

1883

JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH, by the grace of God, and appointment of the Holy See, Archbishop of Toronto.

To the Reverend Clergy, Religious Communities and Beloved People of the Laity, Health and Benediction in Our Lord.

Under the strongest impression of duty and charity, and following the desires of His Holiness the Pope, we ordered last year a voluntary collection to be taken up in all the Churches of the Archdiocese, on the Second Sunday of Lent, in aid of the Foreign Missions, especially in pagan countries, and we wish this year to renew the same request. The Society of the Propagation of the Faith, having its centre in France, which gave it birth, affords one of the strongest examples of the universality of our Church in the present age. This Society, raised up by providence to spread the Gospel in foreign lands, collected last year at one cent a week from each member, over 6,900,000 francs, about a million, three hundred and eighty thousand dollars, including an increase, on account of the Jubilee alms of \$177,200. This sum, though large, is not equal to the one-tenth of the money expended on foreign missions by the Protestant sects. Bibles and tracts are distributed by the millions by them. But the success of these efforts, according to the acknowledgment of their own newspapers, is minimum, whilst the outlay is maximum. The Holy Spirit is wanting to enterprises, undertaken for the conversion of the pagans and the spread of the true gospel outside of the true Church, founded by Christ. It will be interesting to know the localities where the funds for the propagation of the faith are collected and where they are dispersed. In Europe about \$1,351,000 were subscribed. France supplying about three-fourths of the sum collected throughout the whole world. This country is destined to see better days. Ireland, in her poverty, gave \$27,525, England and Scotland \$43,767, North America \$28,000, South America \$10,000. It is quite certain that, with more zeal, some countries could do more. We acknowledge that there is a difficulty in collecting one cent a week from each member of the society, and hence we have adopted the plan of taking up a collection once a year. Asia contributed \$2,400, Africa \$6,100, Oceania \$2,700.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Thirty-four Bishops and Vicars Apostolic with nine Religious Orders, and their branches, receive in Europe donations from the Society of the Propagation of the Faith. The missions in the greatest need are, Norway, Sweden, Lapland, Denmark, Bulgaria, Wallachia, Scotland, Greece, and Turkey in Europe. These missions received last year \$134,683.

In Asia donations were given to 71 Bishops and Vicars Apostolic and 17 Religious Orders.

In China and the neighbouring kingdoms there are 36 Bishops and Vicars Apostolic with seventeen Religious Orders, to whose care our Holy Father has confided that empire and the adjacent kingdoms. Donations have been supplied to these in proportion to their wants, as the Catholics there are all very poor and able to contribute but very little towards the support of the Church. Still the Bishops have their seminaries, orphan asylums and schools. There are many native priests amongst the clergy. In those countries there are 24 Vicar-Apostolic Bishops, with priests, religious communities, colleges and orphanages in the British possessions of Asia. In Africa there are 17 Bishops, Vicars-Apostolic, priests, and 19 branches of Religious Orders. Vast