

## CHURCH SOCIETY, PERTH.

Meetings on behalf of this—the Missionary and Bible Society of the United Church of England and Ireland—in this Diocese, were held on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 14th and 16th inst., at St. Paul's Church, Lanark Village, St. John's, Balderson's Corners, and at White's School House, Bathurst, as also in the Court House, Perth. At each of these places, the attendance of the members of the Church was good, and great attention was paid to the remarks that fell from the different speakers, viz: the Rev. Dr. Lewis, of Brockville; Rev. Messrs Worrel, of Smith's Falls, Baxter, of Carlton Place; Lauder, of Ottawa; Forest, of Metcalf; and the Rector.

The great object kept in view was to urge the people to provide the means of maintaining a Resident Missionary at Lanark Village, who could itinerate in the adjoining townships, and extend his ministrations to the townships of Olden and Oso, thereby dividing the unwieldy parish of Perth, and providing for the performance of public worship with greater regularity amongst those attached to the Church of England, in these remote and destitute settlements. At all the meetings the project met with great favour; and some of those in attendance were desirous of at once commencing a subscription for the purpose; but as the majority of those present wished that opportunity should be afforded them of devising the ways and means of maintaining the Missionary among them—feeling that subscriptions entered into for the support of a clergyman, whilst the meetings were under the influence of excitement, could not be depended on—it was agreed that time should be given them for due discussion of the subject, and that the members of the United Church of England and Ireland, should, after the Easter Vestry Meetings, be called upon by a Committee appointed for that purpose, to give systematically for that object, of their means as God had prospered them; lest after the appointment of the missionary he should be compelled to resign for want of sufficient support.

## REPORT.

*Of the meeting of the Perth Parochial Branch of the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto, held Wednesday, 15th February.*

Before entering upon our report, we must premise that, though we have been quite unable to do justice to the force and eloquence of some remarks, or the perspicuity and elegance which characterised others, in the excellent addresses which were delivered upon the occasion.

The Rev. R. L. Stephenson, chairman, having opened the meeting with prayer, explained in few words the objects of the Society, which he said would be further enlarged upon by following speakers, and then proceeded to read a report of what had been done in the parish during the past year for the Church Society: the total amount of subscriptions remitted to the Society in Toronto, being £16 11s. 7½d. The Rev. gentleman explained that this small amount was owing to the congregation being burdened with the erection of a very expensive Church. Mr. S. also apologized for the non-production of the Report of the Secretary of the Building Committee, (that gentleman not having had time to prepare his report), and said that the report of the Ladies' Sewing Society should be read during the evening.

The Rev. J. B. Worrall, of Smith's Falls, then moved the first resolution as follows:

"That the Report now read, be adopted."

In moving this resolution, the Rev. gentleman observed, that Mr. Stephenson had been very right in denominating the Church Society, the Church of England Bible and Missionary Society in this

Diocese; for, that, though the Society embraced many objects, its great aim was to extend the Gospel and the Ministry of the word; that the Church of England was the great evangelizing agency of the world, her Missions were found successful in all quarters of the globe.—Take Europe, for example; and then turn to Ireland, —a country which was the centre of Protestant effort—and what could any denomination shew there, in comparison with the number of converts from Romanism, made by the Irish Church Mission. Perhaps some present might remember the grand Missionary scheme got up some years ago, by different denominations at home, sending a hundred Missionaries over to Ireland, on a Friday or Saturday, to spread over the Island and preach in different places on Sunday, and return on the Monday. And what was the result, when this scheme was carried into execution? Instead of evangelizing the nation, as some confidently hoped, it only produced great hardness of feeling, and numerous police rows, and was compelled to be abandoned. How differently the Church of England does her work. The men whom she sends forth study the Irish language in order to speak to the people in their own tongue; give up all hope of preferment, all visions of Deaneries, Arch-Deaneries, and Bishoprics, and devote themselves to a life-long labour in the work; and the result is commensurate with what we might expect from such zeal and devotion. Turn now to Africa. We find Bishop after Bishop succeeding each other on the fatal coast of Sierra Leone; we find a mission promising well in Liberia; at the Cape of Good Hope our missions are wide spread, and extensively useful; on the coast of Zanzibar a mission is established; and in answer to Dr. Livingstone's appeal, we find the most extensive missionary enterprise ever proposed, is to be sent forth by the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, carrying the knowledge of the Cross of Christ into the wilds of Central Africa, with Missionary Bishops to lead the way. Mr. W. then spoke of Asia, briefly touched on the missions sent forth by the Church of England to China, Japan, and especially in India, where, in certain districts, there is much promise for the Church, many natives having already entered holy orders, and where it is expected that a native Bishop may soon be ordained. Mr. W. then spoke of Canada; of the different missions to the Indians at Manitoulin Island, Owen Sound, among the Mohawks, on the Grand River, and in other localities. The Rev. gentleman then appealed to these statements to shew that the Church of England and Ireland was indeed the grand evangelizing power of the world, and then called on us to support the Church Society as our Canadian agent in this great missionary work; and animadverted on the very small collection made for that Society in this parish, severely but justly remarking on the fact that the erection of a large Church formed no sufficient excuse for the neglect of missionary objects.

