

and fervent were the prayers that it might long flourish and prosper as the handmaid of the Church, and as a powerful instrumentality for sending the gospel by an authorized ministry to evangelize the heathen Indians of this continent, and to build up in the faith those of our fellow-churchmen who had left the Christian shores of Great Britain, and who were to be sought out in the wild settlements of the country where they were scattered as sheep not having a shepherd. For more than a quarter of a century has it been engaged in prosecuting this holy work, and with what success let multiplied churches and congregations, and settled ministers, and parsonage-houses, and the regular ministrations of the Church through the length and breadth of the land bear witness. What, within the last fifteen or twenty years, was both in a natural and a spiritual sense a wilderness, has undergone a wonderful transformation. The labourers who have gone forth to till the neglected soil have been, in many instances, abundantly blessed, and the prediction of Isaiah has been verified—"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose."

The Society under whose auspices these changes have been accomplished is now passing away—a recent Act of Parliament has made provision for its incorporation with the Synod or great representative body of the Church in this Diocese, and we are now assembled for the last time to hold an anniversary meeting of the much undervalued and much misrepresented Church Society. We regret parting with an old friend and we always feel sad at the performance for the last time of any act to which we have been accustomed. Hence our feelings of regret upon the present occasion. We must not, however, regard the change as if we were celebrating the funeral obsequies of the Church Society, but rather as solemnizing its nuptial rites; for we henceforth behold the Church Society and the Synod united in intimate and indissoluble bonds. We anticipate a new and vigorous career for the various holy objects which they will seek to accomplish—we are assured of a more hearty and cordial co-operation on the part of the Laity—we recognize in the simplified machinery a wise economy of time and money, and we confidently trust that the resources of the Church for each one of its great and important objects will be henceforth vastly multiplied and increased. The cause of missions—the support of the widows and orphans of the Clergy—the aiding in the erection of churches—the circulation of the Holy Scriptures and the book of Common Prayer—the fostering of Sunday-schools—the education of young men for the ministry—these various objects will all be prosecuted by Committees of Synod appointed for the purpose, and thus every individual of every congregation in the whole Diocese will have through his representative a voice and an active part in administering its missionary and charitable funds. Let then the misgivings, the suspicion and the distrust of the past be forgotten; let all minor differences sink into the shade, and let the friends and members of the Church unite with one heart, and one hand, and one purse to help forward the mighty work of sending the Gospel through the Church to the poor wild Indian, and to the destitute settlers—to those on whom the light of the Gospel hath not yet shone and to those among whom it is well nigh extinguished. The report of the collections throughout the various parishes and missions is very imperfect—the task of collecting having been much impeded, especially in country parts, by the storms and snow-drifts that have prevailed during the last six weeks. As far as they have been received, they compare on the whole favorably with the last year, but the Committee are not in a position to pronounce definitely upon their success until they receive further information.

The number of missions deriving assistance from this district branch of the Church Society is now eight, and by a resolution adopted this day by the Managing Committee, four more are recommended to be established without delay. Each of the missions of Maryborough and Peel, Rockwood, and Mount Forest, is to be divided into two; and the township of Minto is to be established as a separate mission. It is cheering to see that the Church is animated by such an active missionary spirit, and that while the country is advancing in every kind of material prosperity—in its agriculture, its commerce, its railway communication—its spiritual and moral improvement is not to be overlooked; that Christian people are to be invited and urged to embark in larger missionary undertakings and to