

ways of Christen-
at exception to the
condemnation it
What does our
and Rural Deans

We never hear
the subject. The
tape proceedings
ies their attention.
ceives from this
encouragement or
y, therefore, very
urch suffer, pro-

OF THE HURON ASSOCIATION.

! the members of
s' Association:

at beg to report as

t as the association
results are not to
iod as the present,
their conviction, as
t to the Synod,
diocese) a stronger
very generally felt,
degree than form-
ception of their
ivine Head in this

HELP.

sable to incur the
re trouble incident-
minous returns as
figures collected for
h the former ones,
mittee have already

resented 111 parish-
ers were more or
year 114 clergy-
have replied to the
sixty-nine have lay
eaders reported last

not then licensed
the total lay read-
rains 103 in 1891.
dents there were,
111 parishes, 144;
orting in 1892, the
its to number 158.
31 were 80; this

also to procure a
rs, who were report-
47; but the papers
several of the clergy
limit all replies to
y attempt at a com-

ave also in other
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less easily defined
he foregoing. The
that the Chapters
drew in the diocese
ted last year.

d by their inquiries,
f growth and pro-
l encouraging.

call the attention
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ances will allow of
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on the occasion referred to, abridged from one adopted in the diocese of Toronto, and appearing to answer all the requirements of the simple object for which it had been prepared. For information and use in other parishes the form of service is attached to this report.

The present diocesan Canon relating to lay readers is found hardly to cover either the needs of the Church or the ordinary practice which has sprung up in regard to the utilization of lay help in contiguous parishes. A committee of the synod will consider what amendments may be introduced into the Canon to make it more serviceable.

It is certainly desirable that the scope of a lay reader's duties should be well defined, so that on the one hand no loss should be sustained by the Church through lack of lawful and necessary lay services, while on the other hand an orderly restraint should be imposed on intrusion and irregularity; no radical changes in the Canon, it is believed, are needed to accomplish these ends.

SUNDAY SCHOOL WORKERS.

It is with great satisfaction the committee notice some increase in the numbers of Sunday school superintendents and Bible class teachers. They hope that the male Sunday school teachers have increased in the same proportion. The question, what becomes of our young men and boys? is one frequently propounded. Doubtless the changes of locality to which they are subject through the necessities of business life, if they do not lessen the aggregate number in particular parishes, occasion an unsettlement very unfavourable to close church relations or to pastoral oversight. The adoption of a systematic plan of certificated membership transferrable by notice from one parish to another, might, in some cases, greatly assist a faithful pastor and prevent a young brother from drifting away from his Church altogether.

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. ANDREW.

From notes appended to the late returns the committee are glad to know that, while the Chapters of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew are slightly more numerous than they were last year, several of them are doing a good work and showing signs of a vigorous existence. While the actual qualifications for membership are comprised in two very simple rules, the organization appears to supply in many cases the material for other practical purposes. The committee are aware that in small congregations a society of this kind is hard to form and apt to languish when formed. But they would rejoice to see a Chapter of the Brotherhood a recognized agency for good in every populous parish. Especially may it be made subservient to the work last alluded to in the preceding paragraph of this report.

OTHER PAROCHIAL SOCIETIES.

The committee has no reason to suppose that any great change has taken place in the number of parochial societies which, according to local wants and circumstances, are to be found in most parishes. The association being one of male workers only, has not taken cognizance of organizations including or conducted by women. The association too, it is to be remembered, is strictly Anglican and diocesan in its character, and therefore necessarily confines itself within Church lines. And welcoming and honoring as it does all rightly directed indications of Christian activity, its own peculiar duty is to concentrate the energies of its members on work for and through that branch of the Church of Christ to which it is their privilege and happiness to belong.

But the committee cannot sympathise with some who decline the assistance of societies altogether. If properly constituted they are or should be simply so many agencies or weapons of the Church herself. Association in any godly enterprise is but the concrete application, in a practical shape, of that "fellowship" which ranks in the apostolic record with "the breaking of bread" and "the prayers." Faith, if ever so holy, without works, is, we are told, but a dead thing, and if we give to works the most natural interpretation, we shall have a very strong justification for any and every righteous form and method for furthering the glory of God and the good of man.

It is true that organization into chapters, societies or committees will not save a church or con-

gregation that lacks a clear apprehension of the need of Christ dwelling in the soul, and has not the advancement of His kingdom for its object. But when under wise and thoughtful pastoral encouragement and oversight, the constraining influence of divine love impels to associated work in any direction, who can doubt that congregation, parish, and the world are blessed by it.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The committee have had considerable correspondence with lay workers' associations in Great Britain, one of which exists in nearly every English diocese.

The information supplied by this means possesses much interest, but in order not unduly to lengthen this report it is proposed to compile a synopsis of the accounts given in documents received and the last edition of the Church Year Book, and print it as an appendix.

"Laymen to the front" is evidently the call all along the line among Anglican Churchmen in the mother land, and the word is echoed back from her distant colonies. At the same time there is everywhere evidence of the conservative spirit and wise supervision which is so pre-eminently characteristic of the Anglican system of Church government.

THE CONVENTIONS.

