

services and ceremonial which it does not adequately and clearly explain and elucidate. We heartily recommend Mr. Cutts' work to the notice of our readers. Copies may be obtained at any of the depots of the S. P. C. K.

## Society of the Treasury of God.

All communications relating to this Society should be addressed to Rev. C. A. B. Pocock, Commander, R. N., Toronto.

### TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY OF THE TREASURY OF GOD.

The first suggestion of the formation of a society for the revival of tithes and offerings in the Church of God, was a letter signed "Canada," in *Church Bells*, of April 1884. It was followed up in Church papers of Canada and the United States, until ten tithe payers, scattered between Regina and Philadelphia, agreed to form "The Society of the Treasury of God." The Rev. E. P. Crawford and Com. Pocock, R. N., both of Brockville, Ont., became the secretaries. That was in Advent, 1884.

Having obtained the sanction of the Bishop of Ontario, their Diocesan, they addressed a circular to all the bishops of the Canadian and American churches, 33 of whom became patrons. The imprimatur of these prelates having been obtained, circulars were sent to all the clergy of Canada and to most of the American clergy; circulars were again sent out at Easter, and in June, 1885, the papers of the society were sent to all the Diocesan Synods, and Conventions that met during the summer, requesting advice and criticism, none of which were acknowledged. The Bishops of Ontario and Niagara mentioned the society in their addresses to their Synods, recommending it to the favorable consideration of their clergy. A branch of the society was also formed in England.

The prospects of the society appeared so bright that in Oct., 1886, one of the secretaries moved to Toronto as a better centre in which to organize the society. In November of that year was commenced the "Monthly Paper" of the society, which was issued in January, March and May, 1886, and again in November, under the name of the "Systematic Giver." Thirteen months ago! one cannot help thinking of the "Canada tithe league," which was born and died about the year 1854. The S. T. G. seems to be dwindling and dying away in the same manner; but since 1854 there has been a great revival of religion in the Church, and a pessimist view of the future would be a want of faith in God, to which we should not yield.

Through the efforts of Mr. J. W. G. Whitney, and after several preliminary meetings of gentlemen interested in the cause, early in 1866 the society took a material form by the election of a council and officers. On Ash Wednesday a circular signed

by the chairman and secretary was issued to the Bishops, clergy and laity of the Anglican Church. There being many of our members in the United States, the council, with the approval of the Diocesan Secretaries of the Society, and the Right Rev. the Bishop of New Jersey, requested the Rev. Charles Holland Kidder, of Asbury Park, N. J., to undertake the organization of the society in the American Church; the patrons and members were notified of the appointment, and the American branch of the society was handed over to him.

On reference to the records the society at that time seemed flourishing and likely to succeed; but during the summer a priest of the Canadian Church wrote against one of the principles advocated by the society, a fact which proved injurious to it.

The Synod of the Diocese of Toronto appointed a committee on Systematic Giving, which requested the Council of the S. T. G. to meet a sub-committee, the result of which was the alteration of our rules and qualification for membership. The committee having reported, the Synod of 1887 ordered the formation of the Toronto Diocesan Branch of the Society, and appointed a committee of organization. That committee met on Nov. 12th, 1887, and passed a resolution, praying the Bishop to request the Rural Deans of the Diocese to bring the subject of Systematic and Proportionate Giving before their chapters, and another requesting the Sunday School Committee to treat the subject in a leaflet for Sunday Schools. The bishop has since licensed Capt. Pocock, Deacon, as Clerical Organizing Secretary for the Diocesan Branch, who having received that authority gladly places his services at the disposal of the clergy.

At the close of the quiet days held for the clergy of the Dioceses of Toronto and Niagara, at Trinity College, in September last, a conference was presided over by the Bishop of Niagara. The result of which was that fourteen clergymen have agreed to preach on the subject of Systematic and Proportionate Giving in the Church of God, when requested by their brethren.

The result of the Lent boxes issued to Sunday Schools in 1886 was between \$400 and \$500. In 1887 it was a comparative failure. The clergy who want them for the coming Lent will please apply at once to the secretary.

During the past year nothing could be done in Canada, but the secretary continued writing in English Church papers, which has resulted in letters from different parts of the world; among others the Lord Bishop of Grahamston, South Africa, who proposes to lay the subject before his Synod.

In Canada, during the past two years very few have joined the Society. There are 89 names on the list; in Dioceses of Niagara 24, Toronto 29, Ontario 15, Huron 5, Nova Scotia 2, New Brunswick 1, Quebec 2, British Columbia 1, Algoma 1, other Dioceses 10. Of the branch in the American Church nothing is known. But in