

but their hearts were cast down and dismayed by those dark clouds that lowered over the Church,—without combination among themselves, and with but little recognition by the laity of the principles of distinctive Churchmanship,—while the enemies of the Church were active and virulent, heaping upon her and her Ministers every species of calumny, and clamoring for the spoliation of her property, until that wicked rebellion broke out that was so promptly put down by the unaided loyalty of the people. And most of you, brethren, remember that it was at the juncture to which I have referred, that the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel was obliged to issue the announcement of an immediate reduction in the salaries of the Clergy, and of the ultimate withdrawal of its assistance almost entirely from this portion of the Colonial Church, so that the future maintenance of the Church in Canada became a question of painful interest, while the prospect of Upper Canada becoming a separate Diocese, with a Bishop of its own, seemed remote indeed. What, let me ask, is our condition now? Is it not a fact that, within the period I have mentioned, the number of the Clergy was nearly tripled,* and that a combined action for the promotion of true religion and the welfare of the Church has been established among them, partly by means of Clerical Associations, but more especially by the Church Society of this Diocese, whose fifth cheering anniversary we yesterday celebrated, and whose progressive success has been so signal as to have called for the especial notice of the Society for Propagating the Gospel, in its Report for 1846, as an instance of “the independent exertions of The Church Societies in the Colonies.” Nor is the contrast less striking in reference to the sounder tone of feeling that now prevails with regard to the true principles of the Church. We now find the doctrine of Christ’s visible Church becoming more and more recognised, together with the importance of maintaining its unity, and the evil and sin of religious division; and, as a necessary consequence, instead of the con-

* In the recent Charge of the Lord Bishop, the number of the Clergy now in the Diocese of Toronto was stated to be 118.