

PASTORAL LETTER.

[The Committee republish the pastoral letter of the Lord Bishop of Toronto, issued nearly eleven years ago.]

TO ALL FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH
IN WESTERN CANADA,

The Bishop of Toronto Greeting :

Dearly beloved in the Lord,—

The Clergy and many Lay members of the Church, moved by a pious desire to promote the glory of God, and the welfare of the flock of this diocese, over which, however unworthy, He hath made me Overseer, have represented unto me that the Church is suffering from the want of greater unity of action; that her future progress will be much impeded unless steps are speedily taken to provide for her growing strength and efficiency as the population increases; and that even already great difficulty is found in maintaining and extending the decent administration of God's Word and Sacraments, more especially so far as the same depends upon multiplying the number of the Clergy, providing for their support and the due education of the candidates for Holy Orders, as well as the promotion among our people of a better acquaintance with the Evangelical truths and Apostolic order of the Church of England, the increase of a charitable attachment to her doctrines, her ritual, and her ministry, on the part of those professing to be her children, and the knitting together of pastors and people in closer bonds of mutual affection and regard: and for remedy of these evils have suggested that a Society be formed, to be denominated "The Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto," the objects of which will be:—The Propagation of the Gospel among the Indians and Destitute Settlers by means of travelling and resident Missionaries; the circulation of the Scriptures, the Book of Common Prayer, and such other books and tracts as are calculated to promote a better acquaintance with the distinctive principles of the Church, and the support of Sunday and Parochial Schools, moreover should the funds admit, to succour the widows and orphans of Clergymen in cases of destitution, and to assist deserving young men in pursuing their studies for the Ministry, where circumstances may require it

Another important object which has been powerfully recommended is, to devise such measures as may seem best adapted for placing the maintenance of the Church and her ministers upon a permanent and satisfactory footing, and extending her usefulness by increasing her resources.

Highly approving of these objects, and feeling the warmest gratitude to those with whom the proposed remedy originated, and above all, to God, who hath put it into their hearts to attempt the supply of wants, the reality and urgency of which we have long painfully experienced, I recommended in my Charge to my Clergy, in September last, the expediency of establishing a Church Society commensurate with the Diocese, and that measures be taken for its speedy organization.

On that occasion a Committee was appointed to draw up such rules and regulations as appeared necessary for the constitution and government of the proposed In-