

however, may be accounted for by the fact that the secretary received no report from five parishes.

J. HARVEY LEWIS, *Secretary.*

THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE PENETANGUISHEN BRANCH OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO, PRESENTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING AT ST. JAMES'S CHURCH PENETANGUISHEN, ON FRIDAY, THE 1ST DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1860.

In our Annual Reports on former occasions, we have reminded the members of the Church Society that the time would soon arrive when the liberal assistance which we in this Province have so long received from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, towards the support of our branch of Christ's Holy Catholic Church would cease; and that its future maintenance would devolve on the members of the Church resident in this Province.

The exact time when this assistance would be discontinued was not precisely known, but has at length been declared by the Venerable Society in its report for the year 1855. From this we learn that our aged but indefatigable bishop had made an urgent appeal to the society, and though, through the increasing claims on its funds, and the withdrawal of the Queen's letter in their favor, the Society was not able wholly to comply with his request, yet, considering the great loss we had sustained by the spoliation of the Church through the taking away the Clergy Reserves, its undoubted property, they have in part complied with our zealous Bishop's request, and will give some assistance this year and the two following, when all liabilities for the Diocese of Toronto will cease. We know now that we have only ourselves to depend upon, and this should encourage us to increased efforts to support the Church Society, as it will be mainly by its instrumentality that the growing wants of Christ's Church in the newly settled parts of the Province can be supplied. As we have long looked forward to this time, so we have been endeavoring to prepare for it as far as the limited means furnished by the subscriptions to our branch of the Church Society will allow. In our last report we mentioned that the Churchwardens, being desirous to expend the Church endowment fund in the purchase of town lots, had petitioned the Government to be allowed to purchase a block of five acres at the upset prices, and though their petition was not granted in the way desired, yet their object was partially effected, as the letters to the Churchwardens in answer to the petition will shew: it is as follows:—

LETTER READ.

We have therefore now the block of two acres, and we have still in hand the sum of between £14 and £15 for the purchase of more land. The Committee would suggest that the three-fourths at our disposal this year be added to the Endowment Fund, and that a purchase of town lots be made in the neighborhood of the lot granted to us as soon as an opportunity offers.

By a resolution of last year a small sum was voted to be expended in Bibles and Prayer-books to be kept ready for sale at this place: a few Bibles and Prayer-books to the amount of £4 19s. 9d. have been procured, and a part of them have been sold. Your committee, however, having learnt that a member of our society (who has frequent opportunities of taking books to the neighborhood of the settlers to some distance around us) has purchased some Bibles and Prayer-books, and also other books of a religious, moral and entertaining character,

which he sells without making any profit himself, they think that it will be advisable to close that account, as their object will be effectually attained by this plan.

Since our last meeting a neat bell-turret has been erected for the bell so kindly given by Mrs. Mitchell. The sum actually raised for that purpose was about eleven or twelve pounds, a sum which amounted to about half the estimated cost. Owing we believe to the great press of business or from some other cause, no regular mechanic could be found to erect it at the time required. In this difficulty the work was undertaken by two young men members of the Church, who completed it in the course of last summer. As they undertook the work without any idea of profit, half the sum they received was expended in Bibles, Prayer-books, and other books for the purposes of sale in the manner which has just before been mentioned in this report.

Your Committee are happy to learn that the settlers at Victoria Hill have begun their Church, and hope to finish it ready for service by next summer or fall. The Parent Church Society in Toronto has voted the sum of £7 10s., which will be paid to them as soon as the Church is enclosed. The collection at Victoria Hill was larger last year than it has been before, and it is hoped that this liberality of the parent society will be repaid a hundred-fold as the settlers gradually clear away the woods and improve their property. As to ourselves, though we only hand over one-fourth of our subscriptions to the general society, yet we trust that we indirectly benefit it in another way, to the extent at least in which we are gradually advancing in the necessary work of the endowment of our Church. Could we once accomplish this object, we should then be more able to assist the more destitute parts of the country around us, and by this means help to lighten the burdens of the general society.

