

to suggest, that, if it meet your Lordship's full approval, such opportunity might be very happily afforded about the time of the meeting of the Diocesan Synod, when ALL the members, as it were, of the Church within its borders—the clergy and the laity, (by its representatives,)—do habitually—eat of the Bread and drink of the Cup of Salvation together;—then—when the whole Church of the Diocese may be said to bow itself, "as one man," before the altar of its God and of His Christ,—then, might a free-will-offering, contributed from every Parish (through its representatives, lay and clerical,) be reverently, as gladly, presented before the Lord, as His people's token of lowly gratitude to Him who has dealt so graciously with themselves;—a token of disinterested love for those poor fellow creatures, myriads of whom are still in heathen blindness;—and also a token of filial affection for, and to the ever to be venerated, the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Should your Lordship see fit to act upon this humble suggestion, your memorialists would further beg that you will, at some convenient time before the next meeting of Synod, have the goodness to authorise the taking up of parochial collections through your Diocese, in aid of the aforesaid Society's foreign missions, but especially those in British India, and also to direct that said collections be sent by the hands of the Synodical Representatives to the Offertory at the Holy Communion usually celebrated immediately prior to all other acts of the Session of Synod.

And your Lordship's memorialists, as in duty bound, will for ever pray.

REPORT OF THE THORNHILL AND VAUGHAN PAROCHIAL ASSOCIATIONS, FOR 1857.

Your Committee desire, in presenting their Annual Report, to record the expression of their thankfulness to Almighty God, in being once more permitted, at the commencement of another year, to meet the friends and subscribers to these Parochial Associations, as well for the friendly discussion of the various means best adapted for the promotion of the interesting and important objects contemplated by the Associations, and the reception of such suggestions and encouragement in the work, as may, with God's blessing, enable them to proceed with increased vigour and efficiency in the further prosecution of their labours; as also to give an account of their stewardship during the past year.

The year that has closed has indeed been marked by great vicissitudes, and such an amount of pecuniary pressure and distress, as for severity and wide-spread influence upon all classes, has been rarely equalled, either on this continent or in Europe. But your Committee earnestly and humbly hope that the revulsion, sudden and severe as it has undoubtedly been, will not be allowed to react with prejudice upon the important interests of these Associations.

The work in which we are engaged is God's work, and He is abundantly able to grant His servants full compensation for whatever sacrifice or self-denial they may, in His service, be reasonably called upon to make. Were there nothing else to incite us to perseverance, it should be enough that the memory will, as we may be sure, cling with fond delight to the recollection of the part we took in the promotion of such works, when all mere worldly projects shall have faded in our view into utter insignificance; and that even the happiness of Heaven will be magnified, and receive, if that were possible, an additional glow of brightness and glory by the recollection of such charitable deeds. When, therefore, opportunities like the present are

afforded us, to withdraw for a season from the turmoil and disquietudes of the world, and to lend our assistance in the promotion of such God-like enterprises, we ought, as well from a regard to our own individual interests, as the welfare of our fellow-creatures, gladly to embrace them.

There are, however, besides the distractions and drawbacks above alluded to, certain causes, which if they do not wholly discourage, have undoubtedly a tendency to abate much of the ardour with which we might otherwise pursue such a course.

One such, for instance, is, when a sense of loneliness in the work we have undertaken, and of a want of due co-operation and support on the part of others, falls heavily upon the heart. This oftentimes is, though improperly, the origin of much despondency and languid effort. But, happily, no such cause for depression exists in the present case. For, as was announced in the last Annual Report, the Home District Branch of the Church Society has been reorganised, and several of the Parochial Associations within its bounds have come forward cordially to co-operate with the Parent Society in its general designs, and with each other, in meeting, as far as possible, the exigencies of the Church in their own immediate District, more especially in respect to the increase, maintenance and support of missionaries in its more remote and destitute settlements.

It seems to your Committee very desirable that the subscribers should be made fully acquainted with the progress that has been actually achieved in this respect, and they conceive that this cannot be more appropriately done than by here bringing under your notice the Annual Report of the District Branch, which has been compiled and published by its Secretary, the Rev. Mr. Cooper. (See Parent Society's Annual Report for 1857, page 23).

