

The Church Chronicle.

No. 6.

OCTOBER, 1869.

Vol. VII.

THANKSGIVING AFTER HARVEST.

To the Reverend the Clergy of the Diocese of Toronto :

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,—We are now, after the gathering in of the most abundant harvest with which this country has been blessed for many years, reminded of the duty of expressing publicly, as a people and a Church, our thankfulness to Almighty God for such a mercy.

In the absence of the appointment of a day of Public Thanksgiving by the authorities of the country,—which we must believe there are wise reasons for their declining,—we have felt it a duty to name a day ourselves on which the members of our communion should have an opportunity of returning thanks to God for the bountiful harvests He is pleased to vouchsafe. We have hitherto appointed a week-day for this purpose, but the impossibility of securing to the observance of such a day anything like a becoming reverence, has induced me to adopt the suggestion, recommended as it is by examples in the mother country, that some Lord's Day should be fixed upon for this purpose.

With a belief that this will best meet the convenience of our congregations generally, and most effectually meet the end proposed, I request that **SUNDAY, THE 24TH OCTOBER, INSTANT**, may be observed as a Day of Public Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the late bountiful harvest with which this Province has been favored.

I should be obliged by your giving as early a notice as possible of this to your several congregations, and by your urging upon them the duty of thus reverently and devoutly testifying our gratitude for this great mercy.

But all, I feel assured, will acknowledge that it is only dutiful and right that such public expression of our thankfulness should be accompanied by some substantial offering which, in its application, we believe will be conducive to the glory of God and the spiritual welfare of his people. As we cannot better do so than by diffusing the influences of His truth and kingdom, I would earnestly recommend as the purpose of the offerings of the Church on the appointed Day of Thanksgiving the augmentation of the **MISSION FUND** of the Diocese. The response last year to the call on this behalf was satisfactory, and enabled us to extend assistance to three new missions. Four additional new missions have been opened this year, and the Board have not hesitated to give them promise of the usual aid, in the confidence that the present appeal would be generously answered, and that the parochial collections made at the usual period and in the usual way would be largely increased. This they reckoned upon from the greater ability this year of our rural population to contribute, and from the natural and praiseworthy desire to inaugurate our new ecclesiastical arrangements by a hearty and liberal energy in the cause of the Church, and thus to give a new spur and success to its pious and benevolent enterprises.

I remain, Rev. and dear brethren,

Faithfully and affectionately yours,

A. N. TORONTO.

Toronto, October 1st, 1869.

MISSIONARY MEETINGS AND COLLECTIONS.

THE LORD BISHOP OF TORONTO requests us to state that he leaves it discretionary with the several Rural Deans of the Diocese to appoint such days for the above meetings as, in their judgment, will be most convenient, and be most conducive to the attainment of the object in view.

His Lordship will also sanction such arrangements for the appointment of Deputations as they, after conference with the Rural Deans in their immediate neighbourhood, may respectively agree upon.