

BARRIE BRANCH CHURCH SOCIETY, D. T.

Minutes of the proceedings of a meeting of a committee of the Barrie branch of the incorporated Church Society of the diocese of Toronto, held on the 26th of April, 1855.

PRESENT.—The Rector in the chair.—Mr. Lally, Mr. Whitley, Mr. Georgan, Mr. H. Bernard, Dr. Boys, (acting as Secretary) Dr. Ardagh, Mr. Sanford, Mr. McKenzie.

1. Read the minutes of the last meeting, held on the 26th February, 1855.

2. The Chairman explained that the object of the present meeting was to receive the collection made for the society pursuant to the fourth minute of the last meeting, by the committee of ladies, and to decide on the appropriation thereof; and likewise to take into consideration any other matter that might be brought forward.

3. The acting secretary stated that the following sums had been paid into his hands, making, together £24 18s. 1½, as being the collection referred to in the foregoing minutes, viz.:

Collected by Mrs. Bernard and Mrs. Gowan,	£ 8 18 1½
Collected by Mrs. Boys and Miss Ardagh,	11 2 0
Collected by Miss Ardagh at Shanty Bay,	3 12 6

The Annual Subscription of the Rector, S. D. Ardagh

23 13 1½
1 5 0

£24 18 1½

4. Whereupon it was resolved unanimously, that the thanks of this meeting be presented to the committee of ladies for the zeal with which they have fulfilled the duties imposed upon them; and for the exertions they must have made to secure such ample success.

5. Mr. Whitley moved, seconded by Mr. Lally, that three-quarters of the collection made be transmitted to the Parent Society; and that one quarter be retained for parish purposes.

Dr. Boys moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Georgan, that two thirds of the amount collected be applied to the wants of the parish, and that the remainder be transmitted to the Parent Society, accompanied with a list of the contributors, and the amounts they have severally contributed.

The amendment being put, was carried.

The original motion being put was lost.

6. Moved by Dr. Boys, seconded by Dr. Ardagh, that the two-thirds of the collection retained for the wants of the parish be applied first to the payment of a small bill for printing, and the remainder to the liquidation of the debt on the school house.

Moved in amendment by Mr. Lally, seconded by Mr. Bernard, that, inasmuch as the appropriation of any portion of the amount retained towards the debt on the school house would be contrary to the constitution of the Church Society, the sum so retained be applied towards the payment of any small claims against this branch, and the balance applied to the debt on the parsonage house.

The amendment being put, was lost.

The original motion being put, was carried.

7. Moved by Mr. Bernard, seconded by Mr. Lally, that the Secretary be requested to forward to the Secretary of the Church Society the one-third part of the sum collected at Barrie, pursuant to the resolution to that effect, together with a copy of the minutes of this meeting.

Which motion being put was carried.

(Signed,)

S. B. ARDAGH, Chairman.

Report of the Newcastle District Branch of the Church Society, for the year ending March 28, 1855.

The past year will be long remembered as a year fruitful in great events, and involving in its

issues the most momentous consequences. The peace of Europe has been rudely interrupted by the insatiable ambition of one individual—who has just been summoned to his last account;—and Religion has been made a pretext for the most worthless aggression, together with the invasion of the rights and liberties of men. A sanguinary war has followed, accompanied by more than the usual proportion of misery, suffering, and death. The laurels of the warrior have been steeped in blood; the tears of the mourner have brought little relief for the loss of beloved relatives and friends; and the cry of the widow and orphan has ascended up to Heaven as a witness against the cruelty and wickedness of man.

But amidst these unparalleled sufferings and privations, this terrific loss of life, as well by wasting disease as in the strife of the battlefield, the Christian is bound to recognise the hand of an overruling Providence, and to hope that out of all this evil paramount and final good may be the result. We may reasonably hope, that when the present dark clouds have rolled away—when the din of battle has ceased, and the strife of contending thousands is over, that “a great door and effectual” will be opened for the introduction of Christianity amongst the benighted followers of the false prophet; and that the crescent—the symbol of the unbeliever—will be laid prostrate in the dust before the advancing banner of the cross; and that He who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will shall cause those dark places of the earth to be enlightened by the bright beams of the glorious gospel of Christ.

