

and Christ's Church, Port Maitland, by the Rev. A. Townley, incumbent, and Rev. B. C. Hill, missionary at York and parts adjacent; and in January last, at Christ's Church, Grantham, attended by the Rev. H. N. Philipps, incumbent, and Rev. T. Green. These three last meetings the Secretary was unable to attend in consequence of indisposition. It is deeply to be regretted that all the members of the church in this district do not, like the late lamented Colonel Kirby, make it a *point of duty* to attend in their own parishes, and, undeterred by rain, snow or mud, by their presence, if not with their voices, encourage and enspirit those clergymen who, at no little inconvenience to themselves, endeavour to attend these meetings.

Your managing committee believe that, if this suggestion were followed up, and those who feel an interest in the society would *ask for information* on points, in regard to which they are ignorant, they would be well repaid for their trouble, and the ranks of the association would be greatly swollen and its funds vastly increased.

It has been a source of deep regret to your managing committee to be obliged to report the district still destitute of the invaluable services of a travelling missionary. During the last autumn, a gentleman recently arrived from Ireland, but who knew the country well, and who has been for many years a member of your association, placed in the hands of the Secretary the testimonials which a friend of his, a clergyman of some five years' standing in Ireland, had sent out by him for that purpose. The testimonials being of a high character and the gentleman being willing to undertake (as your secretary understood from his friend) the duties of our travelling mission, your Secretary laid the testimonials before his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese on the 10th of November last; and in compliance with his lordship's wish and direction, addressed, on the 16th November last, to the Rev. Mr. Mussen a letter offering to him the situation of travelling missionary in this district; a copy of which is furnished to the committee. A few weeks previous to the last ordination, your Secretary received a note from the Rev. H. J. Grasett, B. D., Secretary to the Lord Bishop, stating that his lordship wished to know if we had funds on hand to support a travelling missionary, and if so, desired the appointment of one, as it was thought that one of the young gentlemen about to be ordained could be spared for our district. Your Secretary felt himself bound to answer that, having, with the Lord Bishop's direction, invited the Rev. Mr. Mussen, from Ireland, out for that duty, he did not think that the managing committee would feel themselves at liberty to employ another gentleman, until such time as they had heard from the Rev. Mr. Mussen, or that full time had elapsed to enable him to answer your Secretary's letter of 16th November. Your managing committee regret to say that no answer has been received as yet from that gentleman. In connection with this subject your committee have much pleasure in announcing that a worthy member of the church, not by any means in affluent circumstances, but a *hard working farmer from the North of Ireland, now occupying a rented farm*, has kindly offered to your Secretary to afford your travelling missionary his board and lodging, and provender for his horse, *free of charge*, if he would be satisfied with the best he could place before him. This is a spirit worthy of a churchman; and your managing committee desire it to be known, that others may emulate so good an example!!!

The following places have been supplied during the past year with occasional services:—

Port Colborne once a month, by Rev. E. Grasett, rector of Fort Erie; Queenston once a month each, by Rev. T. Green, rector of Niagara, Rev. T. B. Fuller, rector of Thorold, Rev. C. J. Ingles of Drummondville; the Junction once a month, by Rev. T. B. Fuller; and Marshville three times a year by the same.

A subject of vast importance to the members of the church in this part of the diocese has called for the attention of the members of the church within the bounds of this association; and though not formally brought under the action of your managing committee, is yet one on which they feel themselves called to make a few remarks in this report. We refer to the Bishopric Endowment Fund. To take this important matter into consideration, a highly respectable meeting of several of the leading members of the church was held in St. Catharines, on the 29th of April last, and an address to the members of the church throughout this rural deanery agreed upon, and which has been generally circulated. Action has been taken on the subject in several of our parishes, with the most promising results; and it is sincerely hoped that the importance of the subject will enlist the members of the church throughout our bounds in a cause so intimately connected with the very existence of the church in this diocese; and that the pleasing duty of reporting the complete success of this scheme will devolve upon the members of your managing committee for the next year.

