

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SYNOD APPOINTED
TO CARRY ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOCIETY
FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.

The Committee appointed to carry on negotiations with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, on the subject of Missionary stipends, beg leave to report, that they submitted to the Society, by letter, on the 10th October last, the several points on which they were instructed to seek special information:—

QUEBEC, Oct. 10, 1860.

“REVEREND SIR:

“We are directed by the Committee appointed at the Last Session of the Synod of the Diocese of Quebec, to carry on negotiations with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, in reference to their scheme for the payment of the Missionary salaries, for which the Society is liable, to ascertain from that venerable body the following particulars:—

“*First.*—The extent of the reduction of the annual grant from the Society after 1862.

“It was felt by some members of the Synod, that the terms of the proposition were susceptible of two meanings: the one, that the reduction would be a reduction on the proposed sum of £100 each year, *i. e.*, that £1967 10s. *per annum* would be granted for three years, from 1862;—the other that such reduction would increase by £100 each year, making the reduction in the last year of that period £800 instead of £100.

“*Second.*—With reference to the period subsequent to 1865, during which the Society propose to reduce the grant by such sum (being not less than £100, as the Society shall think fit,) the Synod felt anxious to be informed whether that reduction was to be an *annual* reduction, and what, under any circumstances, the maximum of it may be.

“*Third.*—As to the Society's existing obligations with the Diocese of Quebec: the Synod desired to be fully and particularly informed what the Society consider their existing obligations to be.

“We are, Sir,

“Your obedient humble servants.

“E. C. PARKIN,

“FREDK. ANDREWS,

Secretaries.

“The Rev. The Secretary, S. P. G.”

With reference to these points, your Committee subsequently received communication of the following resolutions agreed to by the Committee of the Society:—

“1 That the annual amount of the Society's grant to the Diocese of Quebec, for the three years ending Dec. 31st, 1865, will be a uniform sum for each of those years—the reduction of £100 being made in one sum only upon the existing grant to the Diocese, and taking effect from Dec. 31st, 1862.

“2 That no pledge, or even information, can now be given as to the terms of any prospective grant after Dec. 31st, 1865, beyond what is stated in the Society's resolution of Nov. 18th, 1859.

“3 That the Society's existing obligations to the Diocese of Quebec, referred to the case of Missionaries to whom the Society's faith is pledged for the continuance of their existing salaries for the term guaranteed to each, and that they may be ascertained by an investigation into the particular circumstances of each particular case.

Upon the communication of these resolutions, your Committee resolved that the Lord Bishop be requested to inform the Society, in reply, that there is an unwillingness on the part of the older Missionaries to acquiesce in the assumption of the Society's obligations by a body holding no property; and to point out the desirableness, on this ground, as well as on that of the peculiar position of this Diocese, of having some fixed rate of reduction at

certain periods; and also to enquire whether the Society would be prepared to agree to the proposal made to the Synod, that it should be an understanding attached to its grant that it should at no time fall below the amount that may be required to provide for the salaries of those Missionaries who are now in the receipt of not less than £100 *per annum* from the funds of the Society.

His Lordship accordingly addressed the following letter to the Society:—

“BANDFIELD, near Quebec,

“29th November, 1860.

“REV. AND DEAR SIR.

