

## MEETING OF THE WESTERN DISTRICT BRANCH ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

The Annual meeting of this Branch Association took place on Saturday the 26th ult., in St. John's Church, Sandwich. The Rev. T. S. Kennedy, Secretary to the Parent Society, was present, and advocated its claims upon the members of the Church, with even more than his usual ability and eloquence. The Bishop of Michigan also honoured the meeting with his presence, and delighted his hearers with some remarks, delivered in that impressive and fervid style, which gained him so many admirers in England. The warm and affectionate eulogium, which he pronounced upon our renowned Diocesan, could not fail to touch the heart of every Canadian Churchman.

After the meeting had been opened with prayer the Rev. P. Mack, Rector of Amherstburg, delivered, as Chairman, some introductory remarks, explaining the objects of the Society. The Report (which is too long for insertion in our columns) was then read and the following Resolutions agreed to, some of which were ably advocated by the gentlemen taking part in the business of the meeting.

Moved by W. P. Vidal, Esq., Seconded by the Rev. T. S. Kennedy.

Resolved—1. That the report just read be adopted, and transmitted to the Parent Society.

Moved by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Michigan, Seconded by G. Bullock, Esq., Churchwarden.

Resolved—2. That this meeting desires to record its thankfulness to Almighty God for the measure of success, which He has hitherto been pleased to vouchsafe to the Incorporated Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto.

Moved by Albert Prince, Esq., Seconded by the Rev. F. G. Elliot, Missionary at Colchester.

Resolved—3. That this meeting entertains the strongest hope that under the altered management of the Society affairs, the members of the Church throughout the Diocese will have increased confidence in its progression, and prosperity, and that their best exertions will be used to increase its funds and to enable it to extend the sphere of its Missionary exertions.

Moved by the Rev. E. H. Dewar, Rector of Sandwich, Seconded by P. Salter, Esq., Churchwarden.

Resolved—4. That this meeting recognize in the general prosperity of this Province, and the material improvements which are so rapidly taking place, an imperative call upon the members of the Church to extend her influence, and provide the ordinances of religion for the large number of her people who are as yet spiritually destitute.

Moved by L. Gordon, Esq., of Amherstburg, Seconded by W. Hunt, Esq.

Resolved—5. That Albert Prince, Esq., be Secretary, and W. P. Vidal, Esq., Rector of the Branch Association, and J. H. Williams, Esq., Secretary of the Sandwich Parochial Committee, for the ensuing year.

Moved by L. Fuett, Esq., and Seconded by J. H. Wilkinson, Esq.

Resolved—6. That the Rev. T. G. Elliot, be clerical member and L. Gordon, Esq., lay member of the standing Committee of the Parent Society, as Delegates from this District.

Moved by J. Brewster, Esq., Seconded by M. Richards, Esq.

Resolved—7. That this meeting hail the presence of the Bishop of Michigan as a valuable token of the unity and good will which unites the sister Churches of England and America, and tender its sincere thanks for his able advocacy of the cause of the Church Society.

Moved by Dr. Dewson, Seconded by C. C. Johnson, Esq.

Resolved—8. That the thanks of this meeting be given to the Rev. P. Mack, for his kindness in presiding on the present occasion.

## THE ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE AMHERSTBURGH PAROCHIAL BRANCH OF THE DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

The Anniversary Meeting of the Parochial Branch of the Diocesan Church Society took place at Christ's Church Amherstburg, on Monday the 20th February at 7 o'clock P. M.

Divine Service was celebrated by the Rev. E. H. Dewar Rector of Sandwich. The musical part of the service consisting of the Missionary hymn, the chant, the 122nd psalm and the Dismissal Hymn were beautifully performed by the Choir, and evinced musical skill, judgment, taste, and brilliancy of execution. The Rector as Chairman opened the business of the meeting, immediately after Divine Service, by giving an historical sketch of the Society, and by explaining its object, and stating its claims on the support of its members.

The Secretary, the Rev. T. S. Kennedy, in seconding the Resolution largely unfolded the objects of the Society, and eloquently advocated its claims, satisfactorily detailed the working of its machinery and its system of management, which excited the liveliest interest in his auditory.

The Rev. E. H. Dewar in moving the 3rd resolution, with deep feeling and graphic liveliness of description, portrayed the spiritual destitution of the district in which he lives, and most pathetically and with great effect, appealed to the sympathies of all present.

