

due notice thereof, the cause may nevertheless be heard and determined, as if he were present, unless there shall appear to be sufficient cause for deferring proceedings to a future day.

7. Advocates shall be allowed on both sides, at the pleasure of the parties, provided they are Clergymen resident in the Diocese, or Laymen who have been communicants of some Parish of the same, for at least two years before the time of trial.

The Church Times.

HALIFAX, SATURDAY, NOV. 22, 1856.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

THE Eighteenth Annual Report of the Diocesan Church Society of Nova Scotia for 1855-6 has just been published. It is an interesting document, and points out, not only what are the requirements of the Church in this Diocese and the means in use to meet them—but also what is the duty of Churchmen in the altered circumstances in which they are now placed, from those in which the Church was fostered and supported from the time when it was first planted in this Province. We do no more here than give a summary of its information and suggestions, and refer our readers to the Report itself, which will be widely disseminated, for that careful consideration which is necessary in order to estimate the true position of the Church, which the Society is to all appearance so soon to take the responsibility of sustaining. Upon this head the Report is very explicit, and we quote the passages entire:

"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 the 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 the 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cannot continue the same support to any parish, and has given us notice that from many places its aid will be entirely withdrawn.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 true 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 the Diocese will 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 be as hand-mill 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 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."

The Report then goes on to state the amount expended up to the end of the year 1855 in the erection of Parsonage houses, in the building and enlargement of Churches, and towards the support of Missionaries. The total amount received by the Society during the year 1855 was £2,153 3 7½, of which £1,233 16 8½ was for special purposes. The amount thus left for the general purposes of the Society was greater by £56 16 1 than in any preceding year.

The sum of £575 has been paid toward the support of Missionaries during the year 1855, and within the same period the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel has contributed £512 10 in aid of the same object.

£217 17 3 has been added to the fund for the Endowment of Parishes for 1855—arising from the fourths of their contributions, interest on money already held, and a grant from the Society. The good effects of the endowment are already felt, and the greatest care is taken by the Endowment Committee that the investments are properly secured, and the interests applied to their legitimate object.

Grants towards the erection of new Churches in various small sums from £7 to £20 have been made, which in all cases have had the effect of stimulating the exertions of the people. The Report recommends the adoption by the Society of plans and models of Churches adapted for the wants of the country, and that the grants should be made upon the condition that one of them should be followed.

The Local Committees have not largely availed themselves of the privilege of receiving Books from the Depository of the S. P. C. K. during the past year. The fourths expended on this object amount as the Report informs us to only £87 11 8. The Books of the S. P. C. K. of all kinds, whether Tracts, or Books of Common Prayer, or Bibles and Testaments, &c., are the cheapest in the world, and they can be had by the Churchmen of the Diocese at Members' prices. If some part of the Fourth was appropriated to the purchase for gratuitous distribution of the large portion of valuable tracts that are lying in the Depository, we have no doubt that much good would be the result; nor need there be for this purpose an over carefulness in the selection. All the Tracts contain sound doctrine, good instruction, and are well calculated to lead the anxious enquirer into the way of Divine Truth. These books were largely imported for the use of the Diocese, and there is somewhat of an obligation in the several parishes to employ them according to the intention. We trust that ere this time next year the shelves will be emptied, and room made for another and newer importation.

The Report mentions the engagement of the services of a colporteur, a divinity student of King's College, who in a spirit of self-denial, took upon himself the task of distributing the Society's books during the summer vacation. That he was the right man there is abundant evidence to testify. In about six weeks he sold in Bibles, Testaments, Books of Common Prayer and other publications, to the amount of £116. We think it likely that this success will lead the Society to renew the experiment. The Bibles especially, of the Society, published at Oxford and Cambridge, are exquisite specimens of the typographic art, and quite superior, whether the correctness of the text, the beauty of the type, or the strength of the paper or binding is taken into account, to the kinds garnished with incongruous pictures, and flashy with marble and gilt, that are usually offered for sale from the United States, with which they will also vie in cheapness. A good Bible is a family blessing; and one that will last with common care, to be handed down to posterity, is a treasure, and such are the Bibles sold by the Colporteur, and that can be bought at the Depository in Halifax of the S. P. C. K. But this is a digression, altho' it may not be an inappropriate one. The Colporteur found a reward for all his labour in the following interesting incident, which we transcribe:—

"The following incident, which served to cheer the labors of the colporteur, will be read with interest, and will afford a bright example of Christian piety. May a blessing attend the 'Widow's mite':—

