

# Canadian Ecclesiastical Gazette;

OR CHURCH REGISTER FOR THE DIOCESES OF QUEBEC, MONTREAL, TORONTO AND HURON.

VOLUME VIII.

TORONTO, MARCH 1, 1861.

No. 5.

## Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

### DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

#### NEXT CHURCH SOCIETY COLLECTION.

In the amended constitution of the Society the next collection was to be taken up on the 4th Sunday in Lent, for the Widows and Orphans' Fund—but as the collection for that object was taken up in October last, at the last meeting of the Society it was decided to take up the next collection in April, for the Students' Fund. In this number will be found the report of the Committee to the Church Society on this subject, which was adopted on the 27th inst.

Having had several applications for collecting books to place in the hands of collectors for the Church Society, a number will be ready for distribution early next week.

Having no means of ascertaining the names of the Churchwardens or the Post Office addresses of the several Delegates; we have been authorised by the Lord Bishop to send five copies of this number of the Gazette to every Clergyman, and request him to send a copy to each Churchwarden and Lay Delegate with as little delay as possible.

In reference to the Report of the Committee on EXHIBITIONS TO DIVINITY STUDENTS, published in this number, we are requested to state that the action of the several District Branches in relation to the same, should be communicated to the Secretary of the Church Society with as little delay as possible.

The Rev. Thomas Taylor, M.A., having been appointed by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese to the Mission of Renfrew, requests that his letters and papers be addressed accordingly.

We beg to call the attention of our readers to the alteration in the meetings of the Gore and Wellington District Branch, by which the Annual Meeting at Hamilton is appointed to take place on Thursday, March 21st, at 7 p.m., instead of March 20th, as originally intended.

#### HOME DISTRICT CLERICAL ASSOCIATION.

LLOYD TOWN, February 25th, 1861.

REV AND DEAR SIRS.—The next meeting of the above Association will be held on Tuesday, the 19th day of March, 1861, at Rev. S. Letts, LL.D.; Holy Communion, 10 A.M.

You are invited to attend, and to notify to him whether you will be able to do so or not, in order to make arrangements for your accommodation. Chapter, Revelations 20th: Subject of Essay, Parochial Visiting.

H. B. OSLER,  
Secretary.

### A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

MM DEAR BRETHREN.—The object of this address is to draw your attention to the unsatisfactory state of the provision made for the maintenance of our clergy, as it is manifesting itself, in many of our parishes and missions.

I do not feel that the introduction of this important subject requires any apology—the only apology I need to make, and the only fault which I have to confess, is that you have heard from me so little on so great a duty. I have not however taken it up altogether from my own choice, nor at the solicitation of those in distress, and who may be looking earnestly for relief. No! most of these are, I believe, patiently and meekly bearing no common hardships: but they are silent sufferers.

It is those who expect to give, not those who expect to receive, who have been urging me to address you on this subject, and more especially since our day of Thanksgiving for the more than abundant harvest vouchsafed to us. Not that I was indifferent to the increasing wants of my clergy, the affecting proofs of which were coming daily before me; but as much general distress had for a long time prevailed throughout the whole community, I was induced to wait, till I should be able to announce some indications of the commencement of the practical effects of the bounty which our heavenly-Father had during the last two years bestowed upon us, and I rejoice to say, that examples of generous movements in favour of giving the Lord's portion, where it is so justly due, are multiplying around us. These may not indeed yet be manifested in a way so general and effective as they might, and, I trust, soon will be; but nevertheless, in sufficient numbers to warrant me in regarding them as an omen of good, and indicating a growing desire on the part of our people to do something substantial as a grateful answer to God's seasonable interposition. And may we not with all due reverence call it His invitation to return a double portion of his bounty towards the support of his own appointed service!

When the matter has been thus regularly brought before our congregations, and they take it into their own hands, I feel assured that it will be responded to, as the Lord's work, and that their hearts will be stirred up and become alive to the most generous efforts to render it effective.

I had another motive for postponing this appeal—I waited till Easter Monday, the day appointed by the Church herself for reckoning with her people, should be indicating its near approach, because to the faithful working of our vestries I look for relief from all our difficulties. It is the general custom among persons who love order and security in their affairs, and would neither wrong others nor themselves to make out at the close of every year a correct statement of their receipts and expenditure, and carefully to balance their accounts; and from the result to draw rules and inferences for their future guidance. This practice is found of so much importance that most of those who adopt it prosper, while those who neglect it sooner or later fall into ruin.

Now the Church, acknowledging the truth of the Divine maxim, that the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light, has adopted an annual day of reckoning, and for this purpose has appointed Easter Monday. And I speak from experience, when I say that in those parishes where the vestries regularly meet and enter upon this reckoning conscientiously, and as before the Lord, and with the same precision and accuracy as faithful Stewards, Merchants, and Bankers do; the affairs of such parishes thrive and prosper. Every reasonable want is met and satisfied; and peace and contentment are established throughout the parish and congregation.

But in parishes where the vestries are not conscientious but careless, and the Churchwardens forgetful and negligent in the discharge of their duties, the affairs of the parish soon fall into irretrievable disorder and distress, and contentions follow. The truth of all this no one acquainted with the workings of our vestries will dispute, for it is of daily experience. You will not therefore be surprised when I avow, that I address myself on this occasion more especially to the vestries, and attribute to them the prosperity or decay of their respective parishes. Hence the remedy for all