

Diocesan Church Society.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

On Thursday morning the Annual business Meeting as required by law, took place in the National School House at 10½ o'clock. There was but a thin attendance, and only three Clergymen from the country, and one or two Delegates. The Chief Justice, as usual, was present, and assisting, by his valuable counsel in all the details of the Society's business, also Judge Bliss, Hon. M. B. Almon, S. P. Fairbanks, A. M. Uniacke, N. Clarke, T. B. Atkins, J. W. Ritchie, Esqrs. &c.

The Annual Report, which had been previously submitted to the Executive Committee, was again read, approved, and ordered to be printed and circulated. It struck favourably upon the ear, and exhibited an encouraging view of the Society's operations during the past year. There is in most cases a considerable increase in the contributions from the several Parishes, and the aggregate is between £700 and £800, which however is not sufficient to fulfil existing engagements, and wipe off the Balance of £100 against the Society, with which the account begins. So that no Churchman must fold his hands and think he has done enough.

Attention was directed to list of uncalled for grants, some of 8 years standing, and it was resolved that unless such grants, if two years old, shall be called for within six months, they shall be considered as cancelled. And that in future money votes it is to be the rule of the Society, that one moiety shall be drawn within the first year, and the remainder in the second. This is a good regulation. It is however understood that parties can renew their application for aid at any time that they may be able to comply with the conditions. The several grants to the eleven missionaries in the Society's service were brought forward (being annual) and passed. The Bishop offered all needful explanation with regard to these items, and gave the fullest information at his disposal, on these and all other points.

Mr. A. M. Uniacke called the attention of the Meeting to the affairs of King's College, as coming strictly within the objects of the Society. He complained of the too general lukewarmness of Churchmen on the subject, and said that, at this crisis especially, it becomes all who regard the welfare of the Church to be far more earnest and active than ever in their exertions in behalf of the Institutions at Windsor.

Notice was given by Mr. Uniacke of a new Bye Law, to regulate the election of the General Committee, by which the first five on the list are to go out each year, but may be re-elected.

Thanks were voted to the Secretary, Assistant Secretary, and Treasurer, for their valuable services. The latter excellent officer has, to our knowledge, been in Church harness for 36 years, and we wish him a long day at it yet.

The Report bears witness to the importance of the Church paper, and the Bishop in calling attention to the subject, impressed it very earnestly on the meeting, expressing his opinion of its absolute necessity to the interests of the Church in general and of the Society in particular.—The Rev. C. Elliott of Pictou gave a gratifying testimony of the value attached to the paper by himself and his people.—The Bishop said he had received similar assurances from most of the Clergy.

We hope we shall soon receive substantial evidence of the like estimation of our labors, in a large addition to our subscription list, so as to prevent the danger (not yet past) of our coming to a full stop for lack of the needful.

In the evening the fine Temperance Hall was well filled by at least 700 persons. The platform was not so full as usual, some of those expected being engaged in other duties, and the conclusion of the exciting Railroad debate, especially, having kept several away.

The Lord Bishop took the Chair soon after 7 o'clock, and opened the Meeting in the usual manner.

The ARCHDEACON read prayers. His Lordship prefaced the proceedings by an address of some length, in the course of which he adverted to the ocular demonstration he had had during the past year, in various parts of the Province, of the good done by the Society. He called upon those present to remember, that much help is still required from the members of the Church. His Lordship dwelt for some time on the distinguishing event of the last year in reference to the Church, namely, the Jubilee of the S. P. G. F.—and he read extracts from Bp. Delancey's address to the Convention of W. N. York, detailing the interesting particulars of the visit of himself and the Bp. of Michigan to England, in order to take part in the closing services of that memorable occasion.

The Secretary, Rev. E. Gilman, Jr., then read an abstract of the Annual Report.

The first Resolution was as follows—

Resolved.—That a review of the efforts of the Society during the past year, leads us to renew our thanks to Almighty God for his mercies, and to lean only upon him for protection and support in our future labours.

It was moved by Mr. Justice BRISS, in a chaste and classical speech, such as he always gives, replete with sound argument and what is better, sound principles, and breathing an ardent and enlightened attachment to the doctrines and discipline of the Church of England.

He paid a just tribute to the venerable Chief Justice, so long an advocate of this Society, and the ornament of the Bench, and to the fervent wish of the speaker, that health and strength might long be given to his venerable friend, a hearty and universal response was returned from every part of the large assembly.

He dwelt on the proofs already vouchsafed, of a blessing from on high, upon the labors of this Society, and on the well grounded hopes for the future which we may well entertain. The learned Judge enlarged on the beauties of the Liturgy, and its fitness for all the changing scenes of life, singling out, especially that portion of it appointed for the last solemn scene of our existence,—so sublime, so consoling to the sorrowing hearts left behind. It was in support of the Church to which these offices belonged, and to enable our destitute fellow Christians on the rugged shores and in the solitary places of our country, to enjoy the privileges in which we have so long shared—it was for this, that the members of the Church are called upon from year to year to support this Society.—In conclusion he earnestly exhorted all persons to renewed and active exertions.

L. M. Wilkins, Esq. M. P. P. was to have seconded this Resolution, but was detained by Legislative duties, and A. M. UNIACKE, Esq. was suddenly called upon to supply his place, which he did in his usual ready and energetic manner. He reminded the Meeting that it was not enough to come and hear speeches, "good, bad or indifferent," and go away and criticise them afterwards, as no doubt many do—nor merely to extend their feelings of sympathy to the cause for which they had met together, but they must come down with something more substantial—they must give their money, as well as their smiles, or the objects of the Society cannot be carried out. The Speaker then called the attention of the Meeting to the College at Windsor, so intimately connected with the Church as the source from which the ranks of our Ministry must be filled up. He expressed his deep interest in the welfare of that Institution—dwelt on the crisis at which it has arrived, lamented the general indifference that prevails with regard to it, and called upon all Members of the Church to come forward to help it in this its hour of need.—The learned gentleman availed himself happily of a living and unquestionable evidence of the fruits of the Collegiate establishment, by referring to the eloquent Judge at his side, who is an Alumnus of King's College. We were very glad to hear Mr. Uniacke thus forcibly bringing the subject of the College, on which the Members of the Church are but ill informed, before that large assembly.

