

ENGLAND.

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The anniversary meeting of this association was held on Tuesday morning at Exeter Hall, the Earl of Chichester presiding. Upon the platform were Earl Waldegrave, the Bishop of Winchester, Bishop Carr, Sir R. H. Inglis, his Excellency Chevalier Bunsen, General Sir P. Matland, G.C.B., General M'Innes, Chevalier Raikes, the Hon. S. R. Duncan, Hon. Capt. Maude, R.N., Colonel Sir D. Macworth, Hon. and Rev. J. D. Pelham, Lord H. Cholmondeley, the Bishop designate of Sierra Leone, the Rev. Sir G. L. Glyn, and the Hon. A. Kinnard. The chief points of the report which was read to the meeting related to the very great success which had crowned the labours of the committee at home and the missionaries abroad during the past year. At home the largest income ever received by the society had been collected, and this had enabled the committee to apply the surplus to the extension of the missions and to the commencement of a new building for the Missionaries' Children's Home, at Sierra Leone the work was prospering. The Rev. O. E. Vidal had been appointed to the bishopric, and twelve native candidates were waiting for ordination. The society's labours had been productive of the most satisfactory results in the Yoruba country, in the Mediterranean, Bombay and Western India, New Zealand, Calcutta, and Northern India and North-West America. The income for the year had been— from the general fund, £104,858 12s. 5d.; special fund, £1,910 14s. 11d.; China mission, £926 18s. 6d.; local funds raised in India, £10,875 4s. 4d.; giving a total of £118,755 10s. 2d., showing an increase of £9,421 11s. 7d. over the year preceeding, and leaving a surplus over expenditure and liabilities (with the exception of £2,000 for bills of the year preceeding) £14,445 6s. 6d. The missions now consisted of 90 English clergymen, 51 foreign clergymen, and 21 native clergymen—in all 192. Native and country catechists, 1,630; attendants on worship at the whole of the stations, 107,000; number of communicants, 15,302; scholars in schools, 40,000; and during the year there had been 4,509 baptisms announced, although the returns were not complete. The report was unanimously adopted by the meeting (which was very crowded), and a vote of thanks to the chairman terminated the proceedings.

A long report of the proceedings against the Rev. J. E. Gladstone, in the Arches Court, is given in the *English Churchman*. This gentleman's self-conceit and Puritan arrogance, are more conspicuous than ever. He evidently considers that Laws, Bishops, and Judges, are right or wrong only so far as they appear to be so to him, and to his infallible "conscience," consequently, though he holds office in the Church, on certain definite terms, he is free to say and do what he likes—neither more nor less. We have rarely seen a more remarkable specimen of a "Protestant Pope," and we opine that all the most sensible and practical men of the "Evangelical" party see clearly that neither the Church, nor any other Society, could be carried on if there were many Mr. Gladstones among its members.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH UNION OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

In meeting the members and friends of this Association on this the second occasion of their assembling, and in presenting their second Annual Report, your Committee feel that they have some reason to congratulate them on the success which has hitherto marked the career of the Church Union. Called into active operation by the dangers which menaced that portion of the slender temporalities of our Church which has hitherto derived from the State, your Society in its very infancy had to encounter difficulties of no small magnitude, and to grapple with antagonists who had well organized their system of attack, and who were flushed with that success and prospect of ultimate triumph which the utter absence of all local opposition gave them reason to expect. The voice of the political demagogue—of the foes to British Connexion—of the democrat—of the socialist and of the infidel were on every side loudly raised demanding the total confiscation of those Clergy Reserves, in which every Christian denomination has an interest in furtherance of religion, and their transfer from such sacred purposes to others of a secular and worldly nature. In these efforts too they were apparently sustained by a majority of the Legislative Assembly, and this double expression of hostility to the State support of religion in this Province was supported by an equally hostile feeling on the part of the then Ministers of the Crown in England. From the latter an intimation had been received that the Imperial Parliament would be called upon to legislate on the question of the Clergy Reserves in this hostile spirit, and in fact so formidable was the strength which our enemies possessed, that many, sincerely desirous to perpetuate the Reserves to religious uses, considered that any struggle for their retention was hopeless, whilst the most sanguine and energetic entered upon the contest with many misgivings as to the ultimate result.