But the year to whose transactions, as affecting the future destinies of nations, we have thus briefly adverted, has also been fraught with consequences of the deepest importance to ourselves. The property of the Church in this Province has been wrested from her and applied to secular purposes, with the exception of the incomes of the present Clergy. This is a heavy blow, severely struck against the future extension of Church ministrations throughout the land, and were we dependant upon government support for the carrying out of future missionary enterprise, our hopes and expectations would in that case have come suddenly to an end. But it is a remarkable fact, and worthy of being remembered, that at the very time when the Legislature of this Province were devising a plan whereby they might most effectually deprive our Church of all further support from the proceeds of the Reserves, our venerable Bishop, with his clergy and faithful laity, were assembled together in Synod, to take such measures as might be deemed expedient to counteract the intended injury; and to devise means for the future sustentation and extension of the church, by for ever placing her beyond the reach of legislative interference and control. The proceedings of that Synod were of the most important character. A basis of future operations has been carefully laid down; and there is little doubt that its future meetings will be attended with the most beneficial effects to the cause of the Church in this country.

Thus we see, that although we have been severely tried, injured, and persecuted, yet we have no cause for despondency; although the hand of the spoiler has been lifted up against us, yet we have not been forsaken; for He that is with us is mightier than those that are against us. With our *Diocesan Synod* and *Church Society* we have abundant means for the future organization and settlement of all matters affecting the interests of our Church: and in the increasing prosperity, the christian liberality, and the enlightened zeal and piety of our

people, we have the best guarantee for the future spread of the Gospel, and the support of missionaries through the instrumentality of the Church.

The limits usually assigned to a District Report, especially where the different missions consist of settled parishes, affords little scope for novelty of matter or variety of detail. Your Committee, therefore, now proceed to lay before you a financial statement of the proceedings of each Parochial Committee, as far as they have been reported during the past year;—premising that no change in the number or appointment of the Clergy labouring within the district has taken place during that period. In the course of the winter parochial meetings were held in all the front townships, which were generally well attended; and the result, so far as yet ascertained, may be considered satisfactory. Your Committee deeply regret, that by reason of a heavy fall of snow, which for a time completely shut up the roads and rendered them impassable, they were unable to extend their visits to some of the back townships; and the same cause prevented their brethren in those missions from attending the meetings on the front.

Coboury.—Since the last Annual Meeting of the Church Society this parish have completed what was then in progress—the new Church of St Peter. This handsome and substantial structure, capable of containing 1000 persons, and which it is expected will be sufficient for the congregation of the town and neighbourhood for some years to come,—was opened for Divine Service on the 15th October last. The whole cost, from the commencement of the tower, will exceed £4000; and this large sum, with the exception of about £180, has been raised entirely within the parish. After the best exertions on the part of the Building Committee, a debt of about £500 still remains to be discharged; but it is confidently believed that, by the application of a portion of the ordinary Church revenue, two annual collections in Church, and some aid from the local Church Society, this incumbrance can be entirely removed in the course of two or three years.

It would reasonably be anticipated that the very large expenses attending the undertaking would have the effect of partially diminishing the contributions for general objects; for, in addition to the payment of subscriptions, the offerings on Easter Sunday towards the Building Fund amounted to £70, and those on the day of the opening of the new Church to £53 11s. besides nearly £100 obtained by a sale of useful and ornamental articles furnished through the exertions of the Ladies of the parish. Notwithstanding this large outlay, the quarterly collections for the Church Society have nearly maintained their average; and the subscriptions for the present year amount to £90 6s. 5d.

The expenditure on the part of the Parochial Board since the last annual meeting has been, For Sunday School reward and other

books.....	£11 11 3
“ Scholars paid for at Mr. Dow’s	
School.....	3 8 0
“ Wood for Sunday School.....	0 15 0
“ Incidental expenses.....	0 6 3

Total.....£16 1 3

After making this deduction, and remitting one-fourth to the Parent Society, there will be a balance available of about £50, which it is proposed to apply towards the liquidation of the debt of St Peter’s Church.

Port Hope.—From this Parochial Association no report has been received.