

# The Church Chronicle.

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TO THE CHURCHWARDENS AND PARISHIONERS OF THE SEVERAL  
PARISHES IN THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

I have been addressing you for several years past, a little before Christmas, to remind you of the admirable custom that has been adopted of devoting the offerings on that holy day to the assistance and comfort of your respective Clergymen.

It has rejoiced me to learn that, in many instances, this good custom has been attended with very satisfactory results; but I feel so deeply the privations and trials which, in many cases, my clergy are enduring,—their straitened incomes, even if the full amount pledged should be paid, and the struggle and sorrow that ensues when these engagements are not met,—that I trust I shall be excused if I, more particularly than usual, urge now your kind consideration of this matter. I am sure that with very little cost or sacrifice to the members of our several congregations, these offerings on Christmas-day might be enlarged to an amount which would relieve, in a material degree, those of our earnest-minded and hard working clergy who are distressed by the pecuniary difficulties that surround them.

We have been blessed this year with an abundant harvest which, with high prices, has brought back to our country much of its wonted prosperity; I am sure that no purer satisfaction could be felt by the members of our several congregations, than the consciousness that, in making on the holy day of our Lord's Nativity a liberal offering, they were giving to His ministering servants a little return for the labour of love they are expending for the souls' welfare of their flocks.

In some cases, they who have the warmest benevolent feelings are unable to contribute *money* to the extent they would desire. In these cases, my brethren, and where the contributions in another shape would be so serviceable to clergymen with families, let me urge the bestowal of gifts *in kind*. These would be most useful and highly appreciated; and there are few who cannot, to some extent, make gifts of this character.

Trusting, my dear brethren, that you will take these suggestions in good part, and prove by their results that they are well received,

I remain,

Your affectionate Diocesan,

JOHN TORONTO.

Toronto, December 1, 1865.