

their respective missions for their support of the missionary and furnish the Secretaries with their opinions in writing.]

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

The Committee appointed by the Lord Bishop at a meeting of the Church Society, held on Wednesday, December 14, 1859, "to report upon the Constitution, By-Laws, and General Management of the Society," beg leave to state—

That, deeply impressed with the magnitude of the interests, to the well-being and extension of the Church in this Diocese, upon which they have been required to offer the result of their deliberate judgment, they entered upon their duties with as little delay as possible; held several successive meetings, each of several hours duration; and gave to the various subjects brought under their notice all the consideration which their great importance demanded.

They have now the honour to submit the following Report, adverting to the several Articles of the Constitution, which, in their judgment, requires a partial or complete revision, in the order in which those Articles are numbered; and they are permitted the high gratification of stating that the Report has been adopted with the unanimous concurrence of the several members of the committee.

Article VIII.—On the Salary of Secretary, &c., and General Expenses of Management.

The first Article of the Constitution to which they found it necessary to direct their attention, is the *Eighth*, on the appointment and remuneration of the Secretary and other officers of the Society; which suggested, at the same time, a consideration of the general expenses of the Society for management and incidental purposes.

Your committee, in feeling themselves constrained to a revision of this Article, must not deny that they are deeply affected by the complaint which prevails far and wide throughout the Diocese, that the expenses of management in the Church Society are not only out of all proportion to its resources, but absorb an amount of funds which it is painful to contemplate side by side with the meagre outlay for missionary purposes, and grants for books and in aid of churches in poor and remote settlements. While it is true that the organised machinery of the Church Society, and the expenses incident to it, are adequate to the management of an income tenfold greater than the Society as yet possesses, and that a universal energy and liberality in its cause on the part of the members of the Church in this Diocese, would soon create an amount of receipts which would render its present incidental expenses by no means disproportionate, your committee are bound to deal with facts as they exist, and to suggest, if possible, some remedy for the general complaint.

At the time when this expensive machinery was adopted, the Society was, as to its financial prospects, comparatively in a flourishing condition; and it was deemed wise so to provide for its chief working officer, the Secretary, that his undivided time and energies might be given to the business of the Society. This promise of steadily augmenting funds has not been realized, and the country has for years been passing through a pecuniary crisis, which has necessarily much diminished the contributions in aid of the Society. It should also be borne in mind that, during perhaps the greatest severity of the crisis, one-third of its territory was taken from the Diocese of Toronto, by the formation of the Diocese of Huron; and a corresponding annual amount subtracted from the funds of the Church Society.

And with this combination of causes for lessening its income, the expenses of management have continued the same.

Appointment of Secretary.

Your committee are of opinion that a large reduction of these incidental expenses could be effected without detriment to the interests of the Society. In the first place they would recommend the rescinding of the rule that the Secretary should be uncharged with parochial cure. The experience of other kindred societies proves that a parochial charge is not by any means inconsistent with a zealous and efficient discharge of the duties of their secretary; while the income derived from other employment would make it less necessary to look for extensive remuneration from this. And it might be well, in case some qualified lay gentleman should be found, who would discharge the duties of secretary for a small recompense, to rescind also the rule by which this officer is required to be in holy orders. They would recommend, too, the withdrawal from the secretary of the power vested in him by Article VIII., to select a subordinate officer, who shall be paid by the Society; as, in the judgment of the committee, such officer will be unnecessary. They believe that, from the diminution of the labours of the secretary which it will be in the power of the Society to effect, and the simple character of its book-keeping, this latter duty could be discharged by the secretary himself, without additional cost to the Society.

Salary of Secretary.

Your committee, then, are of opinion that a gentleman, either clerical or lay, who would be permitted to hold other employment, could without difficulty be found who would discharge the duties, as thus proposed, of Secretary to the Church Society, and Secretary also to the Trust Committee—officers in their judgment very wisely and appropriately conjoined—for the aggregate stipend of £250 per annum. Taking the proportion of this amount already borne by the Trust Committee as fair and equitable, the salary of the secretary payable by the Church Society proper would be about £160 per annum. At present this charge is £300 per annum, besides £100 a-year to a book-keeper; so that the proposed reduction of expense in these two cases alone would be £250 per annum.

