

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA.

CIRCULAR LETTER BY THE BISHOP.

To the Right Reverend the Bishops and Reverend the Clergy of the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada :

RIGHT REV. AND REV. BRETHREN IN CHRIST,—I address you on behalf of the Missionary Diocese of Algoma, and bespeak your hearty co-operation, to enable me to carry on the Mission work therein. Permit me, in the first place, to remind you that it was by the deliberate action of the several Dioceses of this Ecclesiastical Province—first, in Diocesan Synod, and then by their representatives in Provincial Synod—that the Missionary Diocese of Algoma was formally set apart and constituted, with the express understanding that the Bishop and Missionary staff should be supported by the several organized Dioceses; further, that as a Missionary Diocese, without any fund or resources beyond what little the members of the Church within its limits can give, the Diocese of Algoma is entirely dependent upon extraneous aid for means to support the little band of clergymen and laymen now actually labouring therein, whose claims upon the Mission Fund amount to upwards of \$4,000 per annum; and *lastly*, that since the responsibility of supervising this newly formed Missionary Diocese has been deputed to me by a majority of the representatives of the several Dioceses of this Ecclesiastical Province in Synod assembled, it is not unreasonable to expect that the funds necessary to carry on the work should be provided by those who have thus committed themselves to sustain and support it.

I have been grieved to find that some of those who were active in bringing about what was at the time considered to be so desirable a work, now think it was premature, and are failing to contribute their quota towards maintaining this poor Diocese, which they were instrumental in bringing into existence; but, Brethren, seeing it is a *thing done*, it is now all too late to repudiate a liability which has been deliberately incurred, and which the honour of the Canadian Church is pledged to carry on.

It will surely be a sad scandal—a blot on the escutcheon of the Church—if the work which has been so well begun should be abandoned, or allowed to fall through for lack of support, and reason given for the world to say that, after putting her hand to the plough and beginning to cultivate what may truly be termed her legitimate Mission Field, she is looking backward and growing cold; especially when, if only united in action, a very small effort would fully meet all that is required, not only to maintain existing Missions, but also to extend the work as much as is at present needed.

By a calculation carefully made, I find that if only an average of *eight* individuals in each Parish or Mission in the organized Dioceses of this Ecclesiastical Province can be found to give six (6) cents a week, or sixteen persons three (3) cents a week for Mission work in Algoma, all that is required to send a Missionary to every district where a labourer is at present needed would be amply provided. And shall it be said that, amongst the members of our communion in this highly favoured Dominion, there are not eight persons in each Parish both able and willing to contribute the sum of six (6) cents a week over and above all parochial and diocesan claims, to aid me in doing our blessed Master's work, and fulfilling the high mission given to His Church, of preaching His Gospel to the poor and publishing the Glad Tidings of Salvation?

Think not there is no work to be done in Algoma! There are many members of our communion scattered throughout that vast District, who are longing for the privilege of again worshipping God after the manner of their fathers; and there are many—alas, very many more—who, though they “care for none of these things,” should themselves be cared for. Again, there are men—clerical as well as lay—who have offered to cast in their lot with me in doing the Master's work, but to each alike I am obliged to say, I can do nothing! for so small are our funds and so