

**COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED BY THE BISHOP OF MONTREAL TO THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL, RESPECTING THE PROGRESS AND PRESENT STATE OF THE DIOCESE.**

The progress of the Church in the Diocese of Montreal during the last few years has been steady and real, and under the circumstances of the country, satisfactory. The actual increase of clergymen and the number of new Missions opened, have not been so large as in some former years; but it must be remembered that instead of being now allowed to draw on the funds of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, for the support of such additions, we are obliged to make exertions to replace the amounts withdrawn from the grants hitherto annually made to this Diocese, besides the deficiency caused by the measures taken for the secularization of the Clergy Reserves. Three hundred and sixty pounds per annum were withdrawn by the Propagation Society in July, 1858, and two hundred more of annual allowance will be deducted in July next. And out of the grant still continued we have to pay annually four hundred and fifty pounds for allowance to retired missionaries of the Society, and fifty pounds to the widow of a deceased missionary, according to the terms under which the missionaries used in former years to be employed. The remainder of the grant which we shall receive after next July, amounting to two thousand five hundred and forty pounds per annum, is distributed among thirty-three clergymen, now serving in the Diocese; while twenty-one are entirely supported by local funds. The contributions for Church purposes of every kind within the Diocese, during the last year, was £13,322, being a great excess both in Montreal and in the country over any former year. The greater portion of this has been expended in the erection of Churches and Parsonages, and the purchase of Glebes, and defraying the miscellaneous current expenses of the services of the Church during the year; leaving but a small portion for the positive support of the clergy. Of course we hope that every year this latter item will be increased, and gradually settled upon some more regular and definite plan.

As to the actual number of our communion at present, it is not easy to give any exact account. The last census, taken in 1851, was so notoriously unfair, that it can be no safe guide; for example, in one whole county, where we had churches served by six of our clergy, there was not one single member of the Church of England returned. All who were not Romanists were set down under the general head of Protestants. There will be a new Census very soon, when we may expect our numbers, if fairly given, to be about 35,000. Our communicants, as returned to the Visitation Queries last year were 3312, giving an increase of 350 over the number at the preceding Visitation. The scholars in the Sunday Schools were 2920. Our Diocesan Synod, which was organized in June last year, will hold its first annual meeting next June; when the reports of three important Committees, which have been at work during the last six months will be laid before the meeting; and we hope that much useful information will be obtained