

prices, a rate much lower than at present, adding merely the expenses consequent upon their importation.

Your Committee have to reiterate their deep regret expressed in their two last annual Reports that our Travelling Mission is still vacant; they looked forward with anxious hope that this sad want would long ere this have been supplied, but from circumstances over which your Committee have no control the mission is still vacant. And they fear, that on account of the delay in the appointment of a missionary to the spiritually destitute portions of this Denary, the Church is suffering, and must suffer a diminution in its members, inasmuch as there being no shepherd, the wolf creeps in and scatters the sheep. Through the kind exertions of your late indefatigable Secretary, one portion, viz., Marshville and Merrittsville has been as regularly supplied and services held once a month, as the roads and weather would permit. At Merrittsville he meets with much encouragement, the services are well attended, and a subscription is opened for the building of a church on a site already given, and ready to be decided, if only the necessary exertions were now being made by the Church to supply the required services of the Missionary. Your Committee would notice that this want is being seriously felt in this place, where there is even now a provision, though small, for a clergyman, and where the people are ready to come forward and give towards his support whenever one is licensed thereto. In the meantime the Committee would call upon all the faithful to pray that the "Lord of the vineyard would send forth labourers into the vineyard;" and not only to pray, but at the same time to give of their substance for the supporting, and use all proper and legitimate influence in the furtherance of the appointment of, a Missionary not merely for this field of labour, but also for the remaining portion of the Mission.

Your Secretary, in lieu of public meetings, preached sermons in behalf of the Society at Jordan and Port Dalhousie, at Fort Erie and Bertie.

Your Committee would here briefly refer to a work called "Gold and the Gospel," which has been studiously circulated in this Diocese by some unknown friends, comprising a series of essays by gentlemen of various denominations of Christians on the subject "How much ought a Christian to give to God of his worldly means;" and they all with singular unanimity arrive at the same conclusion, that God requires from the Christian a tenth of his worldly substance for the conduct of the sanctuary, resting very strongly on that of St. Paul I Cor. IX as well as many other passages of Holy writ; "Do you not know that they who minister about holy things live of the sacrifice, and they who wait at the altar are partakers with the altar? Even so hath the Lord also ordained that they who preach should live of the Gospel." All must allow much, very much remains to be done; for until we all as a body become impressed with the importance of the work which we have to do, also, of the vastness of our responsibilities, until we all learn to understand that we each have talents to account for, until we learn that all we have belongs to God, and that we are only His stewards in the disposition thereof, and until we feel all this, and acknowledge that He requires a certain and due portion of our worldly means for His service, and then give to Him accordingly, we shall not be doing our duty or acting up to our high responsibilities.

The Parochial Branches included within the bounds of this District Branch Association report as follows:—

NIAGARA—The Parish of Niagara reports the sum of £54 6s., being a large increase over last year. This increase is very satisfactory, inasmuch as this parish has contributed upwards of thirty

pounds to the four quarterly collections of the Society, and has raised for church purposes a further sum of upwards of £150 specially, and an amount of upwards of £60 has been contributed at the offertory, and a handsome chandelier and set of lamps in addition, procured for the use of the Church at a cost of between £20 and £30.

St. CATIARINES—This parish reports:—  
Annual Subscriptions.....£63 1 3  
Donations to Missionary Fund 3 5 1

Total..... £66 3 6

This amount, considering the loss of some subscribers, and the great depression in trade, and consequent scarcity of money, which has been seriously felt in this parish during the past year, the Parochial Committee considers very encouraging. It is true they have to express regret that some few have diminished the amount of their subscriptions, and that others contented themselves with contributing one dollar or less who must be conscious that thrown as the Church is for her Missionary operations upon the voluntary offerings of her people, they ought to have given more liberally in proportion to their means; still, against this dark side of the picture, the Parochial Committee have to record the very pleasing fact, that some have this year doubled, and others more than doubled their former subscriptions. This noble example, worthy of all imitation, coupled with the zealous exertions of the collectors, especially the young ladies who collected in the town, greatly cheers the Committee and induces them heartily to "thank God and take courage."

CHIPPAWA—This parish reports the sum of £46 10s. being an increase on last year. The United Association of Stamford and Drummondville in the Parish of Chippawa report as follows:

Donations to W. O. Par Soc. £2 16s. including Clergyman's subscription.  
Donations to Mission Fund .....£0 15 10  
ditto Students' Fund ... 0 5 0  
ditto G. P. F. .... 0 5 0  
Indian Mission Fund ..... 2 10 2  
Subscriptions and donations... 19 4 4½

Total.....£25 15 4½

Against £20 Gs. of last year, making in all from the parish of Chippawa £72 5s. 4½d. The Committee would express a hope that this is only an earnest of a still further increase in future years. It is but justice to this portion of the parish here to mention that this is in addition to great exertions which are now being made to complete a very beautiful and substantial stone Church in Drummondville; nearly £650 being already expended thereon. In accordance with the resolution of the District Branch they report £99 Gs. 6d. as collected and subscribed in these united charges for Church purposes, for the year ending Easter, 1856.

THOROLD—The Chairman of this Parochial Association reports that the collections for this year for general purposes amount to £28 2s. 6d. which, considering the very general failure not only of the wheat, but also of the spring crops, is deemed very encouraging; for when the farmer loses his crops, as was very generally the case in this neighbourhood, all persons in the community suffer. Besides this, the members of the Church at Port Robinson have contributed very liberally towards the purchase of a very large and fine-toned Bell for that Church, whilst one of their members contributed £12 10s to that excellent object, in addition to a like sum for the purchase of appropriate hangings for the Reading-desk, Pulpit, and Communion Table, together with a beautiful fair linen cloth for the same. The members of the Church at Thorold have this year, for the first time, been called upon to contribute to the support of their Church in the shape of pew rents, and have exhibited very commendable readiness to respond to

this call. Notwithstanding these increased calls upon the people and their decreased ability to meet them, it is believed that had we been able to obtain the services of a Travelling Missionary for the destitute parts of the district, a far larger sum could have been obtained. Whilst, therefore, the Chairman of the Parochial Committee regrets that he cannot make a more favourable report, yet he thinks he has shewn some reason for not being able to do so.

DUNNVILLE—The Committee report as collected £11 Gs. 10½d.

Fort Erie—The Parish of Fort Erie reports the sum of £11 10s. 7½d.

LOUTH—This Parish reports the sum of £11 9s. 4d. The Rev. Secretary was kind enough a few weeks since to preach two sermons (at Jordan and the Port) explanatory of the objects of the Church Society, and well calculated to excite a greater interest in its prosperity. In addition to the sum above mentioned, this parish, which is probably one of the weakest in the District, subscribed during the past year £60 towards the stipend of the clergyman, and other church objects. The offertory collections, at St. James, Port Dalhousie during the same period amount to about £18 additional. The Treasurer's report is subjoined hereto.

In thus bringing their report to a conclusion, your Committee cannot omit expressing an earnest hope that the members of the Church will use increased efforts in the cause of Christ, to give for the extension of the same, more liberally, for the time to come, of that which God has given them. For after all they can only say, "Of thine own we have given Thee. That great spiritual destitution exists not only in more distant settlements, but every where around us, is too apparent. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few." Many for whom Christ died, are born, live, and die without God in the world. Let a sense of this appeal with its full force to every heart, and there will be found little time and less inclination for any thing but what may conduce to the salvation of those whose spiritual wants call upon us for relief. "Freely ye have received, freely give."

All which is respectfully submitted,

CHARLES LEYCESTER INOLES,  
Secretary.

Niagara, March, 1857.

Resolution I. Moved by Col. Kingsmill, seconded by the Rev. W. McMurray, D. D., and

Resolved, That the report now read be adopted, and that it be printed in the Ecclesiastical Gazette, and 200 copies ordered for distribution among the Parochial Branches.

Resolution II. Moved by the Rev. J. Flood, seconded by J. Simpson, Esq., and

Resolved, That this Society acknowledge the hand of Him without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, in all its undertakings.

Resolution III. Moved by Rev. T. B. Fuller, D. D. R. D., seconded by Captain Baxter, and supported by Rev. H. Phillips, and

Resolved, That this Society rejoice in the progress the Church is making towards the attainment of full Synodical action, and earnestly prays that She may receive, that which She now, more than ever demands, the increased and well sustained efforts of her members, to obtain for her permanence and stability in our land.

Resolution IV. Moved by Rev. T. S. Kennedy, Sec. Par. Soc., seconded by Rev. A. Dixon, M. A., and

Resolved, That this Society demands from the members of the Church in this Denary increased support for the sustaining and extending its Mission, particularly those to the Indians, as well as for the successfully carrying on the other branches of operation.