

Toronto, have but few important events, whether general or local, to chronicle, since they presented their last report to a similar meeting.

It is with much regret that they notice in the receipts of the Parent Society a deficiency which amounted last year to £216 10s. and it is with increased regret they perceive that for the past two years this deficiency has been accumulating—Many reasons are alleged for this unsatisfactory state of things: to three of which your Committee would here allude.

1. The Division of the Diocese.
2. The hardness of the times.
3. The dissatisfaction which exists as to the centralization and management in Toronto.

With respect to the first of these alleged reasons, no doubt, dividing the original Diocese of Toronto into two separate Ecclesiastical territories has been the means of removing a great number of subscribers from our lists; but the division should not have operated prejudicially to the interests of the Church Society: your Committee think that it should have acted as an imperative call to all the friends of the society and its hallowed objects resident within the Diocese of Toronto proper, to such redoubled exertion as would have more than compensated for the loss thus sustained. Your Committee feel that there was ample room for this increased vigour, as they do not hesitate to assert their conviction that the Church Society never was so thoroughly and efficiently worked as it ought to have been. On examining the annual reports from the year when the Society was first organised, to the year which has just closed, they see but few—a very small fraction of the names of Churchmen in the several parishes or missions, recorded as contributing to the income of a Society which, if duly supported, is capable of effecting so much good. Your Committee venture to express a hope that for the future the subscription lists of the Church Society will be, in a great measure, a registration of the names of the members of the Church in every Parish and Mission throughout this still extensive Diocese.

Many attribute the failure of the funds, which should have been cast into Jehovah's Treasury, to what is popularly and fashionably called the "Hardness of the Times;" but will not the question suggest itself to the reflecting and faithful Christian:—Is not this rather an *effect* than a *cause*?—The Treasury of the Lord has not failed because the times were hard, but the times are hard because during a period of unexampled prosperity, men did not contribute to the cause of Christ and of His Church, as the Lord had prospered them. Men did not believe the promise of Jehovah, "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground. neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field saith the Lord of Hosts."

But the third ground which is named as a cause for this deficiency is the alleged dissatisfaction which is felt through the country at the mode in which the Society is managed and centralized in Toronto, and the expensiveness of the machinery whereby it is worked. your committee had intended to enter fully on this head, and they feel that they could have convincingly shown its futility, but as a committee of the Church Society, composed of gentlemen from various parts of the Province, are now considering the question, no further allusion will be made to it on this occasion, save to express a hope that, whatever this report may be, much practical good may be the result,

and that churchmen now at length will be stirred up to appreciate their privileges and perform their duties.

Many sincere and ardent friends of the church are of opinion that whereas at the commencement of this Society it was necessary to embrace five objects, of operation, viz.:

1. The encouragement and support of Missionaries and Clergymen of the United Church of England and Ireland within the Diocese of Toronto, and for creating a fund towards the augmentation of the stipends of poor clergymen, and towards making provision for those who may be incapacitated by age or infirmity, and for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy of the said Church in the said Diocese.

2. The encouragement of Education, and for the support of Day-schools and Sunday-schools in the said Diocese, in conformity with the principles of the said Church.

3. Granting assistance, where it may be necessary, to those who may be preparing for the Ministry of the Gospel in the said Church, within the said Diocese.

4. For circulating in the said Diocese the Holy Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer of the said Church, and such other Books and Tracts as shall be approved by the Central Board or Managing Committee of the said Association.

5. Obtaining and granting aid towards the erection, endowment, and maintenance of churches, according to the establishment of the said Church, in the said Diocese; the erection and maintenance of Parsonage-houses; the setting apart of Burial-grounds and Church-yards; the endowment and support of Parsonages and Rectories, according to the same establishment, and the management of all matters relating to such endowments.

That now these objects may be reduced to the first, viz., the encouragement and support of the missionary, and the provision for the widow and the orphan, and that the remaining four may be more effectually worked in other ways and by other agency. Your committee trust that should it be deemed advisable to make any change, the support of the widow and the missionary work will have their due prominence.

With respect to local objects, your committee have been informed, and they have received the intelligence with much satisfaction, that there is every probability of the Parochial School being shortly opened, and this room be applied to its legitimate use.

Referring to the *Schoolhouse*, or rather the *debt* thereon, your committee have to report a matter which has been often before mentioned to the congregation, and which they would now again refer to, viz., that one member of our congregation has already made the large advance of \$1200 in cash out of his own pocket, and that he and the other members of the building committee—*one of whom is not now a worshipper within the walls of St George's Church*, have been *sued* by the contractors for a balance of \$100. Your committee earnestly recommend that some decided action should be done in this matter. It is surely not just or creditable that one warm hearted Churchman should be allowed to suffer any serious inconvenience for his anxiety to see this handsome School House erected in accordance with the wish of the congregation repeatedly expressed both at Vestry, and at the meetings of the Parochial Branch, the committee earnestly invite co-operation in so desirable a work.

From certain reasons to which it is not necessary to refer at present, no collections were made by this Branch during the two past years, and as the proceedings of the two previous years have not been published, your committee herewith submit a Dr. and Cr. account.

The Secretary and Treasurer in account with the St. George's Parochial Association of the Church Society.

	1855.	
	Dr.	
To Subscriptions.....		£72 0 0
	Cr.	
By Parent Society		
7 incorporated members.....	£ 8 15 0	
One-fourth of Collection.....	14 13 9	
		£23 8 9
By Parochial Branch.		
(1.) Debt of Church, vote of Committee.....	28 1 3	
(2.) Ground rent, school house lot.....	15 0 0	
(3.) Expenses, collector's commission.....	3 10 0	
Printing Report.....	2 0 0	
		5 10 0
		48 11 3
		£72 0 0

	1856.	
	Dr.	
To Subscriptions.....	60 5 0	
Additional.....	17 10 0	
		£77 15 0
	Cr.	
By Parent Society, one fourth of collection.....	25 1 3	
By Parochial Branch.		
(1.) Debt of church vote of Committee.....	30 0 0	
(2.) Ground rent, school house lot.....	15 0 0	
(3.) Sunday school vote of Committee.....	5 3 9	
(4.) Expenses, collector's commission.....	2 10 0	
		52 13 9
		£77 15 0

	1857.	
	Dr.	
To Subscriptions.....		£51 10 0
	Cr.	
By Parent Society,		
One-fourth of Sub'stions.....		16 12 0
By Parochial Branch.		
(1.) Debt of church, vote of committee.....	15 12 5	
(2.) Ground rent, school house lot.....	15 0 0	
(3.) Expenses Commission.....	2 10 0	
Printing.....	0 15 7	
		34 18 0
		£51 10 0

The following were the resolutions:
1 Moved by R. A. HARRISON, seconded by the Rev. DR. FULLER.—That the report now read be adopted.

2. Moved by DR. BOVELL, seconded by the Rev. PROVOST WHITTAKER.—That while we regret that so great a deficiency appears in the income of the Parent Society, nevertheless it is a matter of congratulation that a Committee has been appointed to examine into and report upon the entire constitution and working of the Society; and to suggest any alteration which may to them seem necessary, and also it is hoped that much practical good may result from their labour.