“Having communicated to a meeting, held yesterday, of the Committee of the Synod of this Diocese, appointed to carry on negotiations with the Society with reference to Missionary stipends, that part of your letter of 31st October, which relates to this subject, I was requested to express the earnest hope of the Committee that the Society will see fit to re-consider its determination to afford ‘no pledge, or even information,’ with respect to the continuance of its grants after the expiration of six years. One principal ground for this request is, that the older Missionaries, the dates of whose engagement are prior to the time when the Society adopted the practice of making its grants terminable at specified periods, feel a very natural unwillingness to have their claims transferred from the Society to a body like the Synod, which holding no property, can afford no substantial guarantee for their payment. The members of the Synod generally feel also a great reluctance to undertake obligations of the extent of which they are wholly ignorant, the Society fixing a *minimum* of reduction, but leaving it entirely within its own power to name its *maximum* extent. I hope the Committee will see that it is not unreasonable that we should desire to know that we shall not be called upon, without any previous notice, to assume nearly the whole of the Society's obligations; and I am persuaded that, if the proposal should be adopted with this degree of uncertainty attaching to it, there will be great difficulty in inducing clergymen to come into this Diocese. I believe that in other Dioceses a gradual scale has been fixed of reduction at so much *per annum*, or so much for triennial periods; and if we could obtain the same terms, there would be a prospect of our being able to adopt the proposal of the Society with great advantage to the Church. I may be permitted to remind the Committee, that we are placed, in this Diocese, in a very different position from that of other Dioceses, in relation to this subject. A new Diocese, for instance, may be organised on the system of grants terminable at the end of three years, because all engagements are originally on this understanding, and the difficulties which it might create have been foreseen and taken into calculation. But in a Diocese like this, where the Society's engagements, entered into before the system of reduction took effect, amount to £2387 10s. *per annum*, the continuance of which depends on the lives of its Missionaries, it will be seen that we are called upon to assume a responsibility, under the plan now proposed, which was never anticipated, and for which, therefore, we cannot be expected to be prepared. The Society, I am persuaded, will be jealously careful of the rights and interests of its faithful Missionaries, and if these cannot be secured under its proposal, the only alternative seems to be to remain as we are under a system fraught with difficulties, and productive of serious injury to the interests of the Church. It was proposed in the Synod to ask the Society to give a pledge that its annual grant should never be suffered to fall below a sum sufficient to meet the claims of such of its Missionaries who might be surviving as should be

included among those whose collective salaries amount to the above-mentioned sum of £2387 10s.; and if the Committee could be induced to agree to this, I think the proposal could be accepted with satisfaction to all parties. It was also proposed to make the Church Society of the Diocese, instead of the Synod, the administrator of the grants of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel; and as it is essential that the matter should be finally arranged at our next meeting, I should be glad to be enabled to state whether, in the event of the Synod expressing a desire to that effect, the Society would be prepared to agree to these two points. The Society, I trust, will not object, either, to permitting the new arrangement to date from the time when it shall be finally agreed upon. I do not urge again, what, after all, is our strongest ground, the extreme and peculiar poverty of the scattered flocks of this Diocese, as I have put this plea forward with all the strength of which I am master, in repeated instances. It is only necessary now to add, as I stated in a former letter, that as I presume the sum to be granted is intended to include *all* Missionary salaries, I suppose that of the Rev. R. G. Ward, (£50 *per annum*), who at the proposal, was a Catechist, but is now laboring permanently as a Deacon, as well as the Society's recent grant of £150 to Labrador, will be added to the sum of £2387 10s. with which we are to start.

“I am,

“Rev. and dear Sir,

“Your's faithfully,

“G. J. QUEBEC.

“The Rev. Ernest Hawkins.”

The following reply was received:

“SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL
IN FOREIGN PARTS.

“79, PAUL MALL, LONDON, S. W.

January 7th, 1861.

“MR DEAR LORD,

“Your letter of Nov. 29th has been under the consideration of the Standing Committee.

“Your Lordship and the Committee of Synod will be pleased to consider, that neither the Standing Committee nor the Society is a fixed body; and that, therefore, it would not be wise to give pledges for any distant future, because the members representing those bodies five or ten years hence might decline to be bound by them. It has always, however, been made a condition of making over a gross sum for the payment of our Clergy, that faith would be kept with all, according to the agreements severally made with them, whether those agreements were for a specified term of years, or for life.

“The Committee are of opinion, that the interest of all who can prove any claim upon the Society is sufficiently guarded by resolution 3, as conveyed in my letter of Oct. 31st last.

“If, therefore, the proposals of that letter be accepted, no change in the present payments of the Clergy will take place till January 1, 1863; but from that date, a reduction in all upon the amount granted, £100, will take place in the annual payment of the ensuing three years. From and after Dec. 31, 1865, it will be necessary for the Bishop and Synod on one part, and for the Society on the other, to agree upon a scheme for the future, but in any scheme the obligations of the Society—I may confidently anticipate—will be religiously observed.

“The Society conceives that there is an advantage in making the Synod, as such, a party to this negotiation, but submits that the Synod might formally delegate its authority to the Church Society—as its Committee for the administration of the Fund.

“I have only to add, that the salary of the Rev. R. G. Ward (£50), and as soon as a Missionary