

PASTORAL

TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF HURON.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,—

At the request of the Church Society of the Diocese, I address you upon the claims which that Society has upon all the members of the Church for increased exertions in its behalf, and for liberal support, to enable it efficiently to discharge the duty for which it was at first organized.

Circumstanced as the Church now is, almost entirely dependent upon the voluntary contributions of its members for the extension of its ministrations in many remote and heretofore neglected townships, it becomes the imperative duty of its members to do what in them lies to provide means whereby the Society may be enabled to support the Ministers of Christ while they labour to propagate the Gospel in every part of the country with which we are more immediately connected.

The duty of man to devote a portion of that substance which God has so liberally bestowed upon him to be used immediately in His service, has been recognised in all nations, even in countries where men have not enjoyed the blessings of revelation; but in God's holy word this duty is pointedly presented to us, and strongly enforced by the highest motives. Under the law the Israelites were commanded to devote at least one-fifth of all that the Lord had given them to religious and charitable uses; and the frequent reference which we find in the New Testament to this provision of the law, proves most conclusively that the duty remains the same, although it is not now enforced in the same way in which it was under the law.

At the present time, when by the good hand of our God upon us, our fields teem with plenty, and those fears which so recently cast a gloom over all ranks in the community, have been dissipated by the promise of a most abundant harvest, it surely becomes us to mark our gratitude and thankfulness to Him, who has not punished us as we have deserved, but has in answer to our prayers "given and preserved to our use the kindly fruits of the earth, so that in due time we may enjoy them." We hope and