

The Church Guardian

— EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR: —

L. H. DAVIDSON, D.C.L., MONTREAL.

— ASSOCIATE EDITORS: —

REV. H. W. NYE, M.A., Rector and Rural Dean, Ledford, P.Q.; REV. EDWYN S. W. PENTREATH, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Address Correspondence and Communications to the Editor, P.O. Box 504. Exchanges to P.O. Box 1950. For Business announcements See page 14.

Special Notice.

SUBSCRIBERS IN ARREARS are respectfully requested to remit at their earliest convenience. The LABEL gives the date of expiration.

CALENDAR FOR JANUARY.

- JAN. 1st—Circumcision of Our Lord.
 2d—Second Sunday after Christmas.—
(Notice of Epiphany.)
 6th—Epiphany of Our Lord.—*(Athenasian Creed.)*
 9th—First Sunday after Epiphany.
 16th—Second Sunday after Epiphany.
 23rd—Third Sunday after Epiphany.—
(Notice of Conversion of St. Paul.)
 25th—Conversion of St. Paul.
 30th—Fourth Sunday after Epiphany.—
(Notice of Purification.)

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

The action taken by this noble Society—one which ought to be ever dear to all colonial Churchman—in reference to the celebration of the centenary of the Colonial Episcopate is set forth in the following minute just to hand:—

"The Standing Committee on November 4, 1886, appointed a Sub Committee to 'consider the desirableness of combining the Celebration of the Centenary of the Colonial Episcopate in August, 1887, with some organised effort at home and in the Colonies on behalf of the Society,' and on December 2, 1886, they adopted the following report, which had been presented to them.

"1. The Sub-Committee addressed themselves in the first instance to the larger question of the Society's financial position; and though they are glad to be able to think that, in spite of the general depression, the Society's income has been maintained, and even has increased considerably within the last five years, they feel that its income is altogether inadequate to the legitimate claims made upon it by Colonial and Missionary Dioceses, and that its position and history, its work past and present, and its desire to be the instrument of the whole Church in the two departments of work, among the Colonists and among the heathen, which it, alone of the agencies of the Church, undertakes, give it an unique position, and constitute a paramount claim on the support of Churchmen. (The italics are ours—Ed. C. G.)

"They have reason to believe that the Society's income has been maintained and increased of late years, not by additional donations and subscriptions of large amount, but by a greatly increased distribution of Missionary boxes, which are generally in the hands of persons of limited means, and they think that it would be very desirable to take steps for impressing on the wealthier classes, and especially on persons holding, or who have held, office under the Crown, the services which the Society has rendered the Empire by securing for

our various dependencies the elevating and blessed influence of the Christian Church.

"As a preliminary step the Sub-Committee invited a number of the Society's clerical friends and supporters in London to meet them in conference on Monday, November 22, and about eighty persons attended, while many others, who were unable to be present, expressed by letter their sympathy with the object of the Conference.

"On the motion of the Rev. Canon Mason, Vicar of All Hallows, Barking, the following resolution was passed:

"That this meeting pledges itself to renewed efforts on behalf of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel."

"It was insisted on by more than one speaker that the resolution was not intended to be less than a solemn pledge, on the part of all who voted for it, to increased and continuous effort, and it was carried with this understanding.

"The Sub-Committee recommended:

"(a) That the Conference which they ventured to summon should be the forerunner of others which should be held as early as possible in the ensuing year;

"(b) That the Organising Secretaries and Diocesan Representatives should be requested to arrange for Special Services and Conferences of the Society's friends in their several districts;

"(c) That ladies should be invited to take part in them, and

"(d) That the presence of some member of the Standing Committee should be guaranteed.

"The suggestion that one or more general meetings should be held in London in connection with the Society's Anniversary at an hour when workingmen and women could attend was cordially adopted by the Conference, and the Sub-Committee recommend that effect should be given to a proposal which seems to them wise and opportune.

