

Church. It is melancholy to reflect that in this large and populous city this is the only school for assisting in the elementary instruction of the poor where religion occupies its proper place, where the mind is trained and character formed, and the soul disciplined in citizenship for this life and for the promised inheritance of a better. The daily average attendance of boys is about seventy, and of girls sixty: a public examination of the pupils took place immediately before the Christmas vacation, which was attended by several members of the Cathedral congregation, and the manner in which the children acquitted themselves was highly satisfactory, and reflected much credit on the master and mistress: prizes were bestowed upon the most deserving of the pupils by the Lord Bishop, who was present during the whole examination and took a lively interest in the proceedings.

The necessity for making a more adequate provision for the proper maintenance of these schools induced the rector to make an appeal to the congregation for a stated annual subscription in aid of their funds. Two zealous ladies of the congregation cheerfully undertook the task of personally bringing this appeal before each pew-holder and regular attendant at the Cathedral, and a gratifying measure of success attended their exertions. The amount subscribed for this important object amounts to £126 9s. 7d., as will be seen by the return furnished in the appendix to this report marked B. Your committee feel deeply sensible of the obligations they are under to these ladies, and for their truly valuable services they desire to tender their grateful acknowledgments. Their thanks are also due to the congregation at large for having so liberally responded to the call, and who have thus proved by their generous donations that they are fully alive to the great importance of securing for their poorer brethren the inestimable advantages of a religious and scriptural education.

The Sunday Schools continue to be well attended, and the classes efficiently taught by the praiseworthy exertions of the voluntary teachers. The girls' School takes the lead in numbers, as it has always done, under the direction of its indefatigable superintendent Mrs. S. Ridout. Contributions are weekly offered by the teachers and pupils, towards the library attached to the School, which continues to be an object of great interest with the children; and a Missionary box has recently been placed on the table, from the proceeds of which the sum of £1 16s. has this year been remitted to aid the funds of the Church Missionary Society.

The Parochial Library has been enriched by the addition of a few valuable works purchased by the grant made last year from your funds, aided by a donation of books from Mrs. S. Ridout and Mrs. John Ridout. It is hoped that as the congregation becomes better acquainted with the advantages this Library affords, its importance as an auxiliary for diffusing scriptural and useful information will be more generally acknowledged and appreciated.

Some delay has unavoidably occurred in collecting the subscriptions for the present year. The Collector's return exhibits a total of £124 17s. 6d., (see appendix A.), but his work is not yet completed, and when the whole is gathered in, it is believed that the amount will compare favourably with former years. Your committee recommend that after the payment of the usual proportion to the Parent Society, the balance applicable under the constitution of the Church Society to Parochial purposes may be distributed in the same manner as before, to aid the Parochial and Sunday Schools, and the Parish Library.

In conclusion, your committee desire to ex-

press the fervent hope and prayer that the Lord of all power and mercy may abundantly bless this and every undertaking for the enlargement of His Kingdom and the promotion of His glory, and that he will be pleased to impart to His people here and everywhere an increase of faith and fear, and love, that they "plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of him be plenteously rewarded, through the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Toronto, June, 1856.

#### RESOLUTIONS.

It was then Resolved, That the Report be adopted and published, together with the proceedings of the meeting, and that 350 copies of the Report be printed for circulation.

That the sum of £10 be appropriated towards the Parochial Library.

That the sum of £5 be appropriated towards the Sunday School fund.

That the balance in the Treasurer's hands be appropriated towards the salaries of the Master and Mistress of the Parochial School, attached to the Parish Church.

And that the Committee for the ensuing year do consist of, Messrs T. W. Birchall, P. Paterson, E. H. Rutherford, W. L. Perrin, H. Mortimer, E. Goldsmith, J. H. Richey, A. K. Boomer, G. B. Wythe, H. Thompson, F. W. Jarvis and H. E. Bennett.

And that Charles Magrath, Esq., be Secretary, and Thomas S. Shortt, Esq., Treasurer.

(For the Church.)