The 2d Resolution was—

Resolved.—That while the result of our efforts depends entirely upon the will of the Supreme Divine Head of the Church, the individual responsibility of every member of this Society calls for resolute exertion in supporting our Church Institutions in this Province.

It was moved by the Hon. CHIEF JUSTICE, who was greeted by loud and long continued applause, as he stood up once more to address the Meeting. He began by thanking those who had preceded him, for the kind expressions of respect and regard which they had used in reference to himself. He feelingly alluded to his advanced age, (bordering on four score) and to his anxiety to stand up there as long as he could, to testify his interest in the Society, and his attachment to the Church, of which it is the agent. He dwelt on the good done by the Missionaries of the D. C. Society throughout the waste places of the Province, and feelingly touched upon the various offices of the Church thus extended on every side. He addressed himself in very moving strains to the younger portion of the audience, reminding them how rapidly their years are hastening on—how short the retrospect even of his long life—and how needful for them to work betimes for Christ and his Church. And in conclusion, pointing upwards, he very solemnly reminded all of the coming world, and in tones of deep emotion exhorted all before him to be preparing for that rest from all earthly labours, which "remaineth for the people of God."

All that this venerable and venerated patriarch of our Zion, said on this occasion was good, and coming

evidently, from the heart, as evidently reached the hearts of those present—drawing forth the silent but expressive tear from old and young. Perhaps the personal presence of this aged and tried friend of the Church, was not less eloquent, and affecting than the words of his lips. Doubtless in the minds of those who gazed upon and listened to him, the thought arose "shall we see him here again?" God grant that we may! Some younger heart indeed, that was throbbing then that night with strong emotions, may be filled ere another anniversary comes round.

JAMES R. SMITH, Esq. Barrister, seconded the Resolution, and in the course of his speech dwelt at some length upon the personal responsibility of every member of this Society to carry out its objects, and to further its advancement; and spoke of the benefit of having quarterly meetings of the Society for the purpose of keeping alive the interest which every Church member ought to feel in it, but which was apt to flag during the interval between the annual meetings. The learned gentleman strenuously impressed upon the audience the importance of the various objects of the Society, and the necessity of keeping these continually in mind, in order to regulate in a proper manner our contributions for carrying them out. He said he felt much pleasure in thus advocating the claims of the D. C. Society.

The 3rd Resolution was this:—

Resolved.—That we cannot allow the present occasion to pass without again acknowledging our debt of gratitude to the Venerable Societies S. P. G. and S. P. C. K., for their past benefits and present support.

The Rev. Mr. ELLIOTT of Pictou moved it, and in a very pleasing manner set forth the benefits conferred by the English Societies on this Province from its earliest settlement to the present time. He reminded the meeting that there was scarcely a church in the Diocese that had not been thus aided—scarcely a clergyman who had not eaten its bread. He said it might be supposed by some an unnecessary repetition, to bring forward such Resolutions as these from year to year. But as the great Lord of all has taught us to repeat, each day our thanks for our daily bread, so is it becoming in us continually to repeat our gratitude to those Venerable Societies which have been His instruments in providing us with spiritual sustenance. In referring to the long existence of the S. P. G. of more than 150 years, he spoke of the wondrous changes which had occurred in that time—the rise and fall of kingdoms—the birth and death of thousands of men distinguished in all the walks of life—while this Society remains still, doing the work of God among the nations of the earth. Its sounds are indeed gone out into all lands. In every clime its missionaries may be found. We should pray for the still protecting care and blessing of Providence upon its labours, and should cultivate unceasing gratitude for the benefits bestowed on ourselves.

BENJ. ZWICKER, Esq. M. P. P. seconded the Resolution, and in speaking of the good that had been effected by the Societies referred to in his Resolution, mentioned that in the County he represented (Lunenburg) out of the ten churches established there, no less than nine had been materially assisted by grants from these Societies; and that had it not been for these, in all probability the hearts of the settlers in some of the distant parts of his county would not have been gladdened by the sound of the Gospel. He contrasted the state of the County of Lunenburg thirty years ago, with what it was at present, and particularly alluded to one church situated at New Germany, which was appropriately called "St. John in the Wilderness," where, through the aid of these Societies the poor backwoodsmen were enabled to enjoy the services of the Church.

He spoke of the educational benefits conferred through the instrumentality of these Societies upon the youth of his county, of which he gave an interesting instance.

Nor did the speaker omit a truthful mention of the natural beauties of Mahone Bay, his own locality, with its well filled church, in which he worships.

Major NORRIS, U. S. Consul at Pictou, in moving the 4th Resolution, said he rose with feelings of great embarrassment to address the Meeting, from his position as a stranger amongst them, hardly recognizing a single familiar face; but that the high and holy object of the meeting and the subject of his resolution, tended in a great measure to remove this feeling. He gave a slight sketch of the work the Missionaries of his own land (the U. States) were performing in various quarters of the Globe, on the Mountains of the Himalaya; and in the Islands of the Pacific, in Jerusalem, the scene of Christ's miracles and death, and in Greece, "the land of philosophy and of song," may be seen the American Missionary teaching the word of God to the children of the land; he also showed how the American Missionaries had taken advantage of the opening afforded by the Mexican war, to dis-