The Rev. C. Forrest then rose to second the resolution, observing that being a stranger in the place, he was much struck by the signs of prosperity and improvement in the town of Perth, and proportionably shocked to hear of so small an amount being contributed by so prosperous a parish for the support of our Church Society; conceived that there must be a mistake somewhere; surely the amount raised must have been £160 11s. 7½d., not £16 11s. 7½d.; said that if this were not the case, he was surprised to hear it alleged as an excuse for our illiberality, that having enjoyed the Ministrations of the Church for thirty years free of charge through the Parent Society, we now find it difficult to give. Now when farms are cleared, roads made, and a pros-

perous people occupying the parish, we, forgetful of, and unthankful for, the blessings we have enjoyed, and the care which nourished us so many years, and forgetting too, our Saviour's command "Freely ye have received, freely give," close our ears to the demands made by our destitute brethren, and most unthankfully refuse to listen to the appeals of our Church Society. Mr. F. then dilated with great force and beauty of expression on the claims of the Church. A Church, which takes us up immediately on our birth, in baptism, and embraces us in her arms; then, as we grow older, provides for us the most beautiful and perfect form of instruction that could be designed; in youth calls upon us to renew our baptismal vows in the rite of Confirmation, then initiates us in the higher mysteries of our faith, in the participation of the emblems of that body broken, and blood shed for us, and finally, after accompanying us through all the scenes of life, leaves us not till that last hour when she solemnly commits earth to earth, and dust to dust, and with her parting blessing dismisses the spirit to the God who gave it. Mr. Forrest also forcibly called our attention to the great disproportion between what we give for our business, for our pleasures, for our sins, and what we devote to the service of God, reminded us that all these things were recorded against us; and that if we restrict our liberality to the small amount we can spare after the gratification of our own desires, we shall assuredly be called to account for it.

The Chairman then put this resolution to the meeting, and it was unanimously carried.

The Rev. E. M. BAKER rose to move the second resolution:

"That the comprehensive nature of the objects of the Church Society, and their great individual importance, entitle it to the cordial support of every member of the Church."

The Rev. gentleman observed that one great object of the Church Society was the assisting Divinity Students, and the maintenance of missionaries in destitute localities, and called the attention of the meeting to the fact that we are especially culpable in neglecting to give our aid for this object, inasmuch as this destitution is almost at our very doors. Mr. B. then went on to describe the destitute condition of the county of Renfrew, with no Missionary of the Church of England in an extent of 120 miles, embracing twenty-two townships. From five years' experience in that region, Mr. B. was able to speak with certainty on this point; while travelling Missionary, he performed duty in fourteen different townships, and in all this extensive district there was but one log church, which was erected during his residence amongst them; yet at 11 different stations so many church people were settled round, that on a week's notice, a congregation larger than in most village Churches would assemble for service; that they deserved assistance, for they had shewn their attachment to the Church by contributing £275 to the Bishopric Fund, at a time when they knew their Clergyman, for lack of support, would be obliged to leave them entirely destitute of the ministrations of the Church. The Reverend gentleman then powerfully appealed to the people of this parish, by a cordial support of the Church Society to enable her to extend her missions to the back country near us, endeavouring to awaken our sympathies in behalf of the miserable condition of so many souls, sunk in melancholy lethargy, deprived of those gospel privileges which for so many years we had enjoyed free of charge, of those, some of whom never even heard the name of Jesus, and might, if we did not exert ourselves to save them, go down to the grave in this fearful state of ignorance.