The quiescence of the friends of religion and good order was misunderstood. It was not a hopeless and unconditional abandonment of their rights,—it was not approbation of the objects which mistaken and ungodly men aimed to accomplish by the spoliation of the temporalities of religion, but it was a spirit of forbearance which made them anxious to keep from the field of religious strife, its heart burnings and its rancours, so long as it was possible to do so without a surrender of their rights or a struggle for their maintenance; but when continued inaction would have been culpable, if not criminal on their part—when the time came that it was evident they must either yield them up to the spoiler or maintain them like men there was no hesitation as to the course, and a state of listless quiescence was at once turned into that of energetic action.

Your Committee refer with pleasure to the course of events which so rapidly followed the publication of the first address of this Union, and the excellent and well-timed proceedings of the Clergy and Laity assembled in Toronto, on the invitation of our Venerable Bishop, to deliberate upon the condition and prospects of our Church. Your committee also witnessed with pleasure the success which followed the first annual meeting of this Society immediately after, and they have now reason to know that the spirit which was then evoked and the feelings which were thereby nourished and disseminated through the Province, bore rapid and welcome fruits. It was natural to suppose that these symptoms of resistance on the part of the friends of religious support would stimulate its foes to increased and more active exertion. And such was the case.—In this city, in particular, the plan of a fresh campaign and renewed aggression was matured; and when, emboldened by long continued impunity, the citizens of Toronto were invited to sanction their sacrilegious

project, its supporters were fearlessly met upon their own battle ground, and, on two occasions following in rapid succession, they encountered defeats so signal that they must long be remembered by them.

The spirit thus evinced in Toronto was reflected in other portions of the country. Branches of this Society were early established in many and remote localities. The advantages of unity and organization were soon apparent; and numerous petitions from the country were presented to the Legislature against the secularization of the Reserves. So strong, so general, and so simultaneous did this expression of feeling appear, that the very branch of the Legislature which, twelve months before, had passed resolutions of a nature most hostile to the maintenance of the Reserves to religious uses, paused in its career, and soon gave indications of a more favourable feeling. This was no doubt gratifying—but a still more gratifying fact was, that in many parts of the country powerful aid was rendered to us in the struggle on which we had entered by the zealous co-operation of numerous members of other Christian denominations, who made common cause with us; thus proving that however much they may differ from us on points of religious doctrine or discipline, there is one feeling common to many,—and that is the imperative necessity of pecuniary endowments in aid of purposes of public worship and religious instruction.

But this success on our part did not deter its enemies from further efforts. In Parliament the attacks were renewed; but the question was evaded, and the subsequent disruption of the Provincial Ministry and the approaching general election, induced them to make the secularization of the Reserves and the abolition of the Rectories test questions on the hustings. To meet these efforts of the adversary, your committee were not idle. Various publications issued from them and were largely circulated through the country, and copied and commented on by the press; thus diffusing correct and useful information bearing on these questions and calculated to disabuse the public mind of the erroneous impressions made upon them previously. Several of the Branch Unions of the Society held meetings, and those at Kingston, Cobourg, and Bowmanville in particular were productive of much good.

As the period of the general election approached, your committee felt the necessity of some unequivocal declaration from this Society of the views as to the adjustment of this question which its members entertained, and which they believed would be approved of by the majority of the country. Thus influenced, they issued their "Address to the Laity of the United Church of England and Ireland and to the electors of Canada," in which the views of its members were thus expressed:—