#### ST. THOMAS' CHURCH, BELLEVILLE.

It affords us much pleasure to insert the following interesting account of the ceremony of laying the corner-stone of this church; and we congratulate our brethren in that prosperous neighbourhood on the auspicious commencement of a much needed, and too long deferred undertaking. The site of the new church is one of the most commanding in the diocese, and as its supporters are numerous, wealthy and zealous, we shall anticipate a structure every way worthy of the sacred uses for which it is designed, and that it will prove an ornament to that incipient city. We trust it will be on a scale sufficiently ample to afford accommodation to the large numbers of our communion, who, in towns similarly situated require *free seats*.

We commend to the special notice of our readers, the impressive address of the "beloved Physician," upon whom devolved the interesting duty of laying the corner stone.

A more appropriate selection could not have been made. His address was but an epitome of the principles that have guided his long, consistent and useful life; nearly forty years of which have been spent in the Bay of Quinte to the lasting benefit of that community, and particularly to the advantage of the church which owes so deep a debt of gratitude to the name of "*Ridley*." Sincerely do we unite in the fervent prayer, that the day may be distant when he shall be removed from a sphere in which he has long been so bright an ornament and so great a blessing:—

Amidst many discouragements and drawbacks, which the cause of religion has experienced, and does still experience, there is one cheering sign, that cannot but encourage the world to persevere, and this is the evident and increasing appreciation of reality and earnestness of purpose. A real work will be recognized and appreciated even by those of a different school. So at all events think we. Perhaps we are too much inclined in general to exaggerate our differences; we start with minds warped to one particular idea or shade of color, and seek to force all other ideas or view into accordance with our own. Hence we are too often led to judge the good works of different bodies, by our own imperfect "line and plummet." It can then, be nothing but the truth, which can permit men to break through this jealous barrier. It is a great blessing whenever and whenever we witness this. Split up, as religion and the state are into parties, each revolving on its own axis, we cannot look for any remedy for our wounds, except by doing away with all obstinate prejudices, by seeking for what is good and what is true even amongst those who differ from us, instead of always picking out the solitary point which divides us. We are sure that these few wholesome thoughts and considerations, or thoughts and considerations to the same effect, forced themselves on all who were present at the laying of the corner stone of St. Thomas' Church, on Wednesday last. And it was a fitting and a most suitable occasion for gathering together the Episcopalian clergy of the county and neighbourhood. It was an event! The need of such an undertaking must have suggested itself long since to the members of the congregation, and we were more than delighted with the whole ceremony. We feel that we have no apology to offer, for occupying the space we do with recording this event, but we should deem ourselves culpable indeed, were we merely to take a passing notice of the event.

Service commenced in the old church, at the usual hour; the clergy present were:—

Rev. W. Macaulay, of Picton; Rev. James Padfield, of Murray; Rev. R. G. Cox, of Millier; Rev. W. Bleasdel, A.M., of Trenton; Rev. W. B. Lauder, A.M., of Napanee; Rev. G. A. Anderson, of Tyendinaga; Rev. T. S. J. Groves, of Stirling; Rev. T. Bousfield, of Northport, and the Rev. J. Grier, A.M., Rector of the parish of Belleville.

The morning prayer was read by the Rev. J. Grier, and the lessons and the litany, by the Rev. J. Padfield. The sermon was preached by the Rev. W. Macaulay, from the text, 11 verse, 6 chap. Ezra, "And thus they returned us answer, saying, We are the servants of the God of heaven and earth, and built the house that was builded there many years, which a great king of Israel builded and set up." And a most solemn, impressive and appropriate discourse it was. It was listened to with the greatest delight and attention. While the offertory service was being read by the Rector of the parish, a collection amounting to about £14, in aid of the funds, was taken up.

The congregation then proceeded to the spot where the corner stone was suspended, and gathered round the same, leaving room for the clergy and building committee to gather immediately around the spot, with Dr. Ridley, upon whom the choice had fallen to lay the corner stone. The service was read by the Rev. Mr. Lauder of Napanee, and a beautiful prayer for union and concord, peace, faith and charity, was read by the Rev. Mr. Cox. After which the ceremony of laying the stone commenced, during which, portions of the 87th and 127th Psalms and of the 4th chap. of Zech. were read. Dr. Ridley placed in a cavity for the purpose, a box six