The association may justly claim, your committee think, to have done a good work, if only bringing about the conventions of which the second is now in progress. On no occasion, your committee believe, had any such event occurred in this diocese previous to the convention held in St. Thomas a year ago. In every sense that meeting was successful and delightful, and all who attended appeared to go home cheered and stimulated by it. The abounding hospitality of the St. Thomas congregations, the pleasant social intercourse, and the valuable discussions of able papers and addresses made the occasion a memorable one in our diocesan history. Nor will the present convention, your committee predicts, be less worthy of remembrance or less happy in its associations. Recognising with pleasure the recent rectorial appointment to St. James', Stratford, the committee desire here to record their sense of the loving and genial spirit in which, by the late revered pastor of that parish, the original invitation to come this year to Stratford was conveyed to them. To the terms of that invitation special reference was made in the committees' report to the synod in June last. Nor can the committee avoid mentioning the very agreeable relations that have existed in connection with their work and the holding of the conventions, between the association and the synod committee on Sunday schools. That committee has of late years put a new face altogether on Sunday school work in the diocese of Huron. The selection of topics for the deliberation of the two conventions and the arrangements preliminary to their assembling, could only have been accomplished by the cordial co-operation of the chairman and secretary of the S.S. committee with the officers of the association. By this friendly alliance of the two bodies, working as they are in a worthy cause, a very wide area of the Church work is covered, and all engaged in it are made to feel that, in this portion of Christ's vineyard, the labourers are as one.

OBITUARY.

The committee sorrowfully record the death since the last annual meeting of Mr. Edward A. Goodeve, the representative of the rural deanery of Bruce on the committee. Our departed friend and brother has left behind him the example of a Christian life ever ready to devote itself to the cause of the Master and the service of His Church.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

In conclusion, the committee remind those they have the privilege of addressing that the association is a purely voluntary organization for mutual counsel and encouragement; for promoting intercourse between co-workers in a common field of labour in which the methods employed may be as varied as the abilities of those called to apply them. The question, how can the spiritual needs of the great diocese of Huron be supplied and its demands overtaken, is ever present to the minds of all who are duly concerned for the spread of the

truth and the salvation of souls within its borders. The supply of clergy is clearly inadequate to the wants of the diocese. A large number of the parochial clergy have more work to do than they can effectually accomplish, and the ground is not covered yet. Many could discharge their own proper and particular functions more satisfactorily if they had the measure of relief lay help can supply.

In one word, lay help is a necessity—lay help, that is to say, which comes from a sense of duty, a humble trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an earnest zeal for the Lord's service, and all accompanied by the preparation due to the sacred character of the work to be done.

Signed on behalf of the committee of management,

A. H. DYMOND, Chairman.

Stratford, Oct. 11th, 1892.

REVIEWS.

SIXTH ANNUAL CALENDAR of the Toronto Conservatory of Music, 1892-93.

The Calendar, like the Conservatory, is extending and improving year by year. The Staff and Departments of Instruction are of the highest character, and those who are anxious to receive a thorough musical training, may have their wishes attained at little cost. By the affiliation with Trinity University the musical degrees can be secured. Mr. E. Fisher, the Musical Director, has proved himself to be a capital man for his post, and is everywhere recognized as a master in the musical world. The idea of a Conservatory as a theoretical and practical school is fully given effect to in Toronto, and must gradually issue in a pure musical taste.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH. By George Hodges, D.D.; pp. 95. Price 25c. New York: Thomas Whittaker; Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison.

Dr. Hodges is a telling writer, and is always up in the subject on which he writes. Here he elucidates five topics by as many lectures—the doctrine, ministry, discipline, worship, and sacraments of the Church. We can remember when Scripture and antiquity would have been laid out in full in such lectures as these. The plan usually adopted now is to give a calm statement of the Church's teaching, ward off all erroneous notions upon her view of what she herself teaches, and show the reasonableness of what we believe and practise. This is a very convenient treatise to put into a waverer's hand, but should first be mastered by Church people themselves. It is short and pointed.

THE PREACHER'S SCRAPBOOK; a collection of 424 Short Stories and Pithy Sayings for the use of busy clergy and teachers, by Rev. F. A. G. Eichbaum, M.A.; pp. 244. Price \$1.00. Milwaukee, Wis.: The Young Churchman Co.; Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison.

The tone of these sayings and anecdotes is most excellent, and truly catholic. We probably, as preachers, make too little use of a good pointed story to carry home our message from the pulpit; we are afraid of its detracting from the force and truth of our words, and yet how frequently did our Lord enforce His teachings by means of a parable! If He esteemed this form of appeal to men's hearts to be both legitimate and valuable, we cannot do wrong in following His example. Our stories cannot have the same wealth of spiritual meaning, but a tale well delivered will pierce deeply and be a possession for years. Mr. Eichbaum's collection runs entirely upon Church lines, and there is not one here but may be used with profit. We are particularly pleased with the set of Indexes and References at the end of the volume; they have a business-like air about them, and immensely enhance the value of the work. The volume is printed and finished in a very agreeable style, forming a very pleasant object on one's study table.

AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW. By Julia A. Sabine; pp. 252. Price \$1.25. New York: Thomas Whittaker; Toronto: Rowsell & Hutchison.

The plot of this story is very simple, and there is no villain in it. The heroine is a young lady of good common sense and right feeling: the foil to her is a lady, who, by marriage, was raised