"2. The question of the observance of the Hundredth Anniversary of the Consecration of the first Colonial Bishop on August 12, 1787, has been formally brought before the Society by the Provincial Synod of Canada, holden at Montreal in September last. The Synod passed the following resolution:

"That a Special Commemorative Service of Thanksgiving be held in Halifax on August 12, 1887, the completion of the First Century of the Episcopate commenced by the Consecration on August 12, 1787, of the first Bishop of Nova Scotia, and that the Archbishops of the two Provinces of England, the Archbishops of Armagh and Dublin, the Primus of Scotland, and the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, be requested to make such arrangements as may be practicable for a simultaneous Commemoration in England and throughout the British Empire."

"The Sub-Committee hail with deep thankfulness this proposal of the Canadian Church, and earnestly recommend:

"(a) That the Society should approach the Archbishops and Bishops, both at home and abroad, with a humble petition that they will PERSONALLY take part in such Commemoration on August 12 of next year;

"(b) That the Deans and Chapters of the Cathedral and Collegiate Churches should be asked to co-operate with the Bishops, and hold services in their respective Churches on that day;

"(c) That the Organising Secretaries be requested to take steps for the formation of local committees in larger towns, with the express object of rendering the proposed commemoration on August 12, 1887, as universal as possible, and of adapting its observance to the special circumstances of each chief centre of population, and

"(d) That the Society should endeavor to arrange for a like observance, throughout the Colonies, of a day so full of interest to the whole Anglican Communion."

The Standing Committee further appointed

on December 2, 1886, a Sub-Committee for the purpose of carrying out the recommendations of the foregoing report, that is to say, for increasing the resources of the Society generally in the modes suggested in paragraphs a, b, c, d, and for promoting the adequate observance of Friday, August 12, 1887, as set forth in recommendations a, b, c, d.

The action of the Standing Committee will, we have no doubt, be extremely gratifying to Canadian Churchmen, and we most sincerely hope that the petition to the Archbishops and Bishops may be favorably received and acceded to. We are convinced that the presence of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, as the Chief Prelate of the whole Anglican Communion, would not only ensure the success of the celebration to be held in Halifax, but would also give immense impetus to the work of the Church in this country; and especially would it be so if His Grace were able to visit the chief centres in the several dioceses. We felt a strong desire at the time of the adoption of the resolution by the Provincial Synod above referred to, that the presence of the Archbishop of Canterbury—if not also of the Archbishop of York and the Primus of Scotland—might be possible; but we hesitated to give expression to it. But now that the S. P. G. has led the way we strongly urge immediate and united action on the part of the Bishops of the Church throughout the Dominion in furthering the petition of the S. P. G. We feel sure that if the Metropolitans of the several provinces were forthwith to take the necessary steps to secure the concurrence of their Suffragans in a united and earnest request to these distinguished Prelates, (and specially to the Archbishop of Canterbury, as occupant of the See with which the several dioceses in Canada were specially connected,) their petition would receive careful and prayerful consideration and would be acceded to if practicable. Perhaps action has already been taken in this direction; but if not, we would most respectfully urge it now.

The S. P. G. has conferred another benefit upon the Church by issuing in cheap tract form a short and concise history of "The First Century of the Colonial Episcopate," 1787-1887. It is published in England at 3d stg., and illustrates in practical form the wonderful growth of the Church: Seventy-five dioceses being enumerated in the title page as established since 1787, the first being Nova Scotia, and the last, Athabasca. The tract also contains six little maps, showing the relative position of the several dioceses in North America, India, Australia, New Zealand, West Indies and South Africa. It ought to be widely distributed, and to this end we will be happy to forward orders for the Clergy or officers of parishes.

The Church in Canada is receiving considerable attention in the Mother Land at present, and it occupies a great part of the Mission Field for December. The leading paper thereon is entitled "The Province of Canada," and it is illustrated by a very fair cut of the Cathedral at Montreal, and by a very poor and ancient one of the City of Québec. Our English friends must not receive it as fairly representing the "Gibraltar of Canada" as presently existing. The debt of gratitude owed by the Church here to the Society for Propagation of the Gospel is