"The paramount question now before the electors is, shall the slender remnant of our Church's temporalities be let to us in aid of the religious necessities of our people, or shall it be wrested from the sacred purposes for which it was intended, to be diverted to others of a purely secular nature? We have ever respected and maintained that which was intended to be, and has been called the final settlement of the Clergy Reserves made in 1840 and so far as the vested interest which our Church has acquired thereunder we shall continue to maintain them. But in doing this, the members of our Church fully recognize the principle so generally received in this province, and which by the very mixed constitution of its population has been forced upon all, namely, that no one religious denomination can consistently with the contentment of the people, possess peculiar privileges denied to others, or any supremacy than that which its greater purity or doctrine, or practice, and of practice, and the holy and godlike lives of its teachers and its laity may confer upon it. Consistent with these views are the suggestions, which are generally, and we believe favourably received for the final settlement of this question. One is, that so far as the lands sold and appropriated, vested interests should be respected; but that as far as the unsold lands, that they should be divided amongst the various religious Christian denominations according to their numbers.—The other plan suggested is to make up from other sources, the deficiency or inequality, if any, in the shares of the various other religious denominations, so that their state aid should be equivalent in value in proportion to their number with that of the Church of England; and as a further consequence of either of these plans, that each religious denomination should receive a transfer of their shares, and have full power to hold them inalienably to religious or educational uses, as they may think proper. By either of these plans our vested rights would be respected, so would the religious scruples of our opponents; the complaints of an unjust preference to our Church would be at an end; each would be at liberty to do what they pleased with their own; all would be, as respects the state and each other, on terms of perfect equality; and religious animosities, if they henceforth exist at all, would be confined to those to whom the existence of religion itself, and the perusal of the Bible in our schools, as lately avowed, are the real grievances."

Such were the sentiments which your Committee promulgated, as entertained by this Union, and which they hoped would be cordially responded to by other Christian denominations. In that hope they were not mistaken. Those principles were favourably received by all moderate men, and when the elective privilege came to be exercised, they were confirmed on the hustings by the popular voice. Those members of the late Legislature who were most conspicuous in their determination to secularize the Reserves and abolish the Rectories, lost their election, and, despite the most powerful efforts of our antagonists, with all the influence and prestige of Government to support them in the contest, they were defeated; and your Committee believe that the majority of the electors of Upper Canada are now represented by a like majority of members favourable to the preservation of the Clergy Reserves to purposes of religious worship and public instruction.

Thus have our efforts been so far crowned with success; yet your Committee feel, that unaided by the sister Province, their labours must be less productive than otherwise they might. In that Province the vast majority of the population have looked upon us as aliens in race and language, and adverse in faith; but latterly better thoughts and kinder feelings have sprung up on both sides, giving every promise of a union not in name but in substance. In common, we believe, with many of their co-religionists of the British race that they have become aware that in these provinces they share and ought to share all the blessings of the British Constitution, and of real liberty, whether religious or political, as fully as we do, and that if they would preserve those blessings, and curb the wild designs of Red Republicanism and Socialism in its worst shape, they must make common cause with us, and maintain the principle that the religious instruction of the people is the only basis of natural prosperity and greatness. Against their religious tenets and teaching we do and trust we ever shall protest, but it is

gratifying to believe, as we do, that they are, as a body, as fully determined as we are to maintain the religious principle as the basis of all instruction. Hence there is every reason to hope that the sentiments which found favour at the hustings may be sustained in the Legislature at no distant day, and this hope is further strengthened by the happy change which has lately taken place in the Imperial Councils by the advent to power of the Earl of Derby and his truly Conservative adherents, and their cheering announcement as to their religious policy.

As a parting legacy of the outgoing Ministry, a bill was introduced early in the session to enable the Canadian demagogues to secularize the Reserves; and though this happy change in the ruling powers gave us better promise, your Committee were enabled to meet this threatened agitation at home by the transmission to our Most Gracious Sovereign, and to both branches of the Imperial Parliament, of petitions, with about ten thousand signatures annexed, against any secularization of the Reserves, and embodying the principles contained in our address to the electors; and should there be any renewal of the subject in the Provincial Parliament, your Committee are prepared to meet it in the same way.

Among the objects to which the attention of this Society was directed, was the promotion of measures to ensure the Synodical action of our Church, and the revival of Convocation. With this view communications have been opened with the Society established in England for the revival of Convocation, from whom much information has been obtained; and there is reason to hope that the attainment of this object is not far distant. Indeed, well might our Venerable Diocesan observe, as he did in his letter of 15th January, addressed to this Union—'Look at the unity of purpose and boldness of spirit which it has already engendered among our people—at the knowledge of strength which it has imparted, and which has been so nobly carried out by the Church Union (short as its life has yet been,) and tell me whether we are not warranted in believing that were the Church to meet annually in Synod, she would not only be able to defend her own just rights, but feel herself, with God's blessing, in a position to arrest the torrent of socialism and infidelity, which has made so frightful a progress among our secularly educated population during the last four years, as to threaten us with total anarchy, and the destruction of everything valuable in this splendid country.'

