

The Algoma Missionary News.

The Official Organ of the Diocese of Algoma.

New Series. Enlarged.
Vol. IX. No. 5.

TORONTO, MAY 1, 1897.

Published Monthly
50 cents per annum.

The Algoma Missionary News

EDITOR:

REV. CHARLES PIERCY, BURK'S FALLS, ONT.

PUBLISHERS:

THE ALGOMA MISSIONARY PRESS,
20 BAY STREET, TORONTO.

THE ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS is the official organ of the Diocese of Algoma. It is published for the Diocese by The Algoma Missionary Press, 20 Bay Street, Toronto, to whom all subscriptions and communications of a business nature should be sent.

THE ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS (New Series) is published monthly. The price for single copies is 50 cents per annum.

All items of news and communications of an editorial nature should be sent direct to the Editor, The Rev. C. Piercy, Burk's Falls, Ontario, Canada.

Pastoral.

To the Reverend the Clergy and to the Laity of the Diocese of Algoma.

REVEREND AND DEAR BRETHREN—I arrived at Sault Ste. Marie on the 27th of January last, and immediately entered upon my duties as Bishop of Algoma. Since then I have made visitation tours in the districts of Algoma, Nipissing, Parry Sound, and Muskoka, and on the Manitoulin and St. Joseph's Islands. I have visited in all twenty-one missions out of the thirty-three under my charge, and have met twenty-four clergy and two catechists out of the thirty-three at work in the Diocese. In arranging these visitations I felt it my duty, since I could not visit all, to give the preference to those missions which needed and asked for my presence.

My aim was not only to perform such duties as were immediately pressing, but to get over as much of the Diocese as possible in a short time that I might obtain, from actual observation, some idea of the condition and needs of our work. I wished to do this quickly for two reasons, (1) because the condition of the Mission Fund made it imperative that an appeal should be made immediately to the whole Canadian Church, and I did not wish to speak without knowledge; and (2) because I realized the necessity of preparing myself that, when visiting England to attend the Lambeth Conference, I

might speak to the friends of our Diocese in the old land not merely of what I have heard, but of what I have seen and know.

Having then obtained in this manner much first hand information respecting my great charge. I felt it to be my next duty to make an urgent appeal to you all to do your best towards the relief of our present necessity. It seemed to me—and I feel sure you would agree