secured and invested at least \$40,000 of an endowment. In spite of this message, the report was considered, the next day, by the Lower House, and with a few verbal alterations, every one of its recommendations was unanimously and enthusiastically adopted. It was sent the next morning to the Upper House with a respectful and unanimously adopted request for a conference of the two Houses on the subject of the

report. Their Lordships, though again formally requested by the Lower House for a reply, sent none until just before the time at which they had determined to prorogue the Synod. And then their reply was that, as there was not now time for a conference, the Committee had better be re-appointed. This reply was received with very decided expressions of disapprobation. The conviction became general that a majority of the Bishops had determined to defeat this movement, and the Synod closed with very widespread feelings of disappointment and indignation. The Bishops by their action have in all probability blocked the way, to any aggressive forward movement, for three years to come, and upon them or those of them who were instrumental in bringing about this result, rests a very serious responsibility.

But it will be asked what were the five Bishops proposed, and how were they to be maintained? For it is undesirable that only rich men should be eligible for the Episcopate, and Bishops cannot live on air. Well, the scheme suggested was that Algoma should be re-arranged and a new North Western Diocese formed, consisting of the Counties of Huron, Bruce, Grey and the district of Algoma proper, (2) That there should be a Diocese of Barrie or Orillia, consisting, probably, of the Counties of Simcoe, Victoria, Muskoka, and Parry Sound. (3) A Diocese of Peterboro or Belleville, consisting, probably, of the Counties of Durham, Northumberland, Peterboro, Halliburton, Hastings and the districts of Mattawa and Nipissing. (4) Ottawa taking the Ottawa Valley from the Diocese of Ontario. The Eastern part of Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Cape Breton Island. In the draft report it was also suggested that there should be a Diocese of Eastern or Northern New Brunswick, of Sherbrooke, of Chatham, and ultimately or Cornwall. In the report submitted for the adoption of the Synod these nine were reduced to five, and after receipt of the message as to the action of the House of Bishops, it was suggested that we should combine, as an initial step, in the aggressive movement for the immediate formation of the Diocese, Owen Sound, Peterboro, including Algoma proper, taking on Muskoka and Parry Sound; Ottawa taking on Mattawa and Nipissing, and Eastern Nova Scotia. That would make twelve Dioceses in all.

But where is the money to come from, to support them? The opinion was universal in the Lower House that the Bishops might just as well have said there shall never be any increase of the Episcopate as to have said there shall be none until \$40,000 are collected and invested. But how then can it be done? Without the least difficulty or danger. The Bishop of Algoma is pledged \$4,000, and he must get it, in any rearrangement of his Diocese. The Bishop of Ottawa ought to have \$4,000 per annum. \$3,000 would be sufficient for the Bishops of Peterboro and Nova Scotia. That makes \$14,000 per annum for the four sees, of that sum we have \$6,000 already, \$4,000 paid Algoma by the several Dioceses and \$2,000 from the invested endowment of that Diocese collected by the present Bishop. That leaves \$8,000 to be raised by the twelve Dioceses of this Ecclesiastical Province, or \$667 for each Diocese to contribute annually, to secure this very important aggressive movement. Or if the recommendation of the Lower House, that each new Diocese should be required to provide a House and a secured income of one thousand dollars per annum before being set off, be adopted, that would only leave \$4,000 for the eight Dioceses to provide, or \$500 per annum each. Does any body believe that there would be any difficulty or uncertainty about it? It only needs the Bishops' consent and Leadership, and it could be accomplished in three months. And who doubts but that new life, and hope and progress, would be imparted to the whole Church by such a decided aggressive movement.

Yours, etc.,

JOHN LANGTRY.

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

MY DEAR BRETHREN,—Before seeking the change and rest which the kind thoughtfulness of the Provincial Synod has provided for me, I desire to lay before you briefly a statement of the financial position of the Missionary Diocese, which ten years ago was entrusted to my keeping.

I. So far from the General Mission Fund sufficing for our needs, there was a deficit of upwards of \$3,500 when the Treasurer made up his last annual report on June 30th. Into the causes of this deficit I need not now enter; I have indicated three in my incomplete report to the Metropolitan. Be this, however, as it may, the fact stares us in the face that nearly \$4,000 is necessary to meet the obligations of the year closing June 30th last. I will not disguise it from you that the anxieties arising from this fact have been one of the primary causes of my recent collapse. What is to be done about it? (1) I am physically and mentally disabled from lifting a finger at present towards its removal. (2) It could be wiped out by falling back on our small invested capital of \$10,000, but with a first breach made in this amount how long will it be before the remainder melts away?

II. The only solution I can discern is a special effort on the part of the Clergy and Laity, and to them I now earnestly appeal in my helplessness. Special gifts by individuals. Special offerings in congregations. Special donations from branches of the Woman's Auxiliary. Special offerings from Sunday Schools. Special appropriations by the Domestic Board. All these running into one common stream will soon replenish the Treasury and set your Missionary Diocese afloat again. In this connection I may say that I have appointed the Rev. Rural Dean Llwyd, of Huntsville, my Commissary in my absence. Contributions will be gratefully received and promptly acknowledged by him or by my Treasurer, D. Kemp, Esq., Synod Office, Toronto.

III. The Shingwauk and Wawnosh Homes are now passing through the most serious ordeal to which they have ever been subjected. Their position is most critical. (1) The Rev. E. F. Wilson has resigned as Principal, being about to remove his family to British Columbia. (2) As a necessary consequence of Mr. Wilson's resignation, all the English assistance hitherto given to the Homes, being, he informs me, given by personal friends to his personal work, will be diverted from these Homes and transferred to the Elkhorn Home in Manitoba, where his eldest son is Principal. (3) The gifts of clothes hitherto sent to these Homes will similarly be diverted into other new channels.

Seriously crippled as they will thus necessarily be, our Indian Homes must inevitably close their doors, unless their Canadian friends rally to their support as they have never done before. I therefore earnestly entreat both the Clergy and Laity to give them a very prominent place in their sympathies, and not only to continue, but if possible to increase their contributions. Many who have hitherto stood aloof will now, it is hoped, enroll their names among our supporters. Gifts of money and clothing should be carefully marked "For the Shingwauk and Wawnosh Homes." As I am desirous that all money contributions should appear in our Diocesan accounts, I would request that cheques, etc., may be sent either to the Commissary, Rev. Rural Dean Llwyd, Huntsville, or to the Treasurer, D. Kemp, Esq., Synod Office, Toronto, who will remit them periodically to the Rev. E. F. Wilson, who has consented to superintend the Homes till April 1st, when he will rejoin his family in British Columbia.

Again entreating your thoughtful care of my Diocese during my absence,

I remain, dear Brethren,

Yours faithfully,

E. ALGOMA.