

these 111 returns have been received. Some three or four clergymen only have failed to respond to repeated applications for the required information. There is, however, reason to believe that the reports of those persons who have thus omitted to give a simple reply to a request courteously made, in the interest of a movement having the sanction and approval of the Synod and Bishop, would not be likely to make any important addition to the figures which the kindness and good will of the great majority of the clergy have readily furnished.

The returns from the reported parishes show an aggregate, after deducting the number represented by those holding more than one office, of 1,852 male lay workers coming within the terms of our constitution. As the names have been received, each one of the workers has been communicated with by circular, of which the following is a copy.

Extract from the Constitution.—"The following, being communicants, shall be eligible for membership:—

"All laymen acting as lay readers or assisting regularly or occasionally in the services of the church.

"All laymen acting as Bible Class or Sunday school teachers.

"Lay delegates to Synod.

"Churchwardens, sidesmen, and ushers.

"Members of St. Andrew's Brotherhood, Church Guilds, or other parochial associations of young men, and, generally, any laymen actively participating in church work."

Brantford, August 1st, 1891.

Dear Sir.—Your clergyman has, in response to our circular, named you as being connected parochially with one or more of the above-mentioned branches of Church work, and consequently eligible for membership in the "Huron Anglican Lay Workers' Association." We have therefore taken the liberty of entering your name on the register of members. No fee is required nor are any duties called for in connection with the Association, other than such as you may voluntarily from time to time undertake to perform. We shall have the pleasure of communicating with you and inviting your counsel and suggestions as occasions may arise. We are, dear sir, faithfully and fraternally yours, A. H. DYMOND, Chairman of Executive Committee. JOSEPH LEA, Secretary-Treasurer.

Several encouraging acknowledgments of the above have come to hand, and no declinations. The roll of the Huron Anglican Lay Workers' Association is therefore composed of 1,852 laymen, all engaged in some branch of the temporal or spiritual work of the church, and the clergy of the diocese.

Statistics.—The returns classified show the following results:—

No. of Parishes making returns, 111; congregations represented by the 111 parishes, 226; parishes in which lay readers are employed, 61; parishes having laymen as Bible class teachers, 48; parishes having laymen as superintendents of Sunday schools, 85; parishes having laymen as Sunday school teachers, 95; parishes in which the St. Andrew's Brotherhood has been organized, 13; parishes reporting other associations with similar objects to above, 14; parishes reporting formation of St. Andrew's Brotherhood as being in prospect, 3; lay readers—licensed, 38; not yet licensed, 65; total 103; male lay Bible class teachers, 80; male lay Sunday school teachers (as distinguished from Bible class teachers), 347; male lay Sunday school superintendents, 144; total number of male lay workers reported, 1,852.

Lay Readers.—It may be proper to remark that, of the lay readers, ten are connected with our Indian missions.

As this is the first attempt to secure precise statistics, we are not able to show what the increase in the number of lay readers has recently been. But, by comparing our present figures with the somewhat imperfect returns to the enquiry of the Synod Committee on lay help, which reported in 1890, the conclusion is reached that there has been a not inconsiderable improvement in this regard. The willingness to accept lay help, and, on the part of lay men, to render help as lay readers, is, your committee believe, becoming more general than it was a very short time since. It will be more easy to gauge the progress made in this direction in future.

It must indeed be a sterile soil, that after years of presumed cultivation yields no material qualified for the lay readership. In these days of popular education, a want of literary ability cannot be assigned as an impediment to a proper selection. The clergyman who, within a reasonable parish, cannot lay his hand on one person fit to be a lay reader, will do well to look to his own qualifications and methods, and see whether it is not within himself that the original fault lies. Only real earnestness will beget earnestness; only true zeal for the Master's work will call zeal and devotion into life, and only men who are themselves faithful soldiers and servants will secure worthy recruits for the Lord's service. It will, we trust, not be very long before the fitness of the laymen of a parish for helping in spiritual work and services of the church, will be the test, or

at least one test applied to the fitness of the pastor. Again, there are active, energetic, and we trust devout men, who, because they have been so far physically able to perform their allotted duties even when these have been pretty heavy, think no help from a lay reader is necessary. If there be such, we should like to put for their serious consideration the following simple questions.

