

REPORT OF THE NEWCASTLE DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 25th, 1858.

Through the merciful goodness of our Heavenly Father, we are once more permitted to meet together, in order to report the proceedings of this Branch of our Church Society during the past year, and to take counsel for its further increase and development. Your Committee are fully sensible of the very limited measure of success which has attended their labours during the past year, and might plead in extenuation the critical nature of the times, and the extreme difficulty of procuring money for missionary purposes, did they not feel, in its full force, the obligation which all christians are under, to dedicate to the service of Almighty God, a much larger proportion of their substance than they commonly do. There are many conspiring causes which prevent the growth and extension of the Church in this Diocese: and amongst the chief may be mentioned, the very inadequate support of the Clergy. Until an adequate and settled maintenance be provided for the Clergy, it is in vain to hope for any considerable addition to their ranks, and consequently, for any great extension of the ministrations of the Church. Young men will be deterred from entering on a profession which demands great self-denial. The sacrifice of much worldly enjoyment—and the exercise of the highest talents, unless they can see some reasonable prospect of a competent provision. The surest way to cripple and paralyze the energies of the Church is to refuse a proper measure of support to her ministers; and this has been abundantly shewn within the last few years, by the unbounded extravagance which has characterized all classes of the community; and the utter disregard for the cause of God and true religion which had so fearfully marked our times. Men and money are the two great requisites in the work of Church extension; if the latter be furnished, there will be no difficulty in procuring the former. But if the people withhold the means of spreading the Gospel, the work of God will be left undone, and the most unhappy consequences will ensue. Instead of peace and happiness, truth and justice, religion and piety, a worldly and avaricious spirit will abound, vice and immorality will fearfully increase, and a general infidelity will overspread the land. "Righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people," and the Church of God is the best safeguard against all false doctrine, heresy and schism."

The following reports have been received from the various parishes in connexion with this Branch. —

CONORNO.—The complaint of hard times, though often unjustifiably indulged in, is this year no fiction, and the indisputable fact of its existence has in some degree impaired the returns to the Society. The ladies, dividing the town and neighbourhood into sections, worked with great zeal and assiduity; but it was in vain to combat against an unyielding pressure.

During the year, by special subscription and otherwise, £400 have been raised in this parish, independent of the ordinary Church revenue; one half of which has been applied to the introduction of gas into St. Peter's Church and the procuring of a new bell, and the remaining £200 has been appropriated to the liquidation of the debt upon the Church. This is now reduced to £125, and it will be further diminished against Easter Monday.

The amount of receipt and expenditure is as follows:—

RECEIPTS.	
Balance from last year	£ 3 1 7½
Subs. paid, W. Gravely	£ 2 0 0
Collected by Mrs. Goodeve, and Mrs. Clark	9 18 1½
" " by Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. J. Calcutt	9 11 10½
" " by Mrs. Taoko and Miss Rowe	2 12 1½
" " by Miss McKeys and Miss Denn	8 7 6
" " by Mrs. A. Burnham and Miss Bennett	15 16 10
" " by J. L. Wilcocks, Esq.	1 5 0
" " by Mrs. S. Smith and Miss Bennett	8 4 4½
" " by Mrs. D. Boulton and Mrs. Graveley	17 9 4½
" " by Mrs. Bethune and Mrs. C. Clark	22 15 0
" " by Mr. Penton	0 10 0
Subs. transmitted direct to Parent Society	94 0 2½
Society	5 0 0
	£102 1 10

EXPENDITURE.	
Paid for Sunday School Reward Books	£ 9 7 1
Paid tuition of pupils at Mr. Down's	2 1 0
80 Reports at 10d each	3 6 8
Paid to Parent Society	21 14 4
Paid share to Branch of Christian Knowledge Society	3 0 0
Paid to Cemetery Fund	27 10 0
Paid to Church Building Fund	27 10 0
Subscription direct to Parent Society	5 0 0
	99 9 1
Balance in Treasurer's hand	£2 12 9

CLARE.—The people of this parish are actively engaged in building a new church in the village of Newcastle. This undertaking, involving a large outlay, will require the combined exertions of all the members, and will tax their christian liberality to the very utmost. Still the Committee feel no inclination, on that account, to make the undoubted claims which the Society has to the undivided and hearty support of Churchmen. Being the only institution in the Diocese, under episcopal sanction, for the furtherance of the important objects it seeks to attain, no local enterprise, or general pecuniary embarrassment, should be offered as an excuse, either for withholding or lessening the measure of support hitherto extended to it.

The subscription lists not having yet been returned by the collectors, the exact amount raised within the bounds of the association cannot be stated. It is confidently hoped, however, that it will not be less than that of any previous year. But should this hope not be realised, the Committee are prepared to recommend that a larger proportion be transmitted to Toronto than is required by the constitution; as they are unwilling that the great work should be in the least degree impeded by any lack of individual liberality.

CAPAN.—The lists not having as yet been received from the collectors in this mission, the exact amount subscribed cannot be ascertained. It is confidently expected, however, that the whole

sum raised this year will amount to about £30, viz., £16 from St. Paul's Parochial Association, and the same sum from St. John's Association.

It is worthy of remark also, that at the annual Parochial meeting, a resolution was proposed, by the special desire of the people themselves, and unanimously adopted, to send the whole amount subscribed and collected, to the Parent Society, instead of the one fourth as heretofore. It was understood that this resolution was adopted in order to make some amends for a falling off last year in the amount raised for the Society. It could not, however, be intended by this arrangement to deprive this District Branch of the one fifth already appropriated, viz., one tenth for the maintenance of a depository; and one tenth for the formation of a Travelling Missionary Fund. The desire on the part of the parishioners to pay over (the whole amount raised) to the funds of the Parent Society, is exceedingly creditable to their zeal and liberality.

Much improvement has also been made in the interior of St. Paul's Church, chiefly through the exertions of a lady of the congregation.

GRAFTON.—In this parish the claims of the Society have been fully explained and urged upon the members of the Church, and the effect has been exceedingly satisfactory. On no previous occasion has the appeal to our people been more personal and direct—every Church family having been applied to by the two gentlemen who kindly undertook the arduous task of collection. The result has exceeded our most sanguine expectations. The collectors scarcely met with more than one or two refusals in the whole parish. So that, notwithstanding the severe monetary pressure, and in a little community of Churchmen, few and widely scattered, the sum of \$88 has already been subscribed—nearly the whole of which has been paid in—and there is reason to hope that the final amount will not fall much short of \$100.

Your Committee feel that the two collectors, who exerted themselves so perseveringly on behalf of the Society, deserve the cordial thanks of all earnest and sound-hearted Churchmen. And they are of opinion, that whatever may be the backwardness of some of our people, to contribute to the cause of the Church, still the success of our institutions depends in a great measure upon the hearty good will and personal exertion of those who are appointed to plead their cause, and to urge their claims upon our members. Any timidity or backwardness will be sure to meet with disappointment. The Church requires the individual exertion of all her friends, and we know that united effort can accomplish almost any thing, for "union is strength."

To be Continued.

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Judge McM., Perth; Rev. B. C. H., York, Grand River; R. B., Mono Mills; Rev. J. G., South Polten; (in full to April 1858.)

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