

gious duties; but, in consequence of defective views of the holy ordinance of baptism, had failed to bring their children into covenant with God.

The eldest son, a fine promising young man, who was about to enter upon the profession of a provincial surveyor, was stricken, in the providence of God, with that prevailing disease, pulmonary consumption: and for months was evidently sinking into his grave in spite of all that kind friends and the utmost skill of the faculty could do for him. As it was necessary for your Secretary to spend Sunday night away from home, in order to reach Marshville in time for service next morning, he occasionally availed himself of the proffered hospitalities of this family; and profited by those and other opportunities which he made, to speak to this young man on the great concerns of his soul. He found him deeply interested in this most important of all duties, and "working out his salvation with fear and trembling;" but there still appeared something wanting. After having seen him the preceding evening, your Secretary was about to return home from Marshville in June last, and whilst bidding adieu to his kind friends there, he hesitated for some time as to which of three roads he should take, as there was very little difference in any of them. At length, however, he was directed, as he believes, to take the middle one, which passed directly by the house where his young friend was lying. As he drew near the house, where his kind friend who had entertained him the night previous lived, the thought struck him that he would water his horse. When asking for a pail for that purpose, he was told by the good lady of the house that his young friend had grown suddenly worse, and was then supposed to be dying. Accordingly he hastened to his bedside, and found him indeed near his last: but perfectly sensible, and able to converse a little.

Your Secretary then felt that his duty was plain. He examined him carefully as to "his repentance towards God and his faith towards our Lord Jesus Christ;" and being fully satisfied, he called his father aside and asked him if his son had ever been baptised. He answered in the negative, and said that it was a subject about which he had had many most anxious thoughts. He was told that, having examined him, and being fully satisfied that he was a fit candidate for that holy ordinance, your Secretary felt it his duty to offer it to his dying son. The father remarked that he was most anxious that it should be administered, and would speak to him and to his mother about it. Both expressing an anxiety that he should thus be brought into covenant with God before his departure hence, your Secretary was privileged to baptise him in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. From the time of the administration of that holy rite to the hour of his death, which occurred in the course of the evening, he enjoyed perfect peace, he expressed an entire readiness to depart, and he with his gracious Lord; he felt then the deficiency, of which he had formerly complained, had been most mercifully supplied, and he was enabled at the hour of his departure to commend his soul into God's hands, with a hope full of immortality.

The subject of baptism having been thus forcibly brought before the parents of this family, they studied the question most thoroughly, and being perfectly convinced that it is one of God's own ordinances, and "generally necessary to salvation," they soon after-

wards presented their three youngest children, two boys and one sweet little girl, for that holy ordinance; and the three oldest, after due examination and careful instruction, were last October admitted into communion with God according to our prescribed form for public baptism of such as are of riper years.

The satisfaction expressed by the parents of these exceedingly promising young people, at feeling that now they have all of their children brought into covenant with God, and sealed with his most holy seal, would repay a thousand fold all the pains bestowed upon them. And this feeling is not a little heightened by the fact, that another member of this baptised family has lately been called hence; and though he was young in years, yet he was strong in faith, giving glory to God.

In addition to the services at the Junction and Marshville, services were performed at Queenston till last July, once a month, each by the Rev. T. Green, the Rev. C. L. Ingles, and the Rev. T. B. Fuller. At that time the Rev. E. Denroche, formerly incumbent of Brockville, removed with his family to that place, and kindly took charge thereof, during his temporary abode there. Since he took charge, the old building where the services of the church have been held for many years past, has been entirely renovated in its interior arrangements, and vastly improved; chiefly by Mr. Denroche's personal exertions. For these and other acts of Christian kindness and love the few church people in that neighbourhood owe a deep debt of gratitude to that Reverend Gentleman.

A subject of considerable moment to the Church Society occupied the attention of your Managing Committee at the annual meeting of the Parent Society in June last, viz: a proposed change in the constitution of the Society, whereby the whole of the funds raised in the several parishes constituting the District Branch Associations should be remitted to the Parent Society, instead of one-fourth, as heretofore. The proposed change was fully and ably discussed; and as it was apparent to the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, who presided on the occasion, that those District Branch Associations by which the constitution, as now existing had been fairly carried out, were decidedly opposed to the change, his Lordship, after complimenting those who had taken part in the discussion, recommended both parties to avoid pressing the question to a division; thus leaving the constitution of the Society unaltered in that particular. And your managing committee cannot but think that it was well that this was the issue of the discussion; for, whilst the constitution of the Church Society requires only one-quarter of the collections to be transmitted by the District Branch Associations to the parent Society, there is nothing to prevent the several parishes transmitting, through the District Treasurer, the two-fourths that are now regularly returned to them to be spent under the direction of the incumbent and parochial committee for their own parochial wants, if they wish to do so; nor anything indeed to hinder them from transmitting the whole, unless in District Branch Associations like our own, where one-fourth of the collections by the parochial branches is annually devoted, after meeting slight incidental expenses, to a travelling missionary fund for our District. And when it is considered that all the collections made after the quarterly sermons are sent to the Parent Society at Toronto, and that it is in the power of every individual contributor to

specify any particular object, for which he or she desires his contribution to be applied; and that the two-fourths returned to the several parishes, where they have been raised, have prevented the constant recurrence to a subscription list for every little Church object, when the burden generally falls on a few only, your managing committee feel persuaded that it will be the wisdom of the Parent Society to continue a system which has worked so well, where it has been efficiently carried out.

At the present moment the Gore and Wellington Branch Association is employing three travelling missionaries, at handsome salaries, all as fully and entirely under the control and direction of our venerable Bishop as any clergyman on your managing committee; and had we not met with the vexatious disappointment detailed above, we could have employed one at least.

As the meeting are well aware, by the act of December 18th, 1854, secularizing the Clergy Reserve, the incomes of incumbents prior to 8th May, 1853, were insured to them during their incumbency, from the Clergy Reserve Fund. But to bring the matter to a close, if possible, the Government, profiting by a hint that first made its public appearance in the *Globe* newspaper, introduced a clause into the act, which authorised each incumbent to commute his stipend, with the sanction of the authority of the body, to which he belonged, for a sum of money. This being done, the Government had nothing more to do with him, or he with them, than any other member of the community.

But it was considered best by the authorities of our church, to induce the several incumbents to pay over the sum, for which they commuted, to the Church Society of the Diocese, that being the only incorporated body belonging to our Church who could undertake the management of the fund, thus created by our clergy.

In consideration of this transfer of the commutation money received by each individual clergyman, to the Church Society, that society, by an article of indenture, bound itself to pay to each individual clergyman half-yearly the salary for which he had commuted, "during his incumbency, or whilst incapacitated by bodily or mental infirmity from discharging the functions of his sacred office." The fund thus created was placed under the management of the Lord Bishop of the diocese, and nine clergymen, and nine leading laymen, chosen at a meeting of the Church Society for that special purpose; and is kept entirely distinct and separate from all the other matters of the Church Society. The advantage gained by the church through this arrangement is this, that although a clergyman may die, his income does not die with him; but remains to the church to be allotted to his successor if the authorities of the Church think it advisable to do so; or if not, to be used for the support of clergymen in a more destitute portion of the Diocese. This fund came into possession of the Trust Committee at a most favorable moment; for, owing to the low price of all public securities (the only ones in which the committee invests its funds) they have been enabled to make most advantageous arrangements for the Church, and to make the commutation money go much further towards the payment of the stipends of the clergy for which the Church Society is pledged, than they could have done had it happened at almost any other time. And your managing committee feel bound, in this connection, to mark their deep sense of the obligations under which the