(1) Is it possible that any clergyman faithfully discharging all his ordinary Sunday duties, including two full services, communions, baptisms, supervision of Sunday school, Bible class, &c., &c., would not find the help of a lay reader to be a great relief?

(2) Are there no occasions, in every parish, say week night or even Sunday services, when the presence of a lay reader would fill a gap if the pastor were unavoidably absent?

(3) Is there in almost any parish no possibility of church extension by means of lay agency properly directed?

(4) Is there in any parish no thoughtful laymen who would not be brought into closer relations with, and led to take a more active interest in the church, if given something to do in connection with its services?

It will be noticed that a very considerable disparity exists between the returns of licensed and non-licensed lay readers. No doubt many of the latter have but recently entered upon the work, while others may only act occasionally. It may be well here to call attention to the resolution of the April conference bearing on this point, and which was as follows:

That it is expedient that all laymen, regularly or frequently assisting in the services of the church, should be recommended to the Bishop to be licensed as lay readers under Canon IX., and that such licenses should be re-licensing in their character.

This resolution did but echo the opinion of the Synod Committee, which was adopted as part of their report, the latter containing the further suggestion that, when convenient, the appointments should be made orally by the Bishop, and accompanied with an appropriate service.

Lay Sunday School Superintendents.—The number of laymen reported as acting in the capacity of Sunday school superintendents, 141 in all, is large enough in itself to be encouraging, but when it is recollected that our return embraces 226 congregations, and that the Sunday School committee report 211 Sunday schools in operation, it is clear that there is room for a large accession of laymen in this most important department of church-work. The duties of superintendent are especially those which adult laymen with habits of organization, order, and authority, tempered by experience of children, are well qualified to perform. That the clergyman should always have the Sunday school under his personal observation, and be in the closest relations to pupils and teachers, is beyond question. But that, for the executive duties of the school at all times, both for his own relief and as a provision against his necessary and occasional absence, he should have a lay superintendent to depend upon, will hardly be disputed. It is devoutly to be hoped that a deeper sense of responsibility on the part of qualified laymen will be felt in this important regard.

Bible Class and Sunday School Teachers.—The laymen engaged as Bible class and Sunday school teachers number together 427. The discrepancy between that number and the figures in the Sunday school report (480), are to be accounted for by the absence from this report of four or five parishes included in the Sunday school returns, and possibly by superintendents being, in some instances, classed as teachers in the latter. That the female teachers stand in relation to the males of about three to one, is not creditable to the young men of the church. The erratic tendencies of the boys of this age suggest many grave problems for consideration, and some of them would be more easily solved if young men would, to a larger extent than at present, by their attendance as teachers, make their younger brethren feel that it is neither childish nor unmanly to attend a Sunday school. Nor would the blessing of the Great Elder Brother be wanting, where love to Him prompted the effort and sacrifice involved in devoting a portion of the Lord's Day to His service, and a few hours in the week to study and preparation.

Parochial Associations.—St. Andrew's Brotherhood.—Your committee entertain no doubt that the more general formation of parochial associations, especially of the St. Andrew's Brotherhood chapters, would have a powerful influence in the direction above indicated and in many others. The influence of young men over one another, for evil, has been, alas! too often shown. Why then are there so few efforts comparatively made to bring them into contact for good. Your committee are aware that the particular form a parochial organization should take must be decided by local conditions. But the St. Andrew's Brotherhood, with its simple rule of prayer and service, its disregard of all merely ceremonious or ritual formalities, its oneness of aim, and its earnest dedi-

cation of manhood's prime to the Master's needs, seems particularly adapted to be the ground work of male lay usefulness in the church. Young men who once become enlisted in the brotherhood, do not, as a rule, allow their duties to end with the observance of the brotherhood's rules. They are to be found lending a willing hand in many directions, and from their ranks not a few Sunday school teachers will, it is believed, be drawn. Your committee do not pretend to assert that the success of a clergyman in his parish depends wholly, or even primarily, on such organizations. But that these may become, with the Divine blessing, a most potent agency for good, and a means of overcoming many of the difficulties that beset the path of the parochial clergy, experience is already making manifest.