M. Paxton in moving the 4th resolution described the joy of the people residing in Owen Sound, in attending the ministrations of a missionary after a night of almost heathen darkness and spiritual famine, and forcibly pointed out the necessity laid upon the Church in bringing before the attention of her people more prominently than hitherto, the objects and the claims of the Society.

The speakers were listened to with breathless attention, and the Church was attended by as many as possibly could be present owing to the almost Egyptian darkness of the night and the impassable state of the roads.

The visits of the talented and indefatigable Secretary, will tell with powerful effect upon the different Branch Associations and will infuse new life and energy into the Society, and cause a corresponding effect upon its funds.

## RESOLUTIONS.

Moved by Mr. L. G. Gordon.  
Seconded by the Rev. T. S. Kennedy, Secretary to Diocesan Church Society.

1. Resolved.—That the Diocesan Church Society, embracing so many pious and benevolent objects, each of which affords ample scope for a separate Institution, presents to us the most influential motives for unreserved zeal, activity and active co-operation, as well as our united prayers for its prosperity.

Moved by Mr. Baker, Church Warden.  
Seconded by Mr. Fry.

2. Resolved.—That the altered and amended system of management adopted by the Parent Society, inspires us with increased confidence that the funds placed at their disposal will be dispensed with economy, faithfulness, discretion and judgment.

Moved by the Rev. E. H. Dewar.  
Seconded by Mr. Brown.

3. Resolved.—That we use our best exertions both by example and precept, to carry out the principles that every baptized member of our Communion who has arrived at years of discretion, be enrolled as contributors to the funds and members of the Church Society.

Moved by Mr. Paxton.  
Seconded by Mr. G. W. Taylor.

4. Resolved.—That we transmit to the parent Society, in aid of their general objects, a larger quota of our annual contributions than has been hitherto remitted.

Moved by Mr. George Gott,  
Seconded by Mr. H. B. Elliot.

5. Resolved.—That the following Gentlemen constitute the Parochial Committee of management of the Amherstburgh Parochial Branch of the Church Society for the ensuing year, viz.—The Rector and Church Wardens ex officio, Mr. L. G. Gordon, Mr. T. Paxton.

## REPORT OF THE MIDLAND AND VICTORIA DISTRICT BRANCH ASSOCIATION, IN CONNECTION WITH THE CHURCH SOCIETY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

Though the operations of this Association during the past year have not been as extensive as the friends of the Church could have wished, or as the numerical strength and wealth of Churchmen might have led them to expect; still your Committee conceive that what has been accomplished, is a blessing upon the cause of Divine Truth.

When your Committee consider the important objects, which this Association seeks to promote, they cannot but express their feeling of disappointment at the partial support given to our institution which is recommended by so many interesting circumstances, and such weighty claims.

While your Committee deplore the want of hearty co-operation of the members of the Church, and foresee, without intruding upon the Prophet's office, that the times are not far distant when Churchmen will have to rely upon their own individual efforts, as well for the maintenance of existing missions, as for the establishment of new ones, they would earnestly recommend that, in every Parish, Mission, or Station within the limits of this Association, a personal appeal should be made to each member of the Church, high and low, rich and poor, in behalf of the Society. And if ever there was a time in the history of the Church; when zeal and piety and charity and unanimity should distinguish those who profess attachment to that faith, when the best, and wisest have, from the days of the Reformation, gloried in,—that time is now,—when the man of Sin on the one hand; is putting forth unwonted energies for the recovery of his lost dominion—when Dissent on the other, scruples not to malign and oppose the Church of their Fathers, whose existence or integrity if perilled, would only involve in a common overthrow all who now take shelter under her protection.

Your Committee would but refer to the list of supporters to this Institution within the Parish of St. George's in this City, and ask with confidence,—What are they in comparison with the great numbers who profess communion with the Church of England, or what the amount contributed, when their wealth, comforts, and standing are considered? According to the last census there are in the City 4,164 who have enrolled themselves as members of the Church. Now, if these, with all their circumstances of position and wealth, are taken into mind, how inadequate, how paltry the amount contributed!

Now your Committee, without pledging themselves to all the propositions in a Report lately published by a Committee to whom was referred a Return setting forth the various amounts which have been contributed by the several Parishes in the Diocese to the Parent Society during the last three years, cannot but acknowledge the propriety of excluding those Parishes or Missions from any participation in the benefits, which the Parent Society may have in its power to dispense; that have not established Parochial Committees, nor have contributed their quota towards the efficient working of the Central Government. Your Committee consider it of importance that the connection with the Parent Society should be maintained, and to this end would urge that

One Fourth of all monies, exclusive of the Special Collections, should be forwarded to the Treasurer for defraying the expenses incurred in managing the Parent Society at Toronto; which fourth your Committee, consider quite ample under wise and prudent direction for its efficient working.

