

which He is seeking to lift thee up. All that thou hast already received—pardon and peace, the Spirit and His grace—are but preliminary to this. And all that thou seest promised to thee in the future—holiness and fruitfulness and glory everlasting—are but its natural outcome. Union with Himself, and so with the Father, is His highest object. Fix thine eye on this, and gaze until it stand out before thee clear and unmistakable: Christ's aim is to have me abiding in Him.

And then let the second thought enter thy heart: *Unto this I am apprehended of Christ.* His almighty power hath laid hold on me, and offers now to lift me up to where He would have me. Fix thine eyes on Christ. Gaze on the love that beams in those eyes, and that asks whether thou canst not trust Him, who sought and found and brought thee nigh, now to keep thee. Gaze on that arm of power, and say whether thou hast not reason to be assured that He is indeed able to keep thee abiding in Him.

And as thou thinkest of the spot whither He points,—the blessed *whereunto* for which He apprehended thee,—and keepest thy gaze fixed on Himself, holding thee and waiting to lift thee up, O say, couldst thou not this very day take the upward step, and rise to enter upon this blessed life of abiding in Christ? Yes, begin at once, and say, "O my Jesus, if Thou biddest me, and if Thou engagest to lift and keep me there, I will venture. Trembling, but trusting, I will say: Jesus, I do abide in Thee."

My beloved fellow-believer, go, and take time alone with Jesus, and say this to Him. I dare not speak to you about abiding in Him for the mere sake of calling forth a pleasing religious sentiment. God's truth must at once be acted on. O yield yourself this very day to the blessed Saviour in the surrender of the one thing He asks of you: give up yourself to abide in Him. He Himself will work it in you. You can trust Him to keep you trusting and abiding.

And if ever doubts again arise, or the bitter experience of failure tempt you to despair, just remember where Paul found His strength: "I am apprehended of Jesus Christ." In that assurance you have a fountain of strength. From that you can look up to the whereunto on which He has set His heart, and set yours there too. From that you gather confidence that the good work He hath begun He will also perform. And in that confidence you will gather courage, day by day, afresh to say, "I follow on, that I may also apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." It is because Jesus has taken hold of me, and because Jesus keeps me, that I dare to say: Saviour, I abide in Thee.

THE TORONTO SYNOD.

The annual meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto commenced 10th inst. The meeting was preceded by a choral service in St. James' cathedral in the morning at ten o'clock. The choir was made up of the surpliced choirs of Holy Trinity, St. Matthias, St. George's and St. Luke's churches. The choir, the bishop, the archdeacons, rural deans, and several of the clergy entered the cathedral by the western door, and marched up the centre aisle to their places in the chancel, singing the processional hymn, "Onward, Christian Soldiers." Rev. J. D. Cayley, precentor of the diocese, intoned the prayers.

Rev. Professor Clarke, of Trinity College, preached the sermon from Philippians ii., 4.

After the service the Bishop celebrated the Holy Communion. At half-past two o'clock the synod assembled for business in All Saints' school house. The Bishop took the chair. The Ven. Archdeacon of Peterboro' read the appointed prayers.

Rev. Septimus Jones presented the report of the committee appointed to examine the certificates of lay representatives.

The report was referred to the Court on Contested Seats, on motion of Dr. Snelling.

The Revs. Messrs. Mackenzie, of the Diocese of Huron; C. L. Ingles, of Niagara, and Edward Owen, late of Jamaica, were on motion invited to seats on the floor of the house.

BISHOP'S CHARGE.

The Bishop then read his charge as follows:—

REVEREND BRETHREN AND BRETHREN OF THE LAITY:

Permitted again to meet you in synod assembled, I greet you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, to whom, as the Triune God of our Salvation, be consecrated, with all devotion and reverence, our deliberations for the welfare of His Church. May the fear and love of God animate us, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ possess our souls, and the inspiration of the Holy Ghost guide our judgments whilst we address ourselves, with the earnestness of Christian zeal and in the temper of brotherly kindness and mutual forbearance, to the responsible duties committed to us.

OBITUARY.

Since we last met our clerical ranks have been spared by the mercy of God almost intact from the hand of death, only one of our number having been removed from us.

