

The Canadian Ecclesiastical Gazette;

OR

MONTHLY CHURCH REGISTER FOR THE DIOCESES OF QUEBEC, TORONTO, AND MONTREAL.

VOLUME IV.

TORONTO, FEBRUARY, 1857.

No. 2.

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Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

DIOCESE OF NOVA SCOTIA.

CHURCH SOCIETY.

A Public Meeting of the Society was held in the Temperance Hall, on the evening of Wednesday, the 15th October, 1856.

The Right Rev. the Lord Bishop took the chair at half-past seven o'clock.

There were present an unusually large number of clergymen and lay delegates from the country, more than sufficient to fill the diminished platform, while a numerous and highly respectable audience were in the Hall.

The Bishop invited the meeting to join in singing the 100th Psalm.

The Venble. the Archdeacon read Prayers.

The Right Rev. the President opened the Meeting with an introductory address relative to the affairs of the Church in the Diocese.

An abstract from the Report of the Executive Committee for the year 1856, was read.

W. Tupper, Esq., delegate from Aylesford, moved the first Resolution, which was seconded by Dr. Drumm, delegate from Bridgewater:

Resolved—That the Society upon this, its 18th Anniversary, gives most humble and hearty thanks to the Father of all mercies for His past blessings, and for the success which he has vouchsafed to our efforts, and expresses also its faithful reliance upon His support and protection for the continuance of our future exertions.

The Meeting then united in singing a hymn suitable for the occasion.

The second Resolution was moved by B. Smith, Esq., delegate from Rawdon, and seconded by the Rev. R. Arnold:

Resolved—That inasmuch as the Venble. the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has been compelled actually to commence the diminution of that generous aid to this Diocese (for which this Society will ever be grateful), the future maintenance of the clergy demands the immediate and serious attention of every Churchman in the Province.

A collection was then taken in aid of the funds of the Society.

The third Resolution was moved by Lieut. Col. Poyntz, seconded by the Rev. J. Forsythe.

Resolved—That the successful establishment of the fund for the Pensions of the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy, is a subject of sincere congratulation to the Society, and of thanks to those who so liberally contributed to its formation: at the same time the Society cannot but regard with much anxiety the condition of clergymen who may hereafter be incapacitated by age or infirmity for longer service in the Church.

The Meeting then sang the Doxology, and was dismissed with the Apostolical benediction.

The following is the Report of the Executive Committee for 1855:—

The return of the Society's anniversary enables the Executive Committee once more to render an account of the duties intrusted to their care.

They gladly embrace the opportunity of congratulating the Society upon the position which it maintains in the confidence and affection of the Churchmen of this Diocese, and they invite you to join in humble thanks to Divine Providence for the continued support of our efforts, and the blessings which have attended the labors of those who have willingly offered to the Lord.

The usual operations of the Society have been continued since our last meeting, and the responsibilities which it assumed have been faithfully discharged. But the uniformity of the expenditure allows of little variety in relating the proceedings of each year. The Committee cannot but regret the want of regular Reports from those local committees to whom grants are made for the support of Missionaries. Such Reports would enable the Committee to give the Society more interesting information relative to that object which it considers of most importance.

The Committee would suggest, that in order to make the Annual Report more valuable, each year's publication might contain a brief historical statistical account of some one Parish or Mission in the Diocese. This might be useful at any time for reference, and would gradually form a history of the Church in this Province.

The experience of the past year has convinced the Committee that the long dreaded time of self-support has actually commenced in our Church. We have long been fed from the bounty of the Society for the propagation of the Gospel. The warmest thanks and most lasting gratitude are due to that Venerable Society, from every Churchman in the Diocese. An affectionate remembrance of its fostering care should be handed down from generation to generation, among those who love the Church of our Fathers.

The frequent demands upon the bounty of that Society made by the increasing number of colonial Dioceses, prevent it from continuing its aid to us.

As those Clergymen who are now supported by the Government allowance or by the S. P. G., gradually rest from their labors, the serious question arises, how can their places be supplied. The Parent Society cannot continue the same support to any parish, and has given us notice that from many places its aid will be entirely withdrawn.

The villages and wealthier parishes may be able to support their rectors, but it is impossible to foresee how the living voice of the Church can be provided for the many poorer districts.

Our Divine Head will indeed feed his own flock, but Churchmen are not only collectively but individually responsible for the exertions they make to preserve for themselves and their children the ministrations of the church of which they are members, in its pure Apostolical form, with its Divine Sacraments and its appointed ordinances.

Our Diocesan Church Society appears to be the means appointed by Providence for effecting this object. It is well adapted for exciting and combining the efforts of all. It must become the channel through which the clergy of this Diocese will all at some future day receive part of their support, and through which all other funds for the maintenance of our church will flow. We must never feel satisfied until every member of the Church in the Province is enrolled as a contributor to its income.

It must as handmaid to the Church bind together as one body every parish and district, and be moreover, according to its original intention, a means of promoting among us a spirit of christian charity and emulation in good works for Christ's sake.

We acknowledge with gratitude the wisdom and foresight of the Ecclesiastical rulers, who in this and the sister Provinces originated the Diocesan Church Societies, in order that they might gradually relieve the Parent Societies in England, and assume the position which they have long filled in the connection with the church in this land.

Under the present circumstances of our Ecclesiastical affairs, this committee does not hesitate earnestly to recommend that all members of the Society increase their yearly subscriptions, and that active measures be taken in every parish to enlist more members in the common cause.

A brief notice of what the Society has already done may not be without service at the present time.

Up to the end of the year 1855, £309 16s. has been paid toward the erection and completion of P. rsonages.

In the building and enlargement of Churches there has been expended £1486 10s., and towards the support of Missionaries the Society has paid £4,212.

The total amount received by the Society during the year 1855, was £2163 8s. 7½d. of which £1,233 16s. 8½d. was for the following special purposes: