

clusion of that period, they must be prepared for one of two things—either to contribute the required sum towards the stipend of their clergyman, or to lose his services.—The question, however, by what means the funds necessary to enable the Society to effect this object are to be raised, is one of considerable difficulty, and here with all deference and with every feeling of gratitude to the Society for Propagating the Gospel, your Committee would respectfully express their apprehension that the recent regulations affecting this Diocese, passed by that venerable and munificent body may be found to act as a very serious check upon the extension of the Church in the more destitute and remote parts of this Diocese. The indifference arising from long continued destitution, prevent such localities as your Committee have just referred to from making the necessary effort required by the regulations of the Society—while in the newer and more remote regions poverty precludes the hope of their being able for some few years, to come up to the standard which it demands—by contributions either in money or kind—and this naturally brings your Committee back to the principal object of this report, and affords another argument in favour of contributions to a General Fund. There are in this Diocese several endowed parishes and others which enjoy the advantages of a virtual endowment in as far as their Pastor derives almost his entire income from sources extraneous to, and independent of the parish or mission in which he ministers. Now if these and other more wealthy parishes, which at present do comparatively little for the extension of the Church, could be induced to contribute in some degree in proportion to the privileges they enjoy, a surplus mission fund might gradually arise, which might be most usefully expended in assisting those remote or more destitute missions, contemplated by the concluding clause of the original resolution.

As it is by no means impossible that difficulty might arise in assigning individual contributions to the benefit of the parish to which the donor strictly belonged, in consequence of the present somewhat indefinite limits of the various missions, your Committee would further suggest that, in their opinion, it would tend to the harmonious working of the plan which is here advocated, and indeed of that mode which is at present in operation, if, by the authority of the Bishop, the territorial limits of each parish were to be as accurately defined as circumstances would permit, subject nevertheless to such further alterations as might appear proper to the Diocesan.

In conclusion, your Committee would observe that, though sensible the subject on which they have been called to report is not free from difficulties, they are nevertheless, strongly disposed to think that the adoption of the system of contribution on the part of the missions of the Diocese to a general fund would operate beneficially,—that it would tend to unity of feeling and energy of action, and that, while it placed the Clergy in a more comfortable position, it would never render their independence of their people such as to prove a temptation to neglect of duty.

All which is respectfully submitted.

W. STEWART DARLING,
March 25th, 1850. *Chairman.*

REPORT
Of the Committee of The Church Society of the
Diocese of Toronto, appointed to report on
the best means to be adopted for raising con-
tributions towards the Stipends of the Clergy
in the various Parishes and Missions of this
Diocese.