

Widows' and Orphans' Fund, and Theological Students' Fund Committee.—*Present.*—Rev. H. C. Cooper, Chairman. Revds. J. S. Baker, Canon Tremayne, and A. Baldwin. Hon. V. C. Blake, Capt. Blain, H. W. M. Murray, and T. A. Agar.

A statement having been presented shewing a large deficiency in the returns to the special appeal on account of the W. & O. Fund, it was decided to make a second appeal to those Parishes which have failed to make up their assessment.

Application having been made by Mr. Henry C. Avant for a divinity exhibition, the committee were unable to entertain it for want of funds.

General Purposes Fund, Statistics and Assessment Committee.—*Present.*—Marcellus Crombie, Esq., Chairman. Revds. John Fletcher, Dr. O'Meara, S. J. Boddy, Thomas Hall, John Vickers; Dr. Hodgins, and Alderman Boswell.

A grant of \$50 from the Burnside Bequest was made in aid of the new Church at Alliston.

An application for a grant in aid of the new church at Harwood was not entertained, the title to the site not being vested in the proper church authorities.

A sub-committee was appointed to ascertain the terms of the Burnside Trust as administered by this Committee, and to submit a scheme for the guidance of the Committee in making grants from this fund.

A sub-committee having been appointed to estimate the probable expenses of the coming year (including balance of Synod expenses of previous years) and levy the necessary Synod assessment to meet those expenses, that sub-committee met on the 8th March and adopted the following resolution, viz:

That an assessment be made for the current year on the several parishes at the rate of one-half of the amount levied in 1875, as revised; adding, however, to such assessment a sum at the rate of \$1 per parish on those whose assessment amounts to \$2.50 and upwards, and at the rate of 75 cents additional on all of the other parishes, including all new parishes.

(NOTE.—The above addition was made to meet the assessment required this year on account of the Provincial Synod.)

Sunday School, and Book and Tract Committee.—*Present.*—The Archdeacon of York, Chairman. Revds. J. D. Cayley, C. R. Matthew, and George I. Taylor. John Gillespie, J. C. Morgan, and S. G. Wood.

The following grants were made:—Rev. W. R. Forster, for Creemore Sunday School, \$20 worth of Library Books, \$10 to be paid; Rev. J. H. Harris, for Sunday School, St. George's, Medonte, \$6 worth of Library Books; Rev. L. H. Kirkby, for Sunday School, Christ Church, Batteaux, \$4.50 worth of Bibles and Catechisms, and \$1.50 worth of Library Books.

Audit Committee.—*Present.*—Rev. William Grant, Chairman. Rev. W. M. C. Clarke, and Mr. Gamble.

The interim Report of the Auditors, and the balance sheet of the Clergy Trust Fund, were read and adopted.

Printing Committee.—*Present.*—Dr. Hodgins, Chairman. Revds. A. J. Broughall, C. C. Johnson, and T. Walker.

The usual accounts for printing were presented and passed.

It was ordered that the next number of the *Diocesan Gazette* contain the proposed Canon on Church Discipline, and an account of the proceedings of the Synod Committees.

Special Committee on Canon for Enforcing Church Discipline.—*Present.*—The Archdeacon of York, Chairman. Revds. Septimus Jones, Dr. Lett, H. C. Cooper, Dr. O'Meara, and J. Pearson; Hon. G. W. Allan, and Dr. Hodgins.

Dr. Hodgins reported, on behalf of the Sub-Committee appointed to submit a Bill to the Ontario House of Assembly to enable the Church Courts to administer oaths, that he was present before the Private Bills Committee of the Legislature, and it was there decided not to report the Bill to the House favourably, the Committee being opposed to the principle of the Bill.

NIAGARA.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

GUELPH.—The officers of St. Georges' Church for the coming year are: Churchwardens,

Messrs George Elliot and Frederick Biscoe; Sislessmen, Messrs. C. F. Leonard, C. Acton Burrows, J. M. Bond, H. Merton, Jno. A. Wood, A. A. Baker, J. Davey, F. Evatt, and S. S. Walth; Vestry Clerk, Arthur Merton.

HURON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON.—The adjourned vestry meeting of St. Paul's was held in Bishop Cronyn Hall on Monday evening the 16th inst., Rev. Canon Innes in the chair. There is generally a small attendance at these meetings; at this meeting, however, the attendance was large, notice having been given that the question of raising the pew rents would be considered, it being deemed necessary to expend a large sum in repairing the church.

The audited report of the churchwardens for the past year was approved of. The total receipts including a balance from the previous year of \$146.88, amounted to \$5586.84. Receipts were as follows:

Collections Ordinary, \$1,534.40; special, \$1,173.60; Offertory, \$120.00; pew rents, \$2,617.96; total, \$5,586. There remains a balance in bank of \$559.84.