Upon the political success which has attended our infant labors, your Committee think they have much cause for congratulation. Wherever those Branches were sufficiently strong to act, they did so with effect; and we believe we are safe in stating that it was by the indefatigable exertions of our members that the representation of the County of Lanark was mainly won from the enemy. But the extensive efforts of its Branches and the progress of its pecuniary resources have not been commensurate with our political success. This is owing mainly to the fact, that too many have been taught to consider such Associations as this as mere temporary expedients for a temporary purpose. They have believed that this Church Union was solely intended to meet the pressure of the moment, and then close an ephemeral existence; and the action of the Society—the elections—and our success, followed so rapidly, that many have deemed its labours as ended at the hustings. But this is a false impression. True it is, the enemy have been repulsed on all sides, but they pant for a renewal of the conflict; and were a state of listlessness once more to characterize our body, a state of fierce activity would once more be displayed by them. We should also remember it is not by desultory or isolated efforts success can be secured to any cause, however good. There must be energy, vigilance, and perseverance, as well as union. By the latter organization is at our command on any sudden emergency, and feeling certain, as we do, that fresh aggressions may be expected, and fresh struggles demanded at our hands, they should not be allowed to come upon us unprepared, and your Committee concur in the opinion, which they find generally prevailing, that a more permanent character should be given to this Association.

It is far more the interest of the laity than of the Clergy that this should be so, as the property for which we contend is the property of the former, not of the latter, and if taken away it must largely increase the burden upon them for the maintenance of religion and purposes of public worship and instruction. Such being the case, your Committee would point out the necessity of giving the Society more permanency, and more equally diffusing the burden which, in point of expense has hitherto been mainly borne by a comparatively few individuals in Toronto. To do away with this anomaly your committee would suggest that where Branches of the Union are not formed, a small annual contribution might be made through the church wardens by such of the laity in each congregation as are friendly to the object of the union, in aid of its funds from other sources, and this aid would, from time to time, enable the committee to meet all ordinary calls upon them and to multiply the publication of original papers emanating from the Church Union, by which its objects could be better promoted, and the publication of various ones now ready is retarded for want of funds. Whilst on this subject your committee may state that the chief item of their expenditure during the past year was for printing the publications of the Society, of which about 20,000 were put into circulation; that expense amounted to near £60, and as the entire income of the Union from all sources received during the past year has not exceeded £135, when rent and other expenses were deducted therefrom, your committee were unable, and they state it with regret, to give that pecuniary remuneration to their Secretary which his disinterested and zealous services so fairly and justly entitle him to.

From this, however, one thing is evident, namely, that if with such limited organization and more limited funds so much has been achieved, should not the knowledge of this fact stimulate our friends to increased exertion and more extended pecuniary support. We know not the hour when fresh aggressions of our enemies may suddenly make demands upon us for both, and we should remember that the most effectual way to secure peace is ever to be prepared for war.

RESOLUTIONS.

- 1 That the Report now read be adopted.
- 2 That the popular response to the addresses from this Union during the past year, has proved that a majority of the population are favourable to Religious endowments in aid of purposes of public worship and religious instruction in Canada.
- 3 That the Clergy Reserves should be maintained as endowments for this sacred purpose, and the settlement of 1840 more fully carried out by giving each Christian denomination, in proportion to its numbers, a vested interest in the share to which they were entitled, leaving them at perfect liberty to apply that share in such manner as they may, respectively, deem most condu-

cive to those objects. And as to the Rectory question, if any question can at all be raised to our title thereto, it being one of law, should only be disposed of by the highest Judicial tribunals, in whose decision we must acquiesce, and to which it has been referred by the Provincial Parliament; a reference which is in perfect harmony with our feelings, as neither our Clergy nor our Laity would desire to perpetuate an interest wrongly acquired, or submit to any aggression upon their undoubted rights.

4 That the constitution of society in Canada is incompatible with the enjoyment of exclusive privileges by any one Christian denomination, and whilst we claim the same rights and privileges, immunities and protection which other Christian denominations enjoy, and which we fully accord to them, we hope for the same spirit in return, as the best evidence of the existence of that toleration and religious liberty for which some so loudly clamour but so utterly repudiate in practice.

