

Domestic Missions Department

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

THE BISHOP'S TRIENNIAL REPORT.

To the Most Reverend the Metropolitan of Canada.

MY LORD:—In compliance with Clause 4 of Canon XI, I present, "for the information of the Provincial Synod," a statement of the general condition of the Church in Algoma, and, in doing so, feel constrained, on the threshold, to acknowledge, with a very grateful heart, the abundant visible tokens of success with which the Head of the Church has crowned our poor efforts "for the edifying of the body of Christ," through the far-reaching territory entrusted to my care.

Our missionaries still labor under many and serious difficulties, sufficient to put their faith and courage to very severe tests—such as (1) their isolation, and consequently loss of the help and cheer that, in other Dioceses, comes of frequent opportunities of fraternal intercourse; (2) the absence of room for promotion, and the lack of the legitimate stimulus which such an expectation awakens in the breast of every zealous, faithful clergyman; (3) the scantiness of the stipends paid, necessitating, in every case, the practice of the most rigid economy, and, sometimes, in spite of it, the incurring of debt; (4) the uncertainty that hangs over the future of their wives and children, should they themselves be removed by death, or disabled by age or sickness, for active work; (5) the constant pressure of the wretched competition engendered by the simultaneous presence, in even the smallest villages, of three or four religious bodies, each struggling for its fragment of a support, the whole of which would be insufficient for the decent maintenance of any one; (6) the ignorance of a large number of our own members on all questions of Church order or usage, or even ordinary religious teaching connected with the conduct of the daily life, and their consequent liability to narrow and unjust suspicions, and (7) the utter indifference of others to any thought more elevating than the play of township politics, or the probable harvest yield. Against these and other discouragements our missionaries maintain a continuous struggle, but they do it bravely, with a "patience of hope" which rises superior to every murmuring thought, content to wait its recompence in the "well done" which will sooner or later greet every faithful toiler in the Master's service.

CLERGY.

Three years ago the number of the Clergy, including the bishop, was 16. It is now 24. In God's goodness, no breach has been made in our ranks by death. Other changes, however, have taken place. Of the 16 of 1883, one (Rev. A. S. O. Sweet), left for England in bad health, while two others (Revs. J. K. McMorine and G. B. Cooke)

have removed to the Dioceses of Ontario and Niagara, respectively. Of the new accessions, six (Revs. J. Boydell, A. Osborne, F. W. Greene, C. J. Machin, S. E. Knight and J. Manning) have been received by letters dimissory, and six (Revs. F. C. Berry, R. W. Plant, W. B. Magnan, G. H. Gaviller, A. J. Young and G. Gillmor) by ordination, (all the latter, save one, since advanced to the priesthood,) while one (Rev. J. Greeson,) was, at my request, ordained specially for Algoma by the bishop of Oxford during my visit to England. Since this visit, the Rev. E. S. Stubbs also became connected with the Diocese, but ill health compelled him to return within about a year from his arrival. In him Algoma lost a most faithful and efficient missionary.

The Clergy are distributed as follows:

NAME.	MISSION.	No of Suits
Rev. H. Beer.....	St. Joseph's Island ..	6
" F. C. Ferry.....	Bruce Mines.....	6
" J. Boydell.....	Bracebridge.....	5
" A. W. H. Chowne	Rosseau.....	4
" J. S. Cole, B. A.....	Manitowaning, M. I. ..	5
" W. Crompton.....	Aspdin.....	2
" Rev. C. A. French.....	Garden River.....	3
" F. Frost.....	Sheguiandah.....	4
" G. H. Gaviller.....	Parry Sound.....	4
" F. W. Greene.....	Sault Ste. Marie.....	3
" J. Greeson.....	Uffington.....	5
" G. Gillmor.....	North Bay.....	6
" S. E. Knight.....	Pert Carling.....	6
" T. Liwyd.....	Huntsville.....	4
" C. J. Machin.....	Port Arthur.....	6
" J. Manning.....	Ilfracombe.....	5
" R. Mosley.....	Broadbents.....	4
" A. Osborne, Exam. Chap.	Gravelhurst.....	2
" R. W. Plant.....	Port Sydney.....	5
" R. Renison.....	Negwenenang.....	1
" W. M. Tooke, B. A.....	Gore Bay, M. I.	8
" E. F. Wilson, Exam. Chap.	Shingwauk Home.....	2
" A. J. Young.....	Magnettawan.....	6

In addition to the 101 settled stations enumerated above, there are about 20 scattered points at which occasional services are held, either by the bishop or the nearest clergyman. One organized mission, viz.: Burk's Falls, is now vacant.

STUDENTS.

The experiment of utilising the services of theological students has been tried, and every year with marked satisfaction and success, thanks to the zeal and good judgment of the students themselves, and the fact that in every case they worked under the direction of some neighboring clergyman, who assigned the field of labor, prescribed the services to be held, and received the reports of work done. The remuneration paid by the Diocese was small, being only \$25 per month, with travelling expenses to and from destination. As a rule, the ministrations of students are more acceptable than those of lay readers, possessing, as they do, the double advantage of not being prophets in their own country, and also coming under the head of what might be termed the 'almost reverend.'