Concluding Remarks.—Your committee are deeply impressed with the importance, particularly in the early stages of the lay help movement, of keeping closely within the lines indicated by the canons and established usages of the church. The observance of good order by the laity in this regard, and the due recognition of a pastoral authority in all cases, are essentials to success. And to the respectful attitude of the laity towards those "set over them in the Lord," will be due, in no small measure, the removal of doubts and fears from the clerical mind. It is the nature of "orders" to be very conservative of their own status and privileges, and a jealous regard on the part of the clergy for the honour of the church, and its Divine Head, in all that appertains to its services, is not to be lightly regarded. Your committee look upon the work of the association as one that needs to be fostered and encouraged by the Church and the Synod, but not to be forced or rashly extended, and they have faith to believe that, if conducted prudently, and with an unfailing dependence on the Holy Spirit's guidance and power, prejudices, wherever existing, and indifference, wherever manifested, will be gradually overcome, and a body of workers raised up from the laity in this diocese who, with a single eye to God's glory, shall strengthen the hands of their pastors, enlarge the borders of the Church, and assist in deepening and broadening the foundations of the Redeemer's Kingdom. Signed on behalf of the Committee, A. H. Dymond, Chairman; Joseph Lea, Secretary-Treasurer. St. Thomas, Oct. 29th, 1891.

LONDON.—The semi-annual meeting of the Board of Management of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Diocese of Huron, was held Oct. 26th. A pleasing feature of the proceedings was the presentation to the President, Mrs. Baldwin, of a life membership card, the first which has ever been given in our diocese. Coming so unexpectedly, Mrs. Baldwin was at first quite overcome, but when able to speak, thanked the members most warmly for the honour they had paid her, and immediately handed over the purse of gold, consisting of \$25, to the Blood Reserve Mission, where our lady missionary is again at work. The Treasurer's report and those of the Secretaries of the various departments were read; the report of the Educational Committee was received and adopted. The following resolutions were carried, viz., "that \$50 from the Educational Fund be sent to the Bishop of Algoma to be used towards the education of a missionary's son." "That a note of congratulation be written to Mrs. Pinkham, wife of the Bishop of Saskatchewan, on having formed a branch of the W.A. M.A. at Calgary." Also one to Miss Busby, congratulating her on being again at her post. One similar to the one carried in Toronto on the non-valuing of bales, and one of regret to Mrs. Tilley, one of our organizing Secretaries, on her being obliged for the present to give up active work in the Auxiliary. The report of the Leaflet Committee was highly gratifying. Mrs. Baldwin spoke earnestly in behalf of the "Sunbeam Society," which has lately been organized for the purpose of sending literature to the settlers in remote parts of the North-West. She also urged upon the members the advisability of each one possessing herself of a membership card, and pointed out the great spiritual benefit to the branches of holding in connection with each a Bible and Prayer Union. Interesting letters were read from the Bishops of Algoma and Saskatchewan and from other missionaries. In the evening the Lord Bishop of the diocese and Mrs. Baldwin held a reception for the members of the Board, those who were entertaining the delegates from a distance, and the city clergy and their families.

BRANTFORD.—An omission corrected.—In our report of the Lay Workers' Convention at St. Thomas, the portion referring to the excellent address given by Rural Dean Mackenzie, of Brantford, on "A Pastor's Experience of Lay Help," was accidentally omitted. The address excited deep interest among the crowded audience who listened to it, and only the arrival of the hour for adjournment prevented a fuller discussion of its details. The narrative contrasted very vividly the state of affairs when the reverend gentleman entered upon his pastoral duties and its condi-