"Next day passed over twenty-four miles of dreary wilderness, with only one house—rocks, ice, &c. But a most interesting circumstance happened in the evening that richly paid me for my day of toil, like one of those sunny spots in life, to which we can ever look back with pleasure, and I am sure I will remember this as long as reason holds her seat. In the house in which I put up for the night was a poor old widow, living with her son. I was struck with the appearance of the woman when I first saw her, and when I came to talk with her, I found her quite intelligent, and, while the family were out about their evening work, she told me something of her life. She was the daughter of a soldier, and spent her early days in Halifax. She has since seen many changes. For the last three years she has not seen a Church Minister; but she is a religious woman, and devoted to the Church, whose ministrations she enjoyed in her earlier days. She said she thought within herself that she, poor and destitute as she was, must and could do something for the Church, so she resolved that one tenth of all that passed through her hands should be dedicated to the Lord. Since then God had blessed her in all that she did, and her savings now amounted to fifteen shillings, which she asked me to receive at her hand. The thing was so extraordinary and unexpected, that I did not know what to do. I told her I would take it and give her books for it, but she said that would not be carrying out her intention. She intended it as a freewill offering to the Church. I then told her I would take it as a donation to the D. C. S. She said she was satisfied, and gave me the money, with a prayer that it might be the means of doing some good. If each donor to the Society would give in the same spirit as this poor widow gave in, what a blessing the Society would be; and if each member of the Church could feel as I felt when I received that 'poor widow's mite,' knowing her circumstances, how much would the funds of our Society be increased? I left her in the morning, with a promise that a Report of the Society should be sent her, and I made the best of my way down through Dalhousie."

"The Committee have much pleasure in stating that the effort made during 1855 to make some provision for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy has been as successful as they could expect. At the end of 1855 the Committee had received £1013 11 4, including the premiums of those clergymen

who took out certificates. Since then the amount has increased to about £1250. Thirty-eight clergymen hold certificates. The Committee allude to a kindred subject to the above, "the condition of many clergymen whom age or infirmity may compel to retire from active labor in the Church," as a "subject that might well be brought to the notice of Churchmen who may be disposed to make donations in trust to the Society" for the object of their relief.

The following exhibits the state of the funds:—

"The Auditors have examined the Accounts for 1855, and found them correct. They report a balance in the Society's favor of £403 6s. From this apparent balance must be deducted the sums due at the end of the year for support of Missionaries, and as grants toward building Churches yet to be called for. These deductions would make the true balance about £413 5s. 4d.

Income of the Society so far as it has been received, amounts to £1847 19, of which £277 18 1 is for the Widows' and Orphan's fund, £100 6 0 for the Bishopric Endowment Account, £611 4 3 for the Endowment of Parishes, £10 a donation to be funded £35 9 5 for the Colporteur account, and £813 2 1 for the general purposes of the Society."

The Report concludes with extracts of letters from several clergymen, as follows:

"The Rev. the Rector of Liverpool, when forwarding the liberal contribution of £65 from that parish, writes;

"I, however, cannot refrain from mentioning that in face of the greatest scarcity that I have ever known here, our town list exceeds that of any previous year; nor can I forbear calling your attention to the annual subscription of one of my wardens, Mr. Snow. Year by year has it been gradually swelling in amount, until it has reached the sum of £7 10. Nor is this the only instance of increasing interest, there are others who exhibit the same spirit, and whom, I pray, may long be spared to offer such examples to the flock. You will also observe that, while we have to regret the loss of our local Secretary, E. O. Barnes, Esq., and others, from various causes, our list shows 79 new members have been added this present year.

"With the contribution from New Dublin we have received the following account from the Rector:

"The people are gradually learning to appreciate the D. C. S. and I hope are also learning the pleasure of contributing to God's cause. I anticipate, with God's help, a continual increase in their benefactions. With this sum, the account of which I now enclose, they have contributed to church purposes, in various ways, during the last fifteen months about £220, and have lately subscribed about fifty pounds for a new church at Lallave River. And yet their land is thin and rocky, and their fishery, last year, did not nearly reach the ordinary yield. Add to this that the provision market was higher last year by fifty per cent. than it usually is. I think, therefore, considering all things, that I have reason, like St. Paul, to 'thank God and take courage.'"

"The Rev. T. H. White, of Shelburne:—"I shall however, still have a small sum to forward, which I trust will make our contribution a trifle more than last year.

"This result I must confess is beyond my expectations, as our people for the most part are very poor, and from the pressure of the times and almost total failure of the fisheries along this shore, many are in very distressed circumstances.

"Money is a rare sight among them, and therefore unless they look forward (which indeed is the right and scriptural way) for the day of collection, there is one hundred to one against their having a penny at their command.

"I am thankful to say that some do thus look forward and prepare, and accordingly are found ready with an offering, an offering truly made to God, which astonishes their not poorer but less thoughtful neighbours, and puts to shame the contribution of many a one who, though rich in this world's goods are poor toward God; who are ever ready to squander pounds on passing vanities, but think a three-copper piece is as much as they can afford for Christ and the Church.

"These are indeed melancholy truths, and as I suppose not confined to this locality.

"May he who can dispose and turn our hearts as seemeth good to his Godly wisdom, grant that we may all both perceive and know what things we ought to do, and also give us grace and power faithfully to fulfil the same."

We had almost omitted to mention that the next annual meeting of the Society will be held in June 1857.

The R. M. Steamer Niagara arrived on Thursday morning last, in 11½ days from Liverpool. Extracts from the latest papers will be found in other columns.

The London Guardian continues in a supplement the proceedings in the Ditcher and Denison case. The Court opened again at Bath on the 21st October. Dr. Philli-