

in them. The Committee have not thought it desirable to make any arrangement for a meeting of the Diocesan Sunday School Association during the present Session of the Synod. The experience of last year was discouraging, and the Committee shrink from inviting gentlemen to come from a distance and prepare papers at the risk of appearing before so meagre an audience as was then assembled; the scanty numbers being not only discouraging to those by whom the papers were prepared, but also preventing any animated and useful discussion of the subjects handled in them. The parishes and schools aided during the year was 32. For churches and stations; nine Octavo Bibles, twelve Octavo Prayer Books. For Sunday Schools and for distribution; two hundred and fifty-six Prayer books, forty-six Bibles, thirty-two Testaments.

For the Episcopal Endowment Fund, a few of the promissory notes have been paid, \$179 having been received on account thereof; leaving \$8,500.04 still uncollected and unproductive. The amount held under investment, on account of this Fund, is set forth in the list of investments.

In accordance with the instructions given by the Synod at its meeting in June, 1875, the Committee for the Rectory Lands' Fund took the necessary steps to procure from the Legislature of Ontario an extension of time for the sale of the Rectory Lands. The Act of 1866 having been accordingly amended by the omission of the clause which enacted that the power of sale thereunder should be exercised within ten years of the passing of the Act (15th August, 1866), there is now no limit to the time within which the Rectory Lands still unsold may be disposed of.

The Music Committee report that during the past year, they have carefully considered the merits of the various Psalters that have been brought under their notice, and have recommended "The Cathedral Psalter" (published by Novello), as being excellent in its mode of pointing, and moderate in price. The whole edition (of 5000 copies) of the "Chant and Tune Book," issued some years ago, having been entirely disposed of (as stated in last year's Report), and the demand for it still continuing, it becomes necessary for the Committee to take steps for the adoption or publication of a chant and tune book suitable for use in the Diocese. The balance on hand available for such purpose is \$63.55. Their attention has also been called to the want of a table of chants appropriate to the Canticles and

Psalter, which they propose to supply in the ensuing year.

The Special Committee on Loans for Church Building, referring to the necessity for increased Church accommodation, and the strain upon our members for raising funds, and that in order to provide what is required, a considerable proportion of the money should be borrowed, expresses a hope that money might be raised for the purpose on equally advantageous terms as in England, where it can be loaned at three or four per cent, but that at present no machinery exists for the purpose. The Committee therefore advises the formation of a society to receive donations, legacies, and deposits, and to distribute the funds thus entrusted to them, by making loans for building parsonages, churches, etc., at the lowest rates of interest, and under the fullest guarantees for repayment. It is suggested that the proposed society, beginning with Toronto, might be extended over the Dominion, the patrons of the society being the Bishops of the Dioceses adopting the scheme. A special charter for Parliament would empower such a Society to borrow to the extent of \$250,000 by receiving deposits or by issuing debentures.

This is a scheme which, we are bound to say, appears to us entirely unsuited to a new country, calculated to cramp the operations of the Church more than anything else we know of, and likely to suggest excuses for reducing the liberality of our people to a minimum. Another objection we should have to the plan would be that it is far more difficult to raise money to pay off a church or parsonage debt, especially in this country, than to obtain it for furnishing the edifice, however arduous that may be. The idea seems to have originated from Queen Ann's Bounty, as made use of in the Mother Country, which, however beneficial in exceptional cases, has been known, ever there, to produce considerable and lasting injury to church work in some parishes. But perhaps the greatest objection of all, is that mentioned by one of the speakers on the subject, who stigmatized it as opening the door for degrading to profane uses, that which had been devoted to a holy purpose.

The special Committee on Religious Instruction in the Public Schools appointed to confer with the authorities of the various Provincial religious bodies with a view of ascertaining whether a common basis of action cannot be agreed upon with regard to religious instruction in our public schools, beg leave to report: That a Conference was held in the Synod Rooms, York Chambers, on the 14th of March last, at which

most of the leading denominations were represented either by some of their members or by letter. The subject was discussed at some length; and as there was considerable variety of opinion expressed, it was thought better not to determine upon any course of action until the question had been submitted for more general consideration. It was thereupon resolved that a circular be prepared and laid before the several Synods, etc., of the various religious bodies at their next annual meetings, inviting them to consider the expediency of addressing the Provincial government with a view of obtaining a shortening of the Public School hours in the afternoon of one day in the week, in order to give opportunity for imparting religious instruction: and also asking them to give some expression of opinion as to the manner in which they think the said religious instruction should be imparted. Mr. Langtry announced his intention of moving: That the Synod hereby directs a petition to be prepared and presented to the Provincial Legislature at its next meeting that the Public School Law may be so far amended that when application is made by the authorized minister of any religious body for permission to give religious instruction, the Trustees be required to make provision for such instruction being given either by shortening the hours set apart for secular instruction on one day in the week, or by arranging that such minister may instruct the children of his own church for one hour, on one day in the week, at the same time that the secular instruction of the school is going on.

The Special Committee appointed to draw up a Table of Fees report that, with the sanction of the Lord Bishop, they have adopted the following Table of Fees, to be taken by Clergymen of the Church in Canada, in the Diocese of Toronto, for the following Services: Marriages, (including Registration) \$4.00, Burials, (including Registration) \$2, Burials at a distance, (including registration) \$3.00, Calling of Banns, (payable in advance) \$1.00, Baptisms and Churchings, none, beyond the accustomed offering prescribed by the Prayer Book—Certificate of Baptism, \$1.00, Certificate of Marriage, \$1.00, Certificate of Burial, \$1.00.

The Mission Board reports that during the past year the receipts from collections, subscriptions, donations, and interest on debentures amounted to \$8449.94, and from Parochial guarantees to \$16,350.79. The grants to Missions during the same period amounted to \$9364.32, and the expenditure on account of