

organization is made and carried out. The objects of the society are truly excellent, and the hearty support of them essential to the best interests of our beloved church. We are thankful that the lady is now called upon to take their part in all our proceedings; and we trust that by an earnest and active co-operation, the organization of the church society may be such as to command the confidence of every member of our church, and enable them with heart and hand to aid in extending her ministrations."

The quarterly collections have been regularly taken up, amounting to \$19. The subscriptions are \$16.60, including the clergyman's subscription, in all \$35.50.

#### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH.

"The five collections as ordered have been taken up, and transmitted to the parent society. The parochial committee also report that the sum of \$22.88 which includes the clergyman's subscription of \$5 has been duly handed in."

#### SAINT JAMES' CHURCH.

During the year, the four quarterly sermons were preached, and collections made, amounting to £4 10s. 3d. This, together with the clergyman's subscription, makes £5 16s. 3d. To which should be added £7 5s. 5d. for foreign calls, making in all £13 0s. 8d., or upwards of \$52. The subscriptions for this year amount to \$23.62.

The report of the parochial committee says:—"Some secret spring in the heart of our people, in relation to the Church Society, has to be touched before a liberality pours forth commensurate with the claims of this handmaid of our church. It will be a happy day for our church when this secret has been discovered, and means found whereby the heart of each member of our communion can beat responsively to the call of duty, and devotedness to the society be recognized among our first duties. The day is at hand when our new diocese will be called on to form a separate society for home missions, and the supply of those various necessities contemplated by the Church Society. That wisdom may be given to those on whom the work shall devolve, and that such an organization may be framed as may fully meet the requirements of the day, must be the earnest prayer of every member of this association."

#### SAINT GEORGE'S CHURCH.

The subscriptions this year amount to \$136. The five collections have been taken up at the appointed times, and have realized about \$100. The congregation are looking forward, with anxious desire, to the time when the first Bishop of Ontario will be consecrated and installed in St. George's (as the cathedral) Church, and they hope he will be long spared as an ornament to the bench, and a blessing to the diocese over which he has, in the providence of God, been appointed to preside. The large and increasing congregation of St. George's have always manifested great liberality in support of church objects, and they will be ready, no doubt, to increase their contributions, so soon as a law is passed authorizing the formation of a society of our own.

#### THE DEPOSITORY.

The sales have been larger this year than the last, amounting to \$222.48. The demand for cheap Bibles and Prayer-books is continually on the increase, and when the clergy of this new diocese shall have become accustomed to make their purchases in Kingston, the amount realized by the sales at the depository will be very large. In the meantime, it seems not yet sufficiently known to the members of our church that there is always on hand in the depository a good supply

of Bibles and Prayer-books, in great variety of bindings, besides other books and tracts published by the Christian Knowledge Society.

The statistics given above encourage us to hope for better things. It cannot be fairly said, this year, that we have done all we could to promote the interests of the Church Society, but we have done something, and the future we trust is big with promise.—Rapid growth gives cause to apprehend re-action. Steady and gradual advancement is the best index of real progress. This, we hope, will be the case with the Church Society of the Diocese of Ontario. And if the missionaries sent forth by it are men of the right stamp, men who, like the great apostle, are determined not to know any thing "save Jesus Christ and Him crucified" among those to whom they minister, funds will not be wanting for their support, and the fruit of their labours will be "found unto praise, and honour, and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ. Respectfully submitted.

GEORGE O'KILL STUART,  
Chairman.  
A STEWART,  
Secretary.

Kingston, 6th March, 1862.

### Foreign Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

#### CONVOCAION OF THE PROVINCE OF CANTERBURY.

(Continued from page 65.)

The BISHOP OF SALISBURY—The difficulty is that at present we are not able to admit them, but the moment we do there will be people in abundance who will offer.

The subject then dropped.