From this Report it will be seen, that although the District Branch has not gained during the past year the co-operation of all the Parochial Branches, yet, that a considerable advance towards the accomplishment of that desirable object has been made; that 13 Parochial Branches at the least have sent in Reports, and the due proportion of their subscriptions, to the Secretary; and that the hope is entertained, that, in the course of another year, the co-operation of all shall be gained. We stand, therefore, neither alone nor unsupported in the prosecution of this christian work of beneficence, and should therefore in faith and thankfulness proceed with increasing vigour.

Your Committee are moreover rejoiced in being enabled to announce the gratifying intelligence that, since the above Report was written, two additional missionaries have been engaged, and are now labouring, with the Lord Bishop's sanction, within the bounds of the District; and that a small grant has been made to a third and very deserving clergyman, who had recently, under very peculiar circumstances, been wholly thrown upon the voluntary system, in a new mission, where churches, and parsonage house and other parochial requisites were unprovided.

But gratifying and encouraging as this intelligence certainly is, your Committee regret to be obliged to report that the available funds in the hands of the District Treasurer, to meet the annual stipends and grants to these three clergymen, do not exceed the sum of £67 and a few shillings; or not one-half of what is required, to enable the District Branch, without seeking aid from the Parent Society, to pay the very moderate allowances for which it stands pledged to them.

In view of this fact, your Committee humbly hope that the subscribers and friends of this As-

sociation will cheerfully recognize the imperative necessity that exists for an enlarged measure of liberality in its support; and they trust, that in earnestly urging this appeal, it will not be supposed that they are actuated by the remotest desire that any greater burden should be entailed upon the subscribers to this Parochial Branch than has been voluntarily and cheerfully assumed by our fellow-churchmen connected with other District Branches of the Society.

That such is truly not the case, will evidently appear, by contrasting the result of our proceedings with that of a District less wealthy and populous than the Home District; and for this purpose your attention is requested to the last Annual Report of the Gore and Wellington District Branch, which is as follows. (See Parent Society's Report for 1857, page 29.)

It will at once be seen from this Report, that our united action as a District Branch falls far short of what might reasonably have been expected of us. Here we have presented to us a District Branch, comprising missions fewer in number than ours, less wealthy, and more recently established, and yet employing in its destitute settlements three travelling missionaries, and providing wholly for their incomes; besides contributing partially to the salaries of two more; having incurred in all an annual liability for missionary purposes alone, of upwards of £500; while the Home District Branch contributes towards the maintenance of three missionaries only £67 odd, or a little more than a small fraction over a tenth of the sum contributed for missionary purposes by the Gore and Wellington Branch.

This, taken in conjunction with the fact that your missionaries are actually engaged, and have entered upon the duties of their appointments, upon the faith of the solemn assurance that the very moderate allowances pledged to them will be regularly paid, will, your committee humbly hope, excuse their having brought this pressing circumstance so prominently to your notice; and fully justify the anxiety and earnestness with which they would urge their appeal. The services of these missionaries have been, under a good Providence, secured to the district at an earlier period than the most sanguine dared scarce venture to hope; and will the missions in connection with this district branch by an ill-judged economy, or the selfish application of the whole of their three-fourths to local objects within their own parishes, suffer these missionaries to languish for want of support; or will they supplicate the Parent Society's assistance to relieve themselves from their engagements?

The annual subscriptions and donations from these united Parochial Branches amounted for the past year to £47 1s. 8d., contributed in the following proportions:—

Thornhill Branch.....	£37	3	2
Vaughan do.	9	18	6
Total	£47	1	8

Showing an excess of £6 4s. 2d. over the receipts of the preceding year, and the whole amount was remitted, in conformity with the Society's regulations, to the Treasurer of the District Branch.

Of the above amount, £12 16s. 10d. was appropriated to the district mission fund; and £5 to the book and tract committee. A few special donations, together with incorporated members' subscriptions without deduction, and one-fourth of the remainder were paid to the parent society; leaving a balance of £17 6s. 2d., which, less £1 0s. 2d. expense of printing, was placed to the credit of the parsonage fund.

The Sunday quarterly collections were all made at the time prescribed by the Society's by-laws and for the objects specified; and the whole,