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## The Canadian Church Press.

TORONTO · WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1860.

### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

- JUNE 6.—Wednesday.  
 " 7.—Thursday.  
 " 8.—Friday.  
 " 9.—Saturday.  
 " 10.—First Sunday after Trinity. Lessons—Matins: Josh. x. Mark xl. Evensong: Josh. xxiii.; 2 Cor. viii.  
 " 11.—Monday. St. Barnabas, Apostle and Martyr. Lessons—Matins: Eccles. x. Acts xiv. Evensong: Eccles. xii.; Acts xv. to ver. 30.  
 " 12.—Tuesday.

### THE TORONTO CHURCH SOCIETY.

THE present faulty working of the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto is chiefly attributable to the inadequacy of its original constitution to meet the present requirements of the Diocese. It was established eighteen years ago, after the model of the religious societies at home, and with an analogous organization. There was a Central Board, an annual meeting, district and parochial branches, and all the other accidents of similar bodies in England. It was intended, like them, to be merely a supplement to the parochial system, to meet certain cases which the endowments of the Church did not reach, and to combine certain funds which must always be to a certain extent voluntary.

In the lapse of time the circumstances of the case are almost entirely changed: in the first place, the constitution of the society has not worked well: the District associations are at perpetual variance with the Central Board: they enjoy an independence which was not originally contemplated: and the three-fourths of all collected funds which were unluckily placed at their disposal have been the source at once of confusion and dissatisfaction. In Toronto itself the Executive Committees have failed to work in harmony: the Committees of the Sustentation and Commutation Funds have to some extent covered the same ground, and made conflicting grants for the same purpose. There has been little or no unity of operation, and the consequences in the mere point of economy have been highly prejudicial. And in the second place, the outward circumstances of the Diocese since the loss of the Clergy Reserves are so different that, however admirable the constitution might have been formerly it must require considerable modification now. The Church Society is the only thing which

comes between us and absolute voluntarism. It may indeed be questioned whether the work which lies before it can ever be done by a Society: for a society belongs in fact to an entirely different state of things, it is an outgrowth of an endowed establishment: its basis is on the one hand more voluntary, and on the other less so, than the Church itself, being not that of church membership, but of a money subscription. But since the Church Society exists, and since moreover it is the only Church corporation with unlimited power of holding lands, the practical question is not how it shall most easily be set aside, but how it shall be rendered most available for a new and wider sphere of operation. If it is really to do the work which lies before it, which must be done by some such organization, whether existing or future, it must embrace more or less the whole finance of the diocese.

Three points are essential to every successful application of a semi-voluntary system—comprehensiveness, simplicity, and centralization. In the first place, it must gather into itself every similar means of collecting funds; it must not be 'high' or 'low,' town or country, but co-extensive with the diocese itself: we must not have many funds, but a single wide and all-receiving channel, as the universal means alike of collection and redistribution. In the second place it must be simple—so that there shall be no confusion in the working, no false economy of rival committees, but an uniform and undivided organization, whose very unity will be its strength. And lastly it must be centralized, as in the case of the Church Society of the Diocese of Huron, an instance of great value because it originated under very analogous circumstances; there must be no autocracy of local associations, but the whole income must be collected into and redistributed from a single centre. We do not mean that a committee of clergymen and laymen who happen to reside in and near Toronto, should manage the affairs of the rest of the diocese, but that the whole diocese should be adequately represented.

And how is this to be done? It is not so impracticable as it may at first sight appear; the Synod is the Parliament of the Church, and has the first claim to the administration of the funds of the Church. Let the Synod recognize the Church Society as its *finance committee*, and let the Church Society by a vote at its next meeting, accept the regulations which the Synod may make for its guidance, and then every shilling which is given for Church purposes will be far more within the control of the person who gives it, than it can be under the confused operation of local and central boards. Every single contribution should be paid into a common treasury, and those who give would then in their own person, by their delegates, or by their committee, have a voice in the disposal of it. The Church Society would be co-extensive with the Diocese; it would not be as it is now, a mere private association, but it would stand permanently between the churchmen of the Diocese, and the vortex of congregational voluntarism; it would support every missionary, and, in time, every clergyman in the Diocese, and would prevent that sad dependence of the individual clergyman upon the charity of his parishioners, which is at once disheartening to the one, and pernicious to the other.

Let the Synod and the Church Society act together, and we may then hope for progress.

### THE ELECTION OF BISHOPS.

WE observed some time since in one of the secular papers of this city, several letters upon the subject of the future appointments to the Episcopate in this Diocese, and since the action of the committee appointed to report upon the alteration of the canon referring to the subject will probably open up the whole question at the approaching Synod, we deem the present a proper opportunity for making some observations upon a point of such great importance.

The character of many of the appointments to the Bench at