Retrenchment in Messenger, Office Rent, &c.

Your committee also think that it will be apparent to the Society that a special servant as messenger will be unnecessary, believing that arrangements can be made by which, at a cost of perhaps two dollars per month, all the requisite duties in this department can be secured. This would create an additional saving of about £25 per annum. And if the Trust Committee should concur in the opinion of your committee, that a share of the rent of office, fuel, and attendance should equitably be borne by them, then, assuming that these expenses amount to £100 per annum, and that the proportion of charge to the Society and to the Trust Committee should be as three to two, £40 per annum more could be added to the savings of the Society. The whole amount of retrenchment, as thus far suggested, would be £315 per annum.

Auditors and Securities.

The importance of the office of Auditors, and the character of the duties they have to perform, induce your committee to recommend that the amount assigned annually to them should be continued; nor do they suggest any change in regard to securities as stated in Article viii.

Printing Reports, &c.,

Your committee would deem it an unwise econ-

omy, so to restrict the expenses of printing, as not to allow the fullest publication, and the most extensive diffusion of the annual operations of the Society. It is through such means, in no small degree, that we may calculate on large accessions to the number of supporters, and an increased interest in its work. They would, therefore, recommend that Reports should be furnished to every incorporated and every associated member of the Society, free of cost; but that, where any number beyond these is required, the expense should be borne by the Parochial or District Associations which order them.

Your committee particularly recommend the insertion, as heretofore, of a condensed account of the proceedings of the District Associations, as furnishing perhaps the best features of interest to the Reports; but they would advise the suppression of the names of contributors in the several localities, as adding very materially to the expenses of printing, and being likely to increase every year. The District Branches could, at a comparatively small cost, supply these through the medium of the Ecclesiastical Gazette, or otherwise, if required. They would, moreover, recommend the printing of the Constitution and By-Laws, and the names of the life and incorporated members in a separate pamphlet, matching with the Report, and capable of being bound up with it. This would serve for many years, and might be furnished at the outset, free of cost, to every life, incorporated, and associated member of the Society.—The adoption of these suggestions would effect, it is estimated, a reduction of about £40 per annum in the cost of printing; making thus far a total retrenchment of £355 per annum.

Transfer of the Management of Glebe lands to Parishes

With a view to diminish the labour now required by the secretary, as well as to transfer from the society a considerable amount of annual expenditure, your committee recommend that, in future, the management of all lands held in trust by the Church Society, for the benefit of any organized parish or mission, be vested in the Rector or Incumbent, and the churchwardens of such parish or mission; who shall, jointly, have the power to make agreements for leasing the said property, collecting the rents thereof, or taking measures to render such property as permanently productive as possible. On referring to the Summary of Accounts in the Report for 1859, page 57, it will be seen that a large sum was paid during the previous year for law expenses on Endowments, the benefits of which were directly received by regularly constituted parishes or missions. Should one-fourth of the amount thus charged to the society be annually saved, through the arrangement proposed, the whole amount of retrenchment would reach £400 per annum.

The case of the present Secretary.

This, your committee believe, will be deemed a very satisfactory amount of reduction in the annual expenses of the Society; but in carrying out the most important of the items of retrenchment, reference must necessarily be made to the Reverend gentleman who has, for eight years, filled the office of secretary. Your committee could not in justice refrain from expressing their very high estimation of the zeal and ability he has manifested in the service of the Society,—an opinion which, they believe, will be shared in universally throughout the Diocese. Yet if the welfare of the Society appears imperatively to demand a great reduction of its expenditure for management, and would require a large abatement of the well-earned remuneration the secretary himself has received for his services, he will not, they feel assured, be amongst the last to recognize this necessity, and cheerfully to submit to the sacrifice it requires.