#### LOWER HOUSE.—WEDNESDAY, FEB. 12. SUB-DEACONS.

The REV. F. C. MASSINGBERD presented the following petition:—

*To the most Reverend and Right Reverend the Archbishop and Bishops, and the Reverend the Clergy of the Province of Canterbury in Convocation assembled.*

The humble Petition of the undersigned Clergy of the Diocese of Lincoln,

"Sheweth—That your petitioners are of opinion that it would greatly tend, under the Divine blessing, to enlarge the sphere of usefulness of the church of this land, if the clergy might be assisted by an authorised body of lay teachers, holding some subordinate office, as that of Sub-Deacon or Reader, yet not subject to those restrictions in respect to their other employments or to those civil disabilities by which the clergy themselves are restrained, and whose obligation to devote themselves to such subordinate ministry should not be perpetual.

Believing that such an institution, already in full operation in several colonial dioceses, would be of the highest value towards meeting the religious wants of the over-growing masses of our population at home without infringing the existing laws, and would be hailed by many good men as supplying them with a sphere of usefulness within the church which they earnestly desire to find, your petitioners humbly pray your venerable house to take into your most serious consideration that part of the report of the Lower House on Home Missions which relates to this subject.

And your petitioners will ever pray.  
The petition bore the signatures of eighty-five of the clergy of the diocese, which he represented, and amongst them were the names of one Canon

Residentary, three others being members of that house, of ten Prebendaries, eleven Rural Deans, and twenty incumbents, of towns, including the most populous in the diocese—namely, Nottingham.

The PROLOCUTOR having read a message from the Upper House, requesting the Lower House to take into their consideration "the report of the Committee on the Diaconate, dated February, 1859," the ARCHDEACON OF LONDON read the report, as follows:—

"The Committee appointed to consider—1. Whether the Diaconate might not be extended in such a manner as to mark more distinctly the difference between that order and the Priesthood, and thus to give increased efficiency to both, by a better adjustment of their several duties, as defined in the Ordinal of the Book of Common Prayer; and, 2. Whether it might not be expedient to revive the ancient order of 'Readers' as was designed by Archbishop Parker immediately after the Reformation,—beg to report as follows:—

"1. In considering the questions submitted to us, we have assumed—

"(1) That there is an urgent necessity for additional agencies within the Church of England, adapted to the present circumstances of our country.

"(2) That there are many persons in different stations of life who would rejoice to be employed in the work of the church under some definite and authoritative commission, but who are precluded by various causes from becoming candidates for holy orders.

"2. With these facts before us, we have first of all turned our attention to that part of our instructions which directs us to consider the best means of promoting the efficiency of the Diaconate, with a special regard to its distinctive and subordinate character.

"3. The distinction between the second and third order of the Christian ministry is clearly defined in our Ordinal. This distinction has, however, been very much lost sight of, partly in consequence of the Diaconate being considered merely as a stepping-stone to the priesthood, and partly in consequence of the deacon having not unfrequently been placed in the sole charge of a parish. We think that the difference between the deacon and the priest would be marked more distinctly, if the deacons were encouraged to continue in that order, whenever practicable, for a longer period than is now usual, before they are advanced to the priesthood; and that it would contribute greatly to the efficiency of their future ministry, if they could be placed under the direction of experienced incumbents during their Diaconate.

4. We have next considered whether this third and lowest order of our church is capable of any extension, so as to admit the persons already alluded to, who may be supposed capable of rendering efficient service under regular appointment. But we regret to say that we find serious obstacles in the way of such extension, and for the following reasons:—

(a) The indelible character of the Diaconate constitutes one great difficulty, inasmuch as the church might on this account often lose the help of those who could give the service of a time, but not the service of a life, to this especial part of her work.

(b) The amount of literary qualification, as required by the Ordinal and the canon, presents another difficulty. The persons whose services are sought could not for the most part be admitted unless the strictness of the examination were relaxed; and, inasmuch as it would be practically impossible to have different degrees of qualification for the same order, there is too much reason to fear that the whole standard of qualification for