

church had been placed in the management of this fund by the manager, the Hon. John Hillyard Cameron, who has not only devoted his valuable time gratuitously to the investment of this fund on most *advantageous* terms, but has also thrown all the fees, to which he became entitled, as a barrister, for examining the soundness of the debentures offered for investment, into the fund, and brought to bear upon its best interests, talents, and the command of means, almost, if not quite, unparalleled in the Province.

And before concluding their notice of this important matter, your managing committee would call the attention of the meeting to the great injustice done to those of the clergy who have transferred their commutation money to this fund.

It has been asserted over and over again in those public prints that always put a wrong construction on every public act of the Churches of England and Scotland, and the statement has been reiterated in Parliament, that the *government of the country endowed these churches with these funds*; and that, therefore, they should still lie under what is deemed a stigma on this continent, of being State Churches. Your Managing Committee assert that those who endowed those churches with these funds were not the government and legislature of the country; but the individual ministers of these churches; and, as if to prove this fact more clearly, it has happened that out of about one hundred and forty clergymen of our church, one single individual has been remarkable enough to refuse to compute his salary; but continues to draw it half-yearly from the Receiver-General of the Province: and, what this one has done, all could have done had they been so minded; but instead of doing so, they preferred, for the good of the church, when they should lie mouldering in their graves, to transfer this commutation money to the Church Society, and trust to the liberality of the members of that society to make good from their own ample means what may be deficient in the commutation fund, to meet their half-yearly stipends.

It should be generally known too, that all those clergymen ordained after May, 1853, about twenty in number, have been shut out from all benefits arising from the Clergy Reserves, though in receipt of stipends from the same, at the time of the passing of the Provincial act, and that several of those gentlemen are now suffering from actual want.

The great extent of this Diocese, reaching from the Ottawa to the St. Clair; and from Lake Ontario to Lake Superior, and containing upwards of one hundred and forty officiating clergymen, has long called for its subdivision; and steps have for some time past been taken for raising funds to endow a see at London, for the Western, and another at Kingston for the Eastern portion of the Diocese; and his Lordship, our Venerable Diocesan, has summoned his clergy, and laity to meet him in Synod at Toronto, on Thursday the 17th day of April next, to take counsel together, on these and other important matters affecting the vast interests of the Church.

Although we happily belong to that portion of the present Diocese, which will remain the Diocese of Toronto after the contemplated separations; yet, we are not uninterested in these important movements.

As members of the same household of faith with those who will belong to the new Dioceses, your Managing Committee feel a deep anxiety for their best interests; and they think that they will not be going beyond their Pro-

vince, if they ask from this meeting their earnest prayers to Almighty God, that the approaching Synod, in its highly important deliberations, may be filled with the spirit of wisdom from on high—and that our gracious God will be pleased to direct and prosper all their consultations, to the advancement of his glory, the good of his church—and that all things may be so ordered and settled by their endeavours upon the best and surest foundations, that peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety may be established among us for all generations.

Owing to various causes—the overtaxed time of the Secretary, the little assistance afforded by the clergy generally, the unfavourable state of the roads and weather, during the autumn—few public meetings have been held on behalf of the Church Society, within this Rural Deanery, since our last annual meeting.

A very interesting meeting (as usual) was held in St. Paul's Church, Fort Erie, attended by the Rector and the Secretary. Another was held in St. Paul's Church, Dunnville, attended by the Incumbent, the Rev. A. Townley, and the Secretary. Meetings were called for Christ's Church, Port Maitland, and, though attended by the Incumbent and Secretary; and at St. George's Church, Drummondville, attended by the Rector of the Parish, the Rev. C. L. Ingles, and the Secretary; yet such was the inclemency of the weather that no meetings could be held. Sermons on behalf of the objects of the Church Society were, however, preached in St. George's Church, Drummondville, and St. John's Church, Stamford, by the Secretary.

