

The Society of the Treasury of God.

All communications relating to this Society should be addressed to Rev. C. A. B. Pocock, Commander, R. N., Bellevue Avenue, Toronto.

No more fitting season than Holy Week could be chosen for the first appearance of the Society of the Treasury of God in the columns of OUR MISSION NEWS.

Our readers are examining themselves concerning that besetting sin which has hitherto stood between them and God; that has been hiding from them "the sight of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." In meditating on the Passion of our Lord, they feel that if they can only repent them truly of the great sin that has all these years been spoiling their spiritual life, they can hope to hail the dawn of the coming glorious Easter morn with a joy they have never felt before; and so they trace it back through the past ten, twenty or thirty years, in order to see how much nearer they are to the final triumph. Let us do the same with our Church.

What is the besetting sin of our Church as a whole? As the Church is the aggregate of individuals, the enquiry may reveal to many the sin that they have not thought of very deeply; at all events, not as God looks upon it. Is not that sin, the sin of covetousness? A comparison with others may help us to realise its magnitude. It has been stated that the Presbyterians, two years ago, sent \$90,000 to the North-West, and that our Church only sent \$1,000. And yet, taking the whole of Canada, it can scarcely be said that the members of our Church are much poorer than the Presbyterian community. A further comparison will perhaps reveal the cause. The circumstances of our brethren of the separation necessitated an education in giving. From the circumstances of our Church, that training has been entirely wanting. We have never been taught to give. Our Mother Church was supported by endowments, which were given by the faithful, mostly in Saxon times; and, as "the clergy reserves" still testify, our Church commenced in Canada as an endowed Church. Our great difficulty still is that almost every immigrant lands on our shores with the idea that his spiritual necessities are still to cost him nothing. On the other hand, dissenters for many years have not only supported their own ministers, and built their own chapels, but their forefathers had to pay church rates as well. They had been trained to give, we had not.

There is doubtless some comfort to be derived from this difference of government, but it indicates the lines on which we have to work, and the paramount necessity, not of merely raising money, but of teaching the duty, privilege and method of giving to God as he has prospered us; bestowing the worship of God by means of the material things of the body, as well as with our souls and spirits.

THE Society of the Treasury of God originated in the Parish of Trinity Church, Brockville. At the harvest festival the alms of the people amounted to \$1,074.00. Mrs. Crawford, the wife of the Rector, presented \$1,000, which she had collected from members of the congregation during the previous month. This money was given under agreement that there shall be no money making entertainments during the year.

FROM the Diocese of Niagara, the Rev. Fred. E. Howitt, Stoney Creek, writes, (Aug. 12,) "In my own parish I have distributed the Society's tracts, and have twice preached upon the subject, and as a result am pleased to say that the contributions of the people have been more than doubled in the last three months. Several have become tithe-givers, though I have not been able to get them to join the Society yet. One who was giving \$8 per annum last year, and spoke then of reducing the amount, told my church warden that he would be able to double, if not treble his subscription for this year; he has adopted the scriptural plan of giving weekly as God has prospered him, and is amazed to find how much larger his contributions have become, and how much easier and pleasanter it is to give. Another who was giving twenty dollars is now giving fifty dollars, and several who were doing nothing, have been led to see their duty in a greater or less degree. I have found the tract, 'A Dream of Tithe Land,' most useful; it is readable and forcible."

IN the Rev. Mr. Smith's parish (Tapleystown), there has been a marked increase in the parochial receipts since the claims of the Society have been advocated there, and the true principles laid down. To a recent appeal for funds to rebuild one of his churches, the people have responded by contributing nearly \$2,000, which may be considered as really extraordinary for a rural people.

THE Rev. R. G. Sutherland (of Hamilton), reports that a large increase has taken place in his missionary collections since the adoption of the S. T. G. methods of raising money.

THE Organizing Secretary (Rev. C. A. B. Pocock) attended a meeting of the Rural Deanery of Wellington, held at Mount Forest, and preached on behalf of the Society. The resolution passed was as follows: "That the clergy of the Deanery be recommended strongly to urge on their people the duty of devoting a tenth of their income to religious purposes, and the desirability of their joining the Society of the Treasury of God, and also to discourage their people from depending for money for sacred uses upon parochial entertainments, bazaars, and similar secular means.

THE Church is to-day as pure, devoted and Christ-like as it ever was before. All that is needed is activity. "Go in and possess the land." For this Christian money is needed, and needed abundantly. Where are the tithes and offerings?