The Rev. Thomas P. Hodge, coming to this country after many years of service, both in Church and State in the West Indies, had attained to a seniority of nearly thirty years in this diocese, into which he was admitted on the 1st June, 1855. After holding for some years the parish of York Mills, Mr. Hodge went on the retired list in 1873, but returned to active duty in 1878, when he was appointed to the parish of Holland Landing. Compelled by failing health to give up this, his last regular charge, some two years ago, he took up his residence in Collingwood, but, active to the last in the Master's service, assumed the voluntary and gratuitous charge of the missions of Batteau, then vacant, and, thus employed, received the call to his rest and reward somewhat suddenly, though at advanced age, on the 24th July last year. He was an earnest Churchman, and was much respected and beloved in a large circle of friends among clergy and laity.

Amongst the lay members of the Church who for many years have been accustomed to take a prominent and most useful part in the affairs of the synod, no one was held in more universal and deserved respect than the late Chief Justice of Ontario, the Hon. John Godfrey Spragge. We miss him from our midst and unfeignedly deplore his loss. Raised by his talents and learning as a lawyer, his high intellectual gifts, and his character of unimpeachable high-minded integrity, to the most exalted position open to his profession in Ontario, he not only adorned our assembly by the dignity of his official and social rank, but was at all times ready to contribute to the service of the Church's advancement the weight of his mature experienced judgment and the powers of his trained mind, whether in open session or on committee.

On Easter Sunday last he partook of the Holy Communion in his parish church of St. John's, and on the following Sunday passed away quietly from this life to the life eternal.

A notice is on the paper of a resolution of condolence, in which all who knew him as a member of our synod will heartily concur.

The presence of death has recently invaded a more august circle of earthly greatness and happiness. Our gracious and beloved Queen has again been called to pass through the bitter anguish of bereavement in the early loss of her youngest beloved son.

Prince Leopold, Duke of Albany, though of delicate constitution, was possessed of gifts which gave great promise of extensive usefulness in his position of high influence. With a cultured mind, scholarly tastes, and an earnest religious spirit, he had already endeared himself by the interest with which he entered into and supported every scheme of benevolence, and had won the reputation of an accomplished and graceful speaker by his advocacy on public platforms of causes of charity and philanthropy. The people of England had come to speak of him, with affection and pride, as "our scholar Prince."

When he passed through Toronto, two years ago, I had the pleasure of a half-hour's conversation with him, and was much struck with the warm and intelligent interest which his enquiries manifested in all that concerned the work and welfare of our clergy.

I would suggest whether it would not be an act becoming us as a loyal legislature of the Church, and grateful, as we might hope, to our Queen, for this synod to adopt a dutiful address of sympathy with her Majesty and the bereaved young royal widow.

CHANGES IN THE CLERICAL STAFF.

During the past year I regret to state we have lost eight of our clergy by removal from the diocese, three having resigned the charge of missions, viz., Revs. Samuel Mills, of Penetanguishene; E. Sibbald, of Rosemont; and Ogilvy G. Dobbs, of Wyebridge; the remaining five were acting as assistant curates, viz.,

Revs. J. McCarroll, at Grace Church, Toronto, appointed to the important rectory of Grace church, Detroit; R. L. Brydges, at St. James' cathedral; J. B. Mead, at Woodbridge, J. W. Foster in the parish of Caven, and J. O. Crisp at Orillia. Of these eight, however, three had been for some time on leave of absence. Our losses thus sustained are numerically compensated by an addition of eleven new fellow-workers, though not all in directly pastoral work. I have ordained four deacons: the Revs. John Gibson, of Trinity College, to the Notwood and Westwood; Geo. Natrass, of Trinity College, to the curacy of the Holy Trinity, Toronto; Henry Softley, a literate to the mission of Coboconk, under the missionary of Cambray, and the Rev. G. M. Wrong, of Wycliffe College, who has no clerical charge, being appointed tutor of his college. The gains by admission from other dioceses are the Rev. Geo. Love, appointed to supply Beaverton; Henry Heaton, acting as *locum tenens* for the Rev. O. P. Ford, at Woodbridge; E. J. Harper, ordained by me to the priesthood, curate at Grafton; Geo. Malcolm Kingston, curate at St. George's, Toronto; J. A. Thompson, sent out and paid by the Colonial and Continental Church Society, to succeed the late Rev. J. Gander in the mission of Cardiff, Reginald Heber Starr, licensed to assist at Grace Church, Toronto, and W. F. Campbell, appointed missionary agent of the diocese.