Your Committee cannot believe that the Church has sunk in the estimation of those who prefer Apostolic Truth to modern fancy, or that she is now a less efficient instrument in "making ready a people acceptable to God," than she ever was; or that through old age has become too infirm to cope with the intelligence and enterprize of this restless age—on the contrary, they rejoice in the assurance that though her hairs be hoary, they have never been tarnished by dishonouring her Lord and Master, that though the weight of years rest upon her—her foundation standeth still sure—and what is above all, that her trust in God's promise is undiminished and unshaken, that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against her."

To other causes than those of inefficiency or unfaithfulness, your Committee would ascribe the want of interest manifested by Churchmen in the dissemination of those principles of their faith. —And among those causes they would particularize the absence of synodical action, which, they believe, damps the energies of the Laity; and prevents the full development of those powers which they possess for "lengthening her cords, and strengthening her stakes;" and for making her "a praise upon earth, and refuge for the weary traveller."

And your Committee cannot but hail with delight the expression not only of our own Diocesan's views on this absorbing subject, but that also of other Colonial Bishops, who, with him, deplore the evils which have flowed, and must continue to flow, from the want of such a system of Church Discipline as would ensure uniformity of action; and greater efficiency to the Colonial Church; and at the same time preserve unimpaired the harmony which should subsist between children and their kind venerable mother.

Though your Committee do not pretend to allege these and other causes as an apology for any past deficiencies on the part of the several Branches, which compose the Midland District Association; yet they cannot allow the idea to go abroad, that because little has been accomplished during the past year for the general interests of the Society, therefore local interests have been neglected; for a reference to the various Reports of the respective Branches, from which extracts will shortly be taken, prove most satisfactorily that great exertions have been made to advance the kingdom of God. And your Committee, if disposed, might, by enumerating everything of a local nature, which has been done during the past year, present a flattering Report, but they do not feel justified in admitting into a Report of "the Church Society," which could be more correctly detailed in a Report of the churchwardens and vestrymen at the annual meeting at Easter.—And for this reason your Committee in this their Report designedly confine themselves to matters directly connected with the Church Society; in order that the members of the Church, both far and near, may know what we are actually doing for the general advancement of Church principles in this Diocese.

In connection with this Association are more branches than last year; in which most interesting meetings have been held, resulting, it is hoped, in an increased zeal and diligence, and liberality.

The Parochial Association of St. James' in the Report urges forcibly the necessity of the faithful performance of "home duties," while at the same time it advocates the exercise of an universal benevolence to all the "household of faith." Its language is, "God's kingdom on earth should resemble that in heaven—and in proportion to the closeness of the resemblance will be its beauty and compactness. Then the perfection of the Church of Christ, as an organization for the making known the will of God, is, that each division, and every sub-division, even the most minute, is, as God would have it to be. Each individual actuated by one common motive "the good of the whole," obeying one common law of love to Him, who is the whole; and looking as the end and object the oneness of the whole. The energies of this Association seem to have been directed to the advancement of local interests, and to the removal of pecuniary difficulties which have pressed heavily upon the church.

The usual amount is on hand, to be remitted to Toronto.

The Parochial Association of St. Paul's reports that local circumstances had rendered it inexpedient to call upon its members for any subscriptions during the last year. In connection with the Annual Sermons for the Society the sum of £3 10s. 6d has been remitted to Toronto.

The Loughboro association, reports, that in consequence of expenses incurred in preparing the Church in the village of Sydenham for consecration last summer, only £1 17 6 could be transmitted to the parent Society, but it holds out the expectation that the amount to be transmitted this year will exceed that of any former. The Committee further report that the Church in Thorington, the corner stone of which was laid in July last, by the Archdeacon of Kingston, has been so far completed, that it is expected Divine Service will be held in it in the spring.

The Parochial Branch of St. John's Church Portsmouth, while urging its members to unwearied diligence in order that its local wants may be supplied, still presses upon them the expediency and duty of keeping up their connection with the Parent Society, even though their contributions to its funds, should be of small amount. Four quarterly collections have been taken up, amounting to £6 11 4, which has been sent to Toronto, in compliance with the Society's regulation.

