

A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE LAITY OF THE  
DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

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MY DEAR BRETHREN,—The object of this address is to draw your attention to the unsatisfactory state of the provision made for the maintenance of our clergy, as it is manifesting itself, in many of our parishes and missions.

I do not feel that the introduction of this important subject requires any apology—the only apology I need to make, and the only fault which I have to confess, is that you have heard from me so little on so great a duty. I have not however taken it up altogether from my own choice, nor at the solicitation of those in distress, and who may be looking earnestly for relief. No! most of these are, I believe, patiently and meekly bearing no common hardships: but they are silent sufferers.

It is those who expect to give, not those who expect to receive, who have been urging me to address you on this subject, and more especially since our day of Thanksgiving for the more than abundant harvest vouchsafed to us. Not that I was indifferent to the increasing wants of my clergy, the affecting proofs of which were coming daily before me; but as much general distress had for a long time prevailed throughout the whole community, I was induced to wait, till I should be able to announce some indications of the commencement of the practical effects of the bounty which our heavenly Father had during the last two years bestowed upon us, and I rejoice to say, that examples of generous movements in favour of giving the Lord's portion, where it is so justly due, are multiplying around us. These may not indeed yet be manifested in a way so general and effective as they might, and, I trust, soon will be; but nevertheless, in sufficient numbers to warrant me in regarding them as an omen of good, and indicating a growing desire on the part of our people to do something substantial as a grateful answer to God's reasonable interposition. And may we not with all due reverence call it His invitation to return a double portion of his bounty towards the support of his own appointed service!

When the matter has been thus regularly brought before our congregations, and they take it into their own hands, I feel assured that it will be responded to, as the Lord's work, and that their hearts will be stirred up and become alive to the most generous efforts to render it effective.

I had another motive for postponing this appeal—I waited till