

of the laity evoked largely in its behalf, we may be certain that nothing but energy and watchfulness are requisite to advance and protect the interests of those who are committed to our care. To this, as to any special object of the Society, individuals may devote their means: and it is our duty, amongst the many sacred objects which are included in the Society's operations, to interest all Christian people in behalf of this one especially. While the clergy are immediately dependent on their congregations for the payment of their annual stipends, a very strong disinclination deters them from seeking aid towards institutions or funds in which they are directly interested, and from which they are to receive benefit, but so soon as the pastor can plead the claims of a whole body—a large society—his individuality is lost in the common lot of his fellows, and he speaks to his flock on behalf of the whole body of the Church. It is not for himself that he pleads, it is not in the cause of his widow and orphans that he asks for contributions, but merging in the general wants and necessities of families, his own, all personal claims are forgotten, and the appeal goes home to the hearts of churchmen who have a duty to discharge towards those who have been handmaids in the Lord's vineyard, and young lambs of the fold dependent always, but now more than ever, on the Lord's heritage for support. We are certain that in accepting the report presented by the committee to which was referred the consideration of the bye-law touching the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, that the Church Society has exercised a wise discretion, and the action consequent on the adoption of that report will give increased confidence to the management of this great Church institution. After a very careful discussion of the whole question, aided very materially by lucid explanations from the committee of the actual conditions of the Fund, it was resolved that the bye-law, as given in our to-day's issue, be adopted.

From this it will be observed, that the Church Society has acted with very great consideration towards the clergy, and has successfully removed every possible obstacle to the stability of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. There is, however, a question of very deep importance to all parties and which we should desire to see well reasoned out: viz., whether it be advisable or not to increase the clerical subscription, with a view to greater security of the payment of claims. We are aware that many of the clergy desire to see the annual subscription not only carried at once to the Fund, but the annual sum actually increased, so that instead of the five dollars paid yearly by each clergymen, at least eight dollars should be carried over.

The clergy have a deep and lasting interest in this great object of the Society, both in its augmentation and in its permanent sustentation, and they must neglect no opportunity by which the capital may be increased, and the annual contributions of the Church enlarged, for it is to this source that their bereaved families look for support in their time of suffering and poverty. Whatever causes may have formerly conspired to create apathy and stolid indifference to the best interests of the Society, we are persuaded that the increasing harmony of action amongst our members, as seen in our successive Synods, will for the future draw together those who are really one family, and who, from being drawn together for common objects, are learning to love one another more sincerely; the past is only now remembered as a warning that,—“a house divided against itself cannot stand,”—for the lukewarmness of some, and the positive alienation of others, paralysed the Society in years gone by, acted as a bar to progress, and threw into confusion the accounts of two funds, known as the General Purposes Fund, and the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and gave rise to foolish surmises and grave distrust. A most searching examination into the accounts now proves, that the Secretary of the Society was perfectly accurate

in his statements, and so far from there having been any misdirection of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, it appears that this had actually received a larger sum than it was strictly entitled to; since by incorrectly carrying forward to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, the whole of the annual subscription paid by the clergy, without any reference to the wants or condition of the General Purposes Fund, this latter account got into arrears and appeared to be in debt when in reality it was not so. The Church Society has, however, in a most liberal spirit settled the question, and while protecting in the most unmistakable manner, its Secretary from all blame, and admitting the error into which it has fallen, have nevertheless declared, that the Widows' and Orphans' investment shall not be disturbed by refunding that which it has been over-paid, but that a quantity of the land held in trust for the General Purposes Fund, which is equivalent in value to the sum overpaid, shall be transferred to the account of the Widows and Orphans. This arrangement commends itself to the hearts of all, and richly merits the thanks of those especially interested.

We have now to direct attention to another alteration with reference to this account, which prospectively affects those who are to fall under its operation. It is the adoption of a sliding scale by which relief will be apportioned directly to the wants and circumstances of the family, as is sufficiently explained in the bye-law. These changes in the management of the Society are highly important, and, placed in a less dependent position, the clergy have an opportunity of speaking more freely and candidly because speaking for and on behalf of the whole body.

THE EASTERN DIOCESE.

When the obvious tendency of a letter to the Editor of a Newspaper is to promote jealousy and bitterness, we distrust the truth of its assertions. We are specially sceptical of its honesty of purpose when the communication is anonymous. The climax of our unbelief is attained when a strain of professional piety runs through its contents. This acme of unbelief, mingled with no slight disgust, have we reached on perusing a letter from “a Subscriber to the Endowment” which appeared lately in the Kingston “Daily News.” This insidious mischief-maker evidently thinks the time has arrived for throwing a little excitement into the question of the election of a Bishop for the Eastern Diocese. It pains the tenderest sensibilities of his nature to see how quietly things are going on, and how religiously newspaper war is eschewed. He writes with the innocent determination of provoking a conflict through the press, fraught with all the virulence and blind partizan fury which disgraced the Huron election and was so severely denounced by our venerable Bishop. We admire the adroitness with which he commences his labor of love. He wisely forbears from attacking the characters of supposed candidates, dreading, we trust, the odium which will fall to the lot of any one detected in a Huronic Canvass. We beg to assure him that the mask behind which he hides himself shall be no safeguard, however he may plume himself on a well assured secrecy.

The plan pursued by this person, who of course “has simply the good of the church in view,” is to pit, not aspiring clergymen, but rival cities against each other. He flings the question of the seat of the Bishopric as the apple of discord between Kingston and Ottawa. We can fancy the air of satisfaction with which he anticipated the certainty of rousing the bitter and uncompromising spirit of rivalry by a device so rare. The “Daily News” has already sounded the cry of alarm, and with praiseworthy sincerity reminds its leaders that there is something more than spiritual interests concerned in the matter. The material interests of a city, may to some degree be involved in the absence or presence of a Bishop. But we have nothing to do with the Editor of “the Daily News.” Our business