

The Church Herald.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1872.

Calendar.

June 9th—2nd Sunday after Trinity.
 " 11th—Tuesday—St. Barnabas.
 " 16th—3rd Sunday after Trinity.

Proper Lessons for June.

2nd { M. Josh. 3 v. 7, to 4, v. 13, John 13, v. 21.
 { E. Josh. 5, v. 13, to 6, v. 21, or Josh. 24, Heb. 9.
 9th { M. Judges 4, John 18, v. 28.
 { E. Judges 5 or 6, v. 11, Jas. 1.
 10th { M. 1 Sam. 2, to v. 27, Acts 1.
 { E. 1 Sam. 3 or 4, to v. 19, 1 Pet. 1, v. 23 to 2, v. 11.
 23rd { M. 1 Sam. 12, Acts 6.
 { E. 1 Sam. 13, or Ruth 1, 2 Pet. 3.
 30th { M. 1 Sam. 15, to v. 24, Acts 9, to v. 23.
 { E. 1 Sam. 16, or 1 Sam. 17, 1 John 3, v. 16, to 4, v. 7.

CORRECTION.

In the Diocesan Intelligencer of Toronto, in last week's number, was a paragraph, headed "Missions in the North-west—District of Algoma." One of the three Missions was styled that of Sault Ste. Marie. It should have been: To a Mission North-west of Brucebridge, Muskoka, \$500 per annum.

EPISCOPAL OVERSIGHT.

ARTICLE II.

The consequence of this state of things is, that the people are not doing nearly so much as they ought to be doing, so much as they would readily do, if the Bishop could spend, at least, a day with each congregation, see the leading people of the congregation, at the house of the Incumbent, and confer kindly with them on matters of interest to their parish or mission.

Somewhere we have read, or heard, of a Bishop in one of the Colonies, who, having a small diocese, was enabled to devote so much time to the thorough visiting of all the congregations of his diocese, that he raised the salaries of all his clergy to £800 sterling a year.

Such a thorough knowledge of all the wants of the several parishes and missions of the diocese, as this plan alone could afford, would often prevent these deprecations which are sure to arise when the wrong man is sent to a place, and which are so injurious to the growth of the Church and the increase of true Godliness amongst the people, and would prevent the people from sending deputation after deputation, often from each party interested, till the poor Bishop shudders whenever he hears the word "deputation" mentioned.

We have learned with great satisfaction, that we have one Bishop in the ecclesiastical province of Canada, who has adopted the system of thoroughly visiting a parish before leaving it, sketched last week, and that the greatest benefits have resulted therefrom. He, however, feels most sensibly the necessity of a subdivision of his diocese, in order to enable him to continue this system of thoroughly visiting its parishes and missions.

To do the work of an overseer of the Church of God effectually, a Bishop should not have under his care more than fifty parishes and missions. As soon as he has more his diocese should be sub-divided. The American Church provides, in her Constitution, for a new Diocese whenever any section of a Diocese has seven self-supporting congregations in it, and they are anxious to be separated and are prepared to support a Bishop. Forty years ago the Rev. Adam Elliott had, as his first field of labour, the County of York (except Toronto, the Credit and Thorn Hill), the Counties of Peel, Simcoe, and Ontario, and parts of Walton and Durham. He could visit these different Counties but once a year. Numbers we have lost in these places; how much greater would have been our loss if this vast missionary field had not been subdivided into smaller missions? Mr. Elliott did his best; but after all he could do his work very imperfectly. So the late Bishop of Toronto, with the whole of Upper Canada as his Diocese, was obliged to rush through the country.

But, as it was not desirable that the great missionary field occupied by Mr. Elliott should be so imperfectly cultivated, as it was by him, so it is by no means desirable that the work of this Diocese should be performed in the same way in which it was by our great Pioneer Bishop. Our people have found the advantage of having the vast missionary field of forty years ago reduced to smaller missions, to parishes, in which the clergyman can do his duty; so, now, that they are well able to provide a reasonable support for several Bishops in each of the large fields occupied by our several Bishops, will they find the advantage of reducing our large dioceses to dimensions in which our Bishops can do their work of overseeing God's heritage to their own satisfaction and the growth of the Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.

We are glad to observe that, in addition to the Missionary Meeting to be held in connection with the approaching session of the Synod of the Toronto Diocese, an evening is to be appropriated to the discussion of questions bearing on the management of Sunday schools, as no Sunday School Convention will be held this year. It is to be hoped, especially, that the clergy and lay delegates will feel it to be as much a part of their duty to attend this meeting, as the sessions for the ordinary business of the Synod. We have all much to learn from one another on the vital subject of the religious culture of our young people, and all will admit that, as the Sunday schools practically afford the only opportunities in which a vast number of our children can obtain anything approaching to systematic teaching in religious truth and duty, no clergyman or lay representative may regard their condition with indifference.

We do not care to deal with theories in this matter, but with facts, and however we may deplore that the divided state of religious opin-

ion has tended to secularize modern instruction, let us be resolved that what is in our power shall be done, and done in the best way. We find that the Sunday school is a popular institution, and that, if well managed, a large and beneficial influence can be exerted through its means. Let it be felt to be the duty of all to do what in them lies to work up our school to a condition of thorough efficiency.

We understand that it is proposed to direct the attention of the meeting to three points, all of which are of essential importance to the effectiveness of the schools. One of these will be the "Preparation of the Lesson by the Teacher." The best system will break down if the teachers are not good; but there are, it is to be feared, some, if not very many, who do not, in undertaking to teach the young, feel it necessary themselves to study the subjects on which they have to speak. No teacher can accomplish much unless he has such an intelligent and devout appreciation of the lessons that the Church has to set before the young, as to lead him to use the exertion necessary to enable him to impart them with effect. With the help of the clergyman, and the lesson schemes and books that are provided, there need be no difficulty in getting at least earnest and fairly competent teachers in most of our schools. The discussion on this subject is to be opened by the Rev. Mr. Dumoulin, and we hope will be participated in by many others.

A second topic to be considered is, "Classification and Routine of Management." Many of those who recognize the value of exact discipline and classification in a public school, seem to think that a Sunday school may be conducted in a much more free and easy manner. This, it appears to us, is a very mistaken view. Of course the teachers are volunteers, and so, to a great extent, are the scholars, but no Canadian will be willing to admit that a volunteer army must necessarily lack discipline, and we may be sure that we shall only half do our work unless there is system and order, and especially, proper classification. It is deplorable sometimes to see an unfortunate teacher trying to manage a class where every one of the scholars has a different lesson. The Rev. Mr. Cartwright, of Ancaster, will introduce this subject to the meeting.

Not long ago we called the attention of our readers to the advantage of interesting our children in the Mission work of the Church, a subject which has often been frequently alluded to of late at Missionary meetings. We are glad to hear that the Rev. Mr. Roberts will speak on this point at the proposed meeting, and assuredly there is no aspect of the Sunday school question more full of interest.

In order that the meeting may be a success, it is necessary that there should be plenty of volunteer speakers, and as the time of each will be limited, there will be ample opportunity within the allotted time for any brief and pointed observations that may occur to those present. We anticipate great advantage from the meeting.