

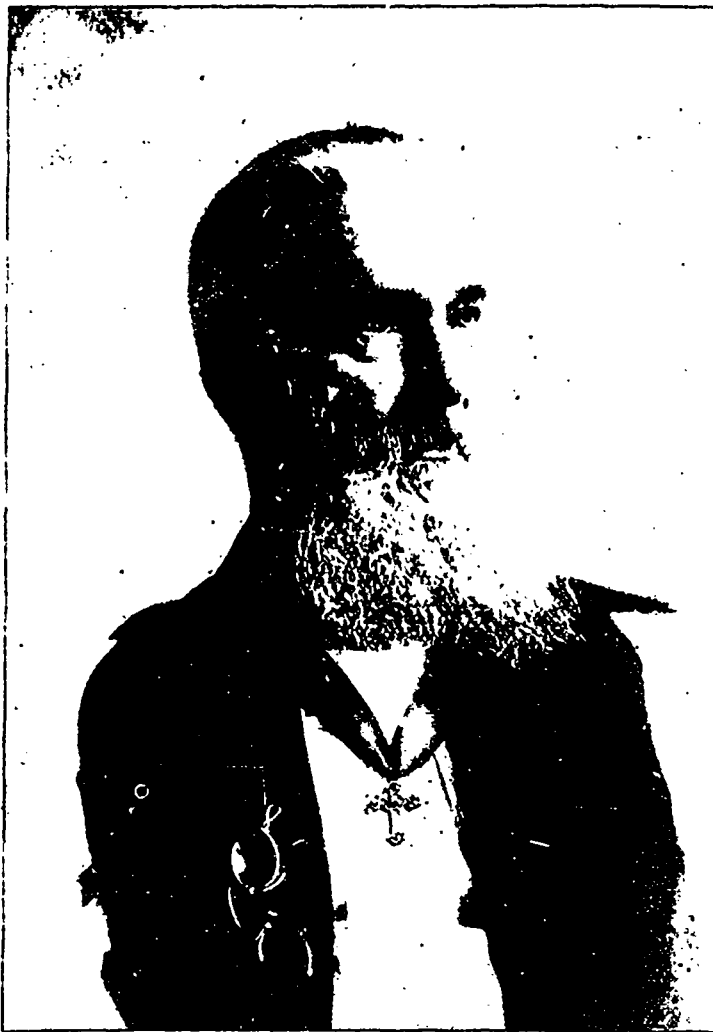
progress has been retarded and her spirit chilled, yet her missionary character and divine commission have continually reasserted themselves, as they are doing so marvellously to day, sending her forth with renewed vigour against the strongholds of Satan - "conquering and to conquer." St. Paul was identified with the earliest conflicts and victories of the Church. The grand conception of the saving of the world under God by human agency, possessed, absorbed, even consumed him - impelling him to efforts and to sacrifices almost unequalled in the annals of man kind. In writing the text, he stood, as it were, face to face with this conception as it affected himself. He, unworthy as he was, by reason of his past sad history, and by reason of his many shortcomings, of physique, temperament, and spiritual character, had yet been specially called to a part in the great work; had been blessed with unspeakable revelations to fit him for it, and had been conscious of his Lord's personal interest in himself - as, for example, when the Lord beckoned him into new fields of labour, or stood beside him in moments of special peril. Above all, he was conscious that all these proofs of divine favour had been summed up in an abiding gift of grace, which, amplified as he sought and needed it, made him sufficient for the tasks and trials assigned him, whatever and however grievous those tasks and trials might be. And as he thought over these things, realizing his own unspeakable unworthiness and the glorious power entrusted him by God, he cried out, "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."

Two feelings are evidently struggling for mastery in the apostle's mind. First, there is the thought of his insufficiency. And we, who in this later age are called to a share of the apostolic office and responsibility, must of necessity share also in this feeling of the great Apostle of the Gentiles! It has been with no little searching of heart that I have pondered, during these few past weeks of preparation, the nature and extent of the tasks and difficulties awaiting me. (1) There is the physical strain of constant journeyings through the length and breadth of a territory more than 48,000

square miles in extent. And notwithstanding the increased facilities of travel by rail and boat, I can realize that if I am to penetrate into all the ramifications of settlement to right and left of the great lines of travel this will still involve some weariness. (2) Then there is the mental strain to be put upon me, not merely in the discharge of the duties of ministering and teaching incidental to my office, but in the administration of dio-

acter; of the difficulties contended against in special cases, of the efforts made under such difficulties; the patience to be extended to all; the justice to be done to all; the loving encouragement to be given to all - in short, the inspiration which, like living water, should flow forth from my life to refresh and to enrich the lives of those over whom I exercise my office. All this, to say nothing of sterner things. Surely this is no trifling matter.

(4) But specially I had pondered the financial strain which, in a missionary diocese, so largely dependent upon outside aid, must always be great. Under this head one finds it natural to ask grave questions. (a) Can Algoma do more for herself in the near future? (b) Will the English societies generously treat her as a special case and postpone the withdrawal of their grants? (c) Will the Canadian Church, freed now by the splendid efforts of my predecessor in office from all responsibility respecting the episcopal stipend give more largely - say the sum thus set free - towards the Algoma Mission Fund? (d) Will it be necessary still for the Bishop of Algoma to leave his more legitimate work in the diocese and at short intervals canvass the country as a solicitor of funds? Whatever may be thought about the English contributors, and we know how generously they always respond to deserving appeals, two great sources surely must be developed - (1) Algoma herself. (2) The older dioceses of the Province of Canada. And it is for the zeal, wisdom, tact, and perseverance required for such work that the Bishop specially needs to pray. This part of the strain has been, and will still most likely be, the weightiest part of the Bishop's burden, calling at once for grace from on high, and for the help and counsel of his brethren. Such are



*Yours very sincerely*

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cesan affairs, and in the upbuilding, upon the solid foundations so well laid by my two distinguished predecessors in office, of the structure of diocesan organization. And here again I realize there awaits me no easy task. (3) But, thirdly, there is the spiritual strain to be encountered as I discharge the responsible duties of a father in God to my diocese; to the increasing body of clergy, and to the laity, settlers and natives, scattered through this vast extent of country; the due appreciation of their personal char-

acter of the matters I have been pondering, and is it any wonder if I have at times been ready to cry, "Who is sufficient for these things?" And why should the call have come to me, who am "less than the least of all saints"?

But St. Paul did not, and we must not, leave the matter here. After all, when we look into the text, and compare it with parallel passages, we shall find, I think, the apostle was more concerned with the grace given unto him than with his own unworthiness to receive it. He almost