

I now proceed to lay before you such statistical statements of the position of the Church in our own Diocese as may enable you to form a correct estimate of the progress which, by the Divine blessing, we have made since the last visitation, and also of the work which yet remains to be effected before the Diocese can be said to be at all adequately supplied with the ministrations of the Church. Some changes have taken place amongst the clergy since the last visitation. The Rev. Francis Campbell, who was the first missionary appointed to Goderich and the neighborhood, at a very early stage of its settlement, and who resided there for many years, has been removed by death; and a few clergymen have left the Diocese. At the last visitation the number of the clergy, including the Bishop, the Parochial Clergy, Travelling Missionaries, Missionaries to the Indians and the fugitive slaves, was fifty-seven; the number at the present time is seventy-seven; being an increase of twenty in the last three years. In the course of the next three months I expect, if spared, to add four to this number, which will give eighty-one clergymen to minister to the spiritual wants of our brethren scattered over 137 townships, to preach the gospel to the red men of the forest, many of whom are yet in Pagan darkness; and to proclaim true liberty to those despised sons of Africa, who have escaped from slavery, and have found a home and a refuge amongst us. The population of the diocese has largely increased during the past three years. In 1859 it was estimated at 402,581. This estimate was formed on the best data we could then obtain, and was considered correct; now we can state accurately that it amounts, according to the government census taken in 1861, to 472,791, showing an increase in two years of 70,210 souls. To meet this increase in the population we have added twenty to the number of our clergy. From this it is apparent, that, if we look only to the number of clergymen in the diocese, we may be disposed to felicitate ourselves on the progress we have made; but when we take into account the number of emigrants arriving yearly amongst us, from various quarters, say 30,000, the painful conviction is forced upon us that we are falling behind the population year by year, and that efforts almost superhuman will be required from us, aided by all the assistance we can obtain from our brethren and the great Church Societies of our fatherland, in any degree to meet the demands for the ministrations of our church which are thus every day increasing upon us. The census of 1861 shows the number of churchmen in the diocese to be 91,874, while the astounding fact is recorded that there are in the diocese 11,524 who return themselves as having no religion or no creed. Surely this is a state of heathendom amongst ourselves which loudly calls for Christian effort. Since the meeting of Synod in June last, I have visited 58 congregations in the diocese, and preached 124 sermons. I have confirmed 1,171 candidates, consecrated 9 churches and 5 burial-grounds, ordained 7 deacons and 6 priests, and travelled 3,534 miles within the diocese, besides journeys to Quebec, Montreal, Kingston and Toronto, on the business of the church. I purpose, with the Divine blessing, to visit the northern part of the diocese, comprising the counties of Bruce, Huron, Grey and Perth, during the present summer.