The association of St. Mark's, Banefield has in addition to the four collections transmitted to the Parent Society the prescribed quota of one fourth of the subscriptions collected within the limits of the parish.

Speaking of the extent of the Society's operations, it says—"True it does not contemplate missions to the heathen, if we except its missions among the Indians. But it is a question, whether it be not with missions at home; that we are called upon to begin the great work of enlightenment and reforming the world."

(To be continued.)

## DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

CONSECRATION.—On Sunday last, the Church of England Chapel in Griffintown, heretofore known as St. Ann's, was Consecrated by the Lord Bishop of Montreal under the name of St. Stephens. Bishop Hopkins of Vermont was present, and took part in the ceremonies of the occasion. Besides the two Bishops and the Incumbent, (the Rev. J. Ellegood) the Revs. W. T. Leach, D.C.L. and C. Bancroft, M.A., were present in the Chancel. At Morning Prayer the Service peculiar to the Consecration was performed by the Lord Bishop. The Incumbent read the Petition for Consecration, and Dr. Leach acting as Registrar, the Deed or Order of Consecration. The Rev. Mr. Bancroft read Morning Service, and the Rev. Dr. Leach the Lessons, the Lord Bishop taking the ante-Communion Service. The Bishop of Vermont then preached an eloquent and impressive discourse from the text 1st Kings, VIII, c. 13th v.—"I have surely built thee an house to dwell in, a settled place for thee to abide in forever." After describing the occasion after the completion of the first temple when Solomon at its inauguration began his beautiful address with the words of the text, and comparing the magnificence of that temple of a whole nation, built out of the abundance of its overflowing treasury, with those erected in our days by the limited resources of single parishes, he pointed out the privileges possessed by modern Christian believers over the faithful Jews under the old dispensation and law of types and figures. He then went on to speak of the two members of the text, the house in which God dwells, and the assurance that he would abide in it forever. It is not in the material structure that God consents to dwell, nor did he visibly manifest his presence, as under the Jewish dispensation he did once in each year within the Holy of Holies, to the High Priests who then approached that most sacred place, but he had promised to be present where two or three were gathered together in his name, and to dwell in the hearts of his faithful children. But he would not abide forever with those who were not faithful to him. When the people of Israel and of Judah forsook him and became idolaters their temple was overthrown and themselves carried into captivity. After they had there become repentant for their sin, they were permitted to return to their land and to rebuild their temple. But they again fell, not by returning to their former sin of the worship of images, but by the love of the world and the pride of life, and when the Messiah came he found the people divided between the infidel Sadducee and the proud hypocritical and censorious Pharisee. They needed as they thought, no Saviour to cleanse and purify their hearts, but they ardently longed for a temporal prince who should restore them to power as a nation. Again their temple was destroyed so that the prophecy of our Saviour was, literally fulfilled and one stone was not left standing upon another. Christians should profit by this lesson and learn that the blessing of God would only rest upon those who remained faithful to him, not upon a material structure or edifice, but upon the hearts and souls of sincere believers who congregate there. The above very incomplete abstract conveys a very faint outline of the lofty ideas, and beautiful style of the venerable Bishop's sermon. We regret that he has declined to permit its publication at length, upon the ground that he did not consider it worthy of circulation in a durable form.

After sermon a collection was taken up in aid of the organ fund of the Chapel, which amounted with the collection in the evening to something over £35. The Chapel was crowded to overflowing with an orderly and attentive congregation.

At the evening service, the Bishops of Montreal and Vermont, and the Reverend Messrs. Rodgers Bancroft, and the Incumbent were present within the Chancel. The Rev. Mr. Ellegood read prayers and the Rev. Mr. Rogers the lessons. The Lord Bishop of Montreal preached an excellent sermon from the text, from the Gospel according to St. Luke: xix c. 19 v; "Occupy till I come."

## From our English Files.

That well-meaning, good-natured, but not very wise Nobleman, the Earl of Carlisle, has at last found Popery too much for him! Being but indifferently informed, he readily gulped down and has ever since stuck to the assurance given by the Papists, while in expectation of the Emancipation Bill, that "the old principles and codes of intolerance once attached to their Church, had fallen into practical desuetude, and were viewed by them with at least as much abhorrence as by ourselves." Unwilling to give up the amiable delusion under which he has so long laboured, the Noble Earl makes one more desperate effort to get the English Papists to re-monstrate with the Pope. (sic) against the persecution in Tuscan. If they do not respond to this appeal, even the Earl of Carlisle has made Branches be formed in every Mission and Station