5 That for the further and better promotion of these objects, it is desirable that the Church Union be placed upon a more permanent footing. The success which has hitherto crowned its efforts justifies us in expressing a hope that all its supporters of last year may renew their subscriptions as some have already done, that its branches may be extended, and that it may receive such additional support from the laity in general as the importance of its objects demands, and that in furtherance of these objects the several churchwardens be solicited to obtain from their respective congregations a small annual contribution in aid of its funds.

ENGLAND.

DOMESTIC.

DEMOLITION OF THE CRYSTAL PALACE.—Saturday being the first of May the removal of the Crystal Palace commenced. According to the deed of warrant the Commissioners undertook that the buildings and erections should be completely removed and carried away at the expense of the Commissioners on or before the first of June, 1852, and on or before that day the Commissioners are to restore the soil and surface of the Park to its form before any part was enclosed, ready for sowing with grass seeds, and to sow the same.

The price to be given for the Crystal Palace by the City speculators is, we understand, £70,000. Since the contract was entered into the purchasers have, it is said, been tempted by still higher offers than that for their bargain, but have refused; though by the sum proffered them they would realize a very handsome profit. It is intended to re-erect the Palace in the neighbourhood of London; and sites have been surveyed at Wimbledon, at Battersea, and at Sydenham; none has, however, been decided on.—*Daily News*.

At the Entomological Society's meeting the other day, the President exhibited specimens of the new cochineal insect, *Coccus Fabe*, which fed on the common bean, and yielded a most brilliant colour. Its cultivation on an extensive scale had commenced in the south of France, and was expected to supply a new opening of the industry of the peasantry.

THE NUMBER OF SHIPWRECKS LAST YEAR.—By a return to the House of Commons, it appears that last year 611 vessels belonging to the United Kingdom were wrecked. Of the number, 600 were sailing vessels, of 110,670-tonnage, and 11 steam vessels, the tonnage of which was 1,806.

The tide of emigration from the port of Hull is this season unprecedentedly large.

The Duke of Northumberland has contributed £10,000 to the Conservative fund to be used at the approaching elections.

The expedition against the Burmese goes on. A battle of three hours' duration had been fought between twenty-five hundred British troops and a body of native mountaineers. Mountaineers defeated.

The papers contain a sickening narrative of the sufferings and death by starvation of the missionary party in the Island of Picton, off Cape Horn. The mission was under the direction of Captain Gardner, a gentleman of some fortune, and near Maidment, a Catechist.

The electric telegraph is almost completed between Galway and Dublin, to connect with the submarine line to England.

IRELAND.

PRESENCE OF MIND IN THE HOUR OF DANGER.—William Cunnane, a quarryman, living in the neighbourhood of Killmallock, having been a short time since employed at pump-sinking, had just charged a hole in a shaft which he had sunk to a considerable depth, when partly wound up in the bucket, the rope and he were precipitated to the bottom. Notwithstanding the stunning effect of the unexpected fall, the poor man preserved sufficient presence of mind, not only to comprehend the intensity of the danger, but likewise to attempt averting it by groping towards the point at which the rock was charged. He fortunately succeeded in extinguishing the touch-paper before the fire was communicated to the powder. He thus saved his life, and has likewise recovered from the effects of the fall.—*Limerick Examiner*.

A discovery has been recently made of the most extensive and valuable salt mine in the North of Ireland. The rocks of salt appear to be of the most massive and inexhaustible description, and blast up in blocks of two and three tons. The mine is within one mile of Carrickfergus port, and also of the Belfast railway, and within eight miles of the town of Belfast.

Spirit of the Press.

The third of the "Consultative Meetings" which have been held in various parts of the country to further the revival of Diocesan Synods, took place last week at Gloucester. In many respects it exceeded in importance its predecessors at Derby and in London. The cause is now fairly telling on the public mind. We infer this from the amount both of support and of opposition which the last meeting called forth. The assembly was a large one, and it displayed peculiar elements of importance. It was not only attended, but addressed, by several of the resident local gentry, besides the local archdeacon, and clergymen of various schools. The attendance of such persons illustrates the progress of the cause, for the class to which they belong is that which the earnest promoters of these periodical assemblies more immediately desire to interest. The attention of the whole neighbourhood was arrested; and a strong and vehement opposition was characteristically got up by Lord Ducie—himself a Dissenter—who took this opportunity of issuing