Other changes have occurred in the location of the clergy in the missions, which, according to custom, I will briefly enumerate:—

The Rev. W. W. Bates has been appointed to the rectory of Thornhill and Richmond Hill, the Rev. Wm. Farncomb to the mission of Bobcaygeon, the Rev. C. E. Sill has been removed from Shanty Bay to North Essa, the Rev. F. J. White from the curacy of St. George's, Toronto, to Shanty Bay, the Rev. J. W. McCleary from Norwood to Batteau, the Rev. C. R. Bell from Bradford to Keswick, and the Rev. B. Bryan from Sunderland to Bradford. The Rev. C. E. Thomson has resigned the parish of Weston to take charge of the separate parish at Carlton, the Rev. F. W. Squire has left Gore's Landing, and the Rev. W. C. Allen has returned from England to assist his father, Rural Dean Allen, in the parish of Cavan.

Our clergy list thus numbers at the present moment 136, classified as follows:—

Engaged in parochial work.....	116
" tuition	9
Retired and on leave	10
Missionary agent	1
	136

You will have remarked, in the above statement, how few of the recent accessions to our clerical roll are available for work in our missions; and I feel constrained to dwell, with concern and disappointment, upon the fact that, while financial prosperity has returned to our diocese, an alarming want has unexpectedly developed itself in the falling off, almost cessation, in the supply of candidates for the ministry. I had apprehended three years ago some difficulty in finding work for the number of men who might be expected to come forward for ordination from our two theological colleges, but the reverse proves to be the case. There are now three missions vacant and several new fields ready to be set apart at once; so that I could employ eight or ten men of the right stamp, if they were forthcoming; but unhappily there is scarcely one. At this year's general ordination, which will presently be held, I understand that four men will present themselves from Trinity, of whom, however, one has been elected a resident fellow, a second will probably be required for a curacy, and of the remaining two I fear only one may be expected to seek a mission, while the single candidate from Wycliffe College has been already engaged to fill the curacy of St. James', Orillia. Including this year's ordination, the supply of missionaries from the two colleges for three years will have summed up to probably four—from Trinity three, from Wycliffe College one. It is not my purpose to suggest reasons to explain this state of things, but the friends and supporters of the two institutions, when they become alive to it, must feel that, so far as this diocese is concerned, there is a great failure of result from very costly machinery.—The friends of the mission cause will feel that it is time to betake them to the Master's own prescribed remedy, and earnestly pray to the Lord of the Harvest that He will send forth labourers into His harvest. The situation is serious. If the opportunities now open to us are not soon filled, they will be taken possession of by others, and members of the Church will be lost to us. I know that this statement, when made public, will bring me numerous applications such as I am continually receiving, but I must repeat that these do not satisfy the case. Men who have been unsuccessful in

other diocesan pioneer missions, young, strong, and enduring hardships. A large number of births are coming with a result. Many sons of clergy such young men in the cultivation provided of course that the premium to a farm a course of preparation disposed to accept feasibility where

The only one of me is to appoint supply of suit not to the credit necessary willing to do his universities and most hoped to be a

During the present number of 787 female addresses, and times, consecrated 8 priests, baptised over a large number

I invite your of the Mission income and exp ing only with tl the diocese, I an increase over t was largely due of Parochial M have been appr new scheme w fall off. I am t a still further ne to the extent of count a special in last year's to \$1,402.66. The office during the exclusive of all 533-83 last year. the three great d lows:—
Diocesan.....
Domestic, (inclu stipend, \$1.7
Foreign.....

The increase of spective heads be
Diocesan.....
Domestic.....
Foreign.....

This large incre reduction of the b \$169.58.

Some parishes P.M.A. scheme menced to adopt i found a comparat crease of \$515.61 produced \$337.59. The further work in the conviction if it were generally Still only a minorit many cases it is or my protest that it i measure to be ado animity and to be the majority of the

GENERAL The report of the tant action taken sion last year in fo clesiastical Provin tic and Foreign M management on wh its bishop and two