

our beloved Church. Her sublime services, her holy Sacraments, her persuasive calls and lively ministrations, will be open to all the inhabitants of the Diocese, and a devoted Clergy, infinitely superior to all armies and navies and police establishments, will be present to promote peace and tranquility, and every good that can sanctify us in this life, and prepare us for that which is to come. And now, my brethren, as you value your own souls, so ought you to value the souls of your fellow subjects. As you love your Saviour, so ought you to love the salvation of all for whom that Saviour died. As you rejoice in the happy and exalted privileges of the Church communion, so ought you to rejoice in extending it to others, to the poorest individual and the humblest log-hut in the wilderness. Alas! my brethren, we are continually hearing of the rights of man,—of political privileges which are only temporal,—but what human rights are to be compared to those chartered by the Lord and Saviour of the world himself,—the rights to the waters of baptism, and the bread of life,—the rights to the teaching of the everlasting Gospel, and unless forfeited by our own unworthiness, to the communion of the body and blood of Christ? These are the rights the glorious rights, which our Church is commissioned to transfer on believers, and it is to strengthen her hands, to extend these our ministrations, and to bring all our brethren in this colony within her prevailing influence, that this Society has been instituted; and surely the pureness of its object will bring on it a blessing from above, and a strength not our own. The work it contemplates may appear great and beyond our power, and it certainly is so, were we to trust to the arm of flesh. But let us not fear for God is with us. Let us remember the 12 poor fishermen going forth to evangelise the world,—and shall we shrink, under the same divine guidance, from the comparatively easy task of making our Church known in all her power and loveliness to the inhabitants of this Diocese, present and to come, in the holiness of her descent, in the completeness of her ministry, in the beauty of her services, and the salutary strength of her discipline.

Hasten, O Lord the happy time when every Township in this Diocese shall possess at least two Churches, served by two faithful and zealous Clergymen! Such a blessed consummation I dare not, at my advanced period of life, hope to behold; yet I firmly believe in its full accomplishment, through the vigorous exertions of this Society, at no distant period; and I pray that I may be permitted, through the divine blessing, to see the good work not merely commencing, but in successful operation. Then might I raise the glorious song of Simeon, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation!"

In thus endeavouring to awaken your zeal and charity in behalf of that portion of the holy Catholic and Apostolic Church committed to my charge, I deem it right to state explicitly that I am moved by no desire to interfere in the slightest degree with any of the religious communities that surround us. They are undoubtedly at liberty to follow their own plans and objects as they think fit, and my earnest and only wish in this letter is, to stir you up, my brethren to supply the wants of our own communion and thereby to fulfil a duty implied in the first principles of the Christian Church.

And what a source of happy reflection will it be to you, in all future time, not only while you remain here but through all eternity, that you have done your part to establish on a lasting footing our national Church in this extensive Diocese,—a Church built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone,—a Church which retains traces of the Apostolic times, more pure and numerous than any other branch of the Church Catholic in the world,—a Church in doctrine pure, in morals incorrupt, in precept simple, in sanction strong,—whose rites and services are free from superstition, and yet inspire the most intense devotion, and warm the heart while they enlighten the understanding!

What felicity to look down the vista of coming ages and to see this holy Church enlarging her tent, stretching forth the curtains of her habitation, lengthening her cords and strengthening her stakes, and breaking forth on the right hand and on the left over the whole Diocese, and drawing within her fond embrace, as an affectionate mother, every one of its inhabitants, giving them one faith, one heart, and one soul, and knitting them together as members of Christ, her blessed and adorable head!

JOHN TORONTO.

Canada Toronto, 30th May, 1842.