Our offertory collections, including the four annual sermons, amount to about £22, being the same as the year before. It is natural to expect an increase year by year; but it should be remembered that we have lost several of the members of the Church by their leaving this part of the country. Our list of subscribers to the Church Society is not yet made up, and though we may expect to experience some diminution from the same cause as affects our offertory collections, still we hope, that when the subscriptions at a distance from our clergyman's monthly stations are received, the whole amount will be equal to that of former years: it is most gratifying to your committee to observe that two of our last year's subscribers, though they have left this part of the country and are gone to a distance, have sent their subscriptions for this year also.

In concluding their report the committee would again remind the members of the Church that as we can no longer expect assistance from our long tried and liberal friends, the members of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, so we must use our endeavors to increase the subscriptions to this branch of the Church Society: only let us use the same earnestness in supporting the cause of the Church of Christ as we do in conducting our worldly affairs, and then we need not fear but that God will enable us not only to accomplish the objects of the Church Society as far as regards ourselves, but also to assist in extending the same advantages to those beyond us who may still be contending with the difficulties which we then shall have so happily overcome.

GEO. HALLEN, *Chairman.*

W. SIMPSON, *Sec. & Treasurer.*

To the Editor of the Echo.

DEATH OF THE REV. T. W. MARSH.

Liverpool, August 15th, 1856.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—Allow me to make known, through the medium of your paper, the sad bereavement which the Church in Canada has sustained by the melancholy death of one of its most faithful and beloved ministers, the Rev. T. W. Marsh of Norval. Having been kindly permitted by the Lord Bishop of Toronto to spend a few months with some relatives in England for the recruiting of his strength, he embarked with Mrs. Marsh on board the Montreal and Liverpool Ocean Steamship *Canadian*, which left Quebec on Saturday, the 2nd inst. Nothing in particular occurred on board to distinguish the passage from any other up to the following Saturday, when a most deplorable mistake was committed by our bedroom steward, which resulted in the death of our much esteemed brother. Having been a fellow-passenger of his, I am fully acquainted with the sad details of the accident, a summary of which I will subjoin, as they will doubtless be read with the most painful interest by Church people in Canada. A little before 8 o'clock on the morning referred to, Mr. Marsh, being then in his state-room, asked the steward if there was any Plantagenet water on board; the latter replied that he did not think there was: he then asked the steward if there were any mineral water on board, who replied that there was. Mr. Marsh then requested him to go and procure him some. The steward presently returned with a basin of about a quart in measure, full of some fluid, which he placed into Mr. Marsh's hands observing that he might keep the basin in the washstand. Mr. Marsh thereupon drank a mouthful of it, but finding it burned his mouth and throat so severely, he at once withdrew the basin from his lips, and exclaimed, "You have half killed me." It would appear, however, that the steward had by this time left and accordingly did not hear the remark. Mr. Marsh then went on deck, and finding himself getting very ill, he told the steward that the water which he had given him had not agreed with him. The steward answered, "Did you drink it? I did not give it to you to drink, but to sprinkle the floor with." Alas! alas!—being totally ignorant of the use of Plantagenet or other mineral water, and having mistaken Mr. Marsh's object in applying to him for some, he had brought him a disinfecting fluid of a deadly poisonous nature—viz., a concentrated solution of chloride of lime, which was kept in a large jar on board for deodorizing purposes. The mistake was no sooner discovered than the doctor was applied to, who immediately sent for poor Mr. Marsh into his surgery, and by the administration of emetics and antidotes exerted his utmost skill to counteract the virulent properties of the fluid. It would seem, however, that too much of the poison had been absorbed into the system before any remedy was applied, and that the fatal work had been already done; for although at intervals he experienced some relief, he endured the greatest sufferings, and gradually grew weaker until the following Tuesday evening, when he expired at nine o'clock.

As there is some discrepancy between the foregoing account and the evidence given by the steward at a Coroner's Inquest, which was held on the body when we arrived in port, I may mention that I have given Mr. Marsh's own account of the conversation which took place between himself and the steward upon his first applying to him for Plantagenet water.

It is needless to describe the universal gloom which the dreadful event cast upon all on board,