

BICENTENARY

OF THE

Foundation of the S. P. C. K.

It was on March 8th, 1608, that the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge was founded; and ever since, there has been constant prayer, perpetual action, and a regular gathering of funds by the Society with a view to promoting Christian Knowledge not merely in England, but also throughout the whole world.

There is not a Diocese in any country that has not received material assistance from the S. P. C. K.; and we especially, besides receiving six Exhibitions of £30 a year each to help Canadian-born Theological Students at Bishop's College, Lennoxville, as well as large sums towards our Endowments, are also frequently receiving considerable grants of money towards building new Churches, not to mention numerous grants of Books for use in Church, or for Sunday School Libraries. Indeed a Return lately received by the Bishop from England, shews that during the last sixty years, we in the Diocese of Quebec have had from the S.P.C.K. help towards the building of about a hundred Churches and have received, towards Church building and College endowments together, no less than \$25,000!

Moreover the rapid growth and development of the work of the Church of England all over the world during the last fifty or sixty years, is naturally causing the calls for grants to reach the Secretary and Committee of the Society in an ever increasing ratio. And yet such is the world's forgetfulness of the benefactions which are constantly being poured forth by the venerable Society, that, according to its Report just issued, the subscriptions and legacies for the year 1896-97 were each less than the subscriptions and legacies for the year 1836-37, when our Gracious Queen was about to commence her long and prosperous reign.

Indeed the grants made last year towards the extension of Church work at home and abroad amounted to \$150,000, and were \$15,000 in excess of the Society's Receipts!

If therefore we are grateful for all the benefits that we have received, and if we are glad to know that large sums are being judiciously distributed, so as to call forth the efforts of Church people everywhere, there is certainly now a great and wide opportunity, in which we may all shew our gratitude practically.

This we can do by all keeping the Society's Bicentenary, and therefore we most earnestly trust that the wonderful and long-continued labours of this great Missionary Society will be fully proclaimed and explained on Sunday, March 6th or 13th, in every Church in the Diocese, and that all our Congregations will give liberally to the full extent of their power.

And, just as there will be, on the morning of Tuesday, March 8th, a special Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Cathedral, with a Sermon by the Archbishop of Canterbury, and also a Public Meeting in London later in the day, so also our Bishop is arranging for special Thanksgiving Services here in Quebec,—one to consist of the Holy Communion and Sermor at the Cathedral at 11 a.m., and the other, Evensong and Sermon at St. Matthew's Church. The Sermons at both these Services will be preached by the Reverend G. W. Dumbell, D.D., Rector of Sherbrooke. It is earnestly hoped that all the City Clergy and all the Clergy, whose parishes are near enough to Quebec to enable them to do so, will encourage their people and will themselves come and assist at one or both of these Services. "There will be room on that day for many thoughts: praise and penitence, thanksgiving and humility, self-reproach and fresh resolutions. But one thought will abide: 'There remaineth yet much land to be possessed;' 'Speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward.' 'Lo! I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.'"