The Financial Committee appointed at the prior meeting recommended—That all the pews in the body of the church be increased by 50 per cent. on their present rental. That the services of pew openers be dispensed with, and that volunteers be called for from amongst the gentlemen of the congregation in this respect. That no free pews be allowed in the body of the church with the exception of four, viz., two on the north side of the north aisle, and two on the south side of the south aisle, nearest the respective entrances. That in future any pewholder in arrear three years shall be notified to pay his rent immediately, and, failing to do so, the pew shall be relet.

An amendment to limit the increase of rental was negatived. A proposal to raise the funds required by voluntary subscription from the members of the church was not entertained, an increased rental being adjudged more equitable to all; the original recommendation was therefore adopted.

On the motion of Mr. Blackburn, seconded by Dr. Brown, the audited reports were received and adopted.

The church assets were stated to be \$76,000, and the liabilities \$10,249.13.

It is very gratifying to find the members of the vestry, while imposing on themselves an increased rental of 50 per cent., extending a helping hand to a weaker sister church. It was resolved that a collection be made morning and evening to assist the congregation of St. James, Westminster, to increase the stipend of the incumbent.

A grant of \$200 was made to the St. Paul's S. S. Library, being two years income, as the library needs increasing. There is annually a grant from the vestry to the Sunday School, recognizing the school as a parochial church institution.

It was resolved to recommend the churchwardens to increase the salary of Mr. Sippi, the organist, from \$200 to \$500 per annum.

British News.

ENGLAND.

HOWARD.—A member of the house of Norfolk has been made a cardinal by the Pope. He was formerly a cornet in the Second Life Guards.

ANCIENT MONUMENTS.—Sir John Lubbock's Bill for the preservation of ancient monuments, both Druidical and Roman, passed to the second reading in the House of Commons by a fair majority, and was referred to a committee. The preservation of those monuments, and the rights of property at the same time, seemed to be an object difficult of attainment.

MANCHESTER.—Alderman Nicoles has left most of his estate, amounting to £100,000, for the establishment of an hospital for education and industrial training of poor boys above the age of seven years.

A copy of Blake's *Jerusalem*, a book which has lately been much sought after, sold lately for £100. In 1854 a copy was sold for £4 16s. only.

SCOTCH FASTS. The Scotch Presbyterians are beginning to find that their numerous fasts do not answer the purpose for which they are intended; that the fast days have become popular holidays characterized by dissipation; that the attendance in the churches on such days is exceedingly small; that business is unnecessarily interfered with by them; that they are not needed for the celebration of the communion, and have a bad influence rather than good as was the intention of their appointment; that religion and morality suffer by them, and that the sooner they are abolished it will be the better for the church and the country.

CAMBRIDGE.—The University of Cambridge is about to establish a mission in North India, to be supported by the University, and grants from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The missionaries are to be graduates of the University. The object of the mission, in addition to evangelistic labour, is to afford the means of higher education for young native Christians and candidates for holy orders, to offer the advantages of a Christian home to students sent from the mission schools to the Government College, and through literary and other labours to endeavour to reach the more thoughtful heathen.

FOOT BALL.—Mr. Henry Holloway, aged twenty-six, a member of the Strand Foot Ball Club, was killed in a match with another club. The coroner's jury expressed an opinion that foot-ball, as played according to the Rugby Union rules, was extremely dangerous to the lives of the players, and ought to be discouraged by all schoolmasters and others concerned.

CONDITION OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.

At a recent clerical meeting at Islington, Canon Miller introduced the second subject—namely, "A comparative estimate of the condition of the Church of England in 1827 and 1877 in respect of the religious condition of the Church, its spiritual life, and the balance of parties existing at the two periods." In opening the question Dr. Miller read the following passage from Mr. Marsden's *History of Christian Churches and Sects*:—

The High Church party at the beginning of the century possessed, with scarcely an exception, every post of emolument or honour. The Universities were entirely under their control. The theological character of the Church was moulded in their hands, and under their management the Church had remained in a state of lethargy. The faults of the party were two. Their preaching was moral and diadactic rather than Evangelical. Nor, as a body, did they maintain the high sanctity of the ministerial character. They were worldly minded and eager of preferment, and consequently too obsequious to wealth and power. Yet they had great qualities. Many of the leaders were profoundly learned. During the reign of George III. they headed the scholarship of England, and, in many branches, its literature. There were shameful exceptions, which seemed to court publicity; but in general they were men of pure lives, and in their homes they maintained a standard of morals far above that which prevailed in general society. Social life after the two revolutions of America and France passed through various forms. The time had arrived when every class of subjects began to be discussed by every class of men. A new infidelity was abroad; superficial, daring, insolent, and democratical. As far as argument went, it was answered with a superfluity of evidence by Watson, Paley and Porteus. The new infidelity assailed the Church in her most apathetic state, and was beaten and disgraced. But the clergy did not follow up their triumph. The very men whom they had convinced of the truth of revelation yawned and fell asleep beneath their sermons. They grievously wanted activity and zeal and courage. Thus, constantly falling behind the age in which they lived, the old High Church party was wearing out when