For the past year the Parish of Niagara reports the collection of £21 9 3

Being for general purposes.....	£20 14 3
Widows & Orphans' Fund .....	3 15 0

The Parish of St. Catherine's reports with great satisfaction that the subscriptions for the past year amount to £63 10s. 6d., being a considerable increase over the amount collected for some years past. This increase is owing in part to the addition of new subscribers, and also to the pleasing fact that several of the old subscribers enlarged, and in some instances more than doubled their former subscriptions. This the Parochial committee deem very encouraging, as evidence not only of the growing interest in the objects of the Church Society on the part of the congregation in general, but also of the zeal of two young ladies, to whose exertions much of the success here recorded is, under God, mainly to be attributed.

When it is also stated that within the last nine months the sum of £700 and upwards, has been raised towards the liquidation of the parsonage debt, and after the sum of about £400 expended on a second enlargement of the church, besides the quarterly collections and contributions to various church objects of minor importance which would amount to, perhaps, £100 more, making in all about £1200 raised for special church purposes within that short period. The Parochial Committee would humbly trust that these will be considered as satisfactory evidence that the congregation of St. George's are not indifferent to their privileges and duties as members of Christ's Holy Catholic Church; that they will be disposed, according to their ability, to perform their part in the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom.

The Parish of Chippawa reports the amount of subscriptions for the current year, being the same as that reported the preceding year, though the list of subscribers presents a falling off in point of numbers, owing to the removal

of several families from the parish during the year. The united association of St. George's Drummondville, and St. John's, Stamford, in the Parish of Chippawa, reports the sum of £20 6s., being an increase on the previous year. The committee would further mention that in addition to the above £82 15s. 1½d. has also been raised in these united charges for various other church objects, making a total of £103 1s. 1½d.

The Parish of Thorold reports for general purposes £38 6s. 3d.; Widows & Orphans' fund, 10s.

The chairman of this association reports that owing to the general failure of wheat, the staple crop in his parish, and the consequent effect upon all branches of business, and to the sickness of a gentleman who has always taken a leading part in making the collections in the south part of his parish, he had great fears before the day when the collectors brought in their returns, that there would have been a great falling off in the returns for this year, instead of a slight increase: and he feels that had there been a travelling missionary employed, the amount would have been much greater. He attributes the amount reported to the increased interest taken in the affairs of the Church; for many farmers contributed this year who had to buy their seed wheat last fall, and who will not have bread enough to supply them till next harvest; and he cannot but particularly notice the zeal manifested in the cause by one of the collectors, a young man of eighteen years of age, whose collections were the best of the whole.

The Parish of Dunnville reports the sum of £10 for general purposes, as collected from the congregation in that town, and the chairman states that in consequence of the failure of the meeting called for Port Maitland, from severity of weather, the collectors nominated by the five persons present were not apprised of their duties in time to make up their returns in season for this meeting.

The Parish of Fort Erie reports, through their chairman, that his parishioners having suffered severely during the last summer in their wheat and hay crops, losing of the former full 30,000 bushels, and of the latter so much, that their cattle are starving, the collection have fallen from £14 last year to £11 2s. 6d. this year.

The Parish of Louth reports the sum of £4. This amount may appear small, but the chairman states that the debt remaining on St. John's Church, Gorham, and other necessary improvements have absorbed the means of the members, but promises that after this the parish will do better than it has done hitherto.

In reporting, therefore, the operations of this District Branch of the Church Society for the past year, your Managing Committee see no cause for discouragement, but much for hope. Some of the parochial branches reported a large increase others a smaller one. Some report a decrease, but the causes which have produced these unfavourable returns are believed to be temporary and transient; whereas there has been a general increase in the liberality of the members of the Church, exhibited in providing more amply for the wants and comforts of several of the settled clergy within the bounds of your association.

Had we been able to engage the services of a travelling missionary, your committee believe that there would have been a large increase in the amount reported, and as no pains will be spared to secure the services of one during the year with a good prospect of obtaining such ser-