Another subject of the highest importance, and which justly demands notice in this report, is the late act of the legislature of this province, in reference to the clergy reserves. For many years we have had too much reason to fear that the clamours of the restless and unprincipled agitators of this vexed question would have such an influence on the electors of this province, that a parliament pledged to the secularization of this property would be returned, and last summer realized those fears. A measure, as is well known, passed the House of Assembly to sever for ever, as far as this province is concerned, all connection between church and state, and to dispose of the clergy reserves for the benefit of the several municipalities of the province, after providing for the payment of certain charges upon that fund; which charge, as far as our holy church is concerned, consists in the payment of the salaries of the incumbents doing duty in the diocese.

Owing to the third clause of the act, which allows of the commutation of the salaries of the incumbents, a considerable sum will be secured for the benefit of the church, which, if properly husbanded, and met, as we trust it will be, by large contributions from churchmen in the diocese, will, under the divine blessing, place the church on a good footing. We have unquestionably been despoiled of a large portion of what we righteously believed to be our patrimony; but, as faithful subjects, it becomes us to bow to the laws of the land, and to endeavour to make up, from the contributions of those whom God has constituted stewards of the good things committed to their care, more than that which has been taken from us by the laws of our country. And your committee believe that this deficiency will be more than made up. Our people have never yet been fairly called upon to contribute to God's service, without showing themselves willing to contribute, as fully as they could have been expected to do, under the circumstances of the case. The circumstances to which your committee allude are that our people have never been trained to give, and that they have never seen any very urgent need of their contributions.

For many years, the ministrations of religion were furnished to our people by the liberality

of our brethren in the mother country; and when, from the wonderful growth of the colonial empire of Great Britain, that liberality was diverted to newer and therefore poorer colonies, the increase of the clergy reserve fund came in to make up that deficiency. But now that the church will be in a *great measure* thrown upon the contributions of its members, it is earnestly hoped that they will not be found wanting in the hour of need. The members of the church have the means; if they only learn the duty of contributing according to their means, and grace is given them so to contribute, all will yet be well, and the loss of the greater portion of our patrimony, provided for us by a pious monarch, will not be long felt. Let them adopt as their guide in their contributions the standard, which God Almighty fixed for the contributions of his ancient people the Jews [and your committee know of no other]; and soon the coffers of the church will be flowing over, and men, not means will be the great want of the church. But this want will not be long afterwards felt; for parents will not feel any longer that they are devoting their children to a profession which demands from those who fill it the staid and expenses of gentlemen, with little more than the income of labourers. And it is earnestly hoped that now that a solemn act of the provincial legislature has severed the connection which was supposed to exist between the church and the state, all prejudices against our holy communion on that score will be removed, and that many now estranged from her fold will be drawn towards her by her divine constitution, the undeniable excellence of her form of government, and the unrivalled beauty of her services.

The reports for the current year, though of a favorable character, show that our people have much to learn, and much grace to seek, before they will deserve the commendation passed upon the widow in the gospel—"She did what she could."

The Parish of St. Catharines reports that the collections for the current year (including the sum of 2l. 10s. which goes to the parent society in tact) amount to 52l. 10s. This is somewhat less than the amount collected last year; but the diminution is not so great as might have been expected, when the following circumstances are considered, namely, the death and removal of some regular subscribers, the extreme scarcity of money, and the pressure of local claims.

The Parish of Niagara reports the total amount of their collections for the past year at 50l. 15s. 1d.

The parochial committee attribute the diminution in the subscriptions of this parish to two causes; first and chiefly, to the removal of the greater portion of the military, by whom the garrison was in former years occupied; and secondly, to a liberal subscription list, which the congregation have entered upon for the erection of a parsonage house.

The Parish of Chippawa reports, that the subscriptions of this parochial association for the past year amount to 45l. 18s. 9d., being a slight decrease on the contributions of the preceding year, occasioned in part by the removal of some few of the subscribers to other parishes. The parochial committee, however, have no reason to apprehend a growing indifference to the prosperity of the institution; but have every reason to hope that their association will continue to give it a gradually increasing support.

The Committee of the Stamford and Drummondville Branch Association (within the parish of Chippawa) report, that while the subscriptions and donations do not amount to a sum