

The Church Chronicle.

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TO THE

Clergy and Parishioners of the several Parishes IN THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

For some time past my attention has been called to the critical state of the MISSION FUND of this Diocese, and the necessity of adopting some action which would ensure its being placed in a more healthy and efficient condition. The recommendation of any specific measure of relief has been from time to time postponed, in the hope that the collections for this object from year to year would have so far surpassed the standing outlay, that an accruing surplus would serve speedily to remove the embarrassments in which the fund has been placed.

The demands for assistance from this Fund,—in places in which the support to the Clergy is drawn exclusively from the congregations they serve,—were so numerous and so urgent, that, in the constant hope of better times and larger resources, it was found impossible to refuse compliance with them to the limited extent that was solicited, viz, £50 per annum to each. But the Board of Missions, after having extended this assistance to twenty eight Missionaries, have found themselves disappointed in the expected resources; yet feeling that it would be a grievous cruelty to those hard working clergymen to deprive them of the slender aid, even in part, which they had allotted, they have gone on paying their stipends as usual, until serious embarrassment has ensued.

I am informed that the condition of this Fund stands as follows:—

Balance overdrawn, Dec. 1, >	\$1239 47
Required for Stipends on Jan. 1, 1866	2097 60
Money borrowed to meet former payments	2500 00
Total	\$5836 97

Although the collection by Parochial Associations, and other collections for the Church Society during the present winter will, if they are even as successful as in former years, more than meet this large amount of arrears, it must be borne in mind that three successive quarterly stipends will have to be provided for out of the funds now about to be raised. This will render it necessary to make an effort to obtain, if possible, the amount of arrears as above stated, and leave the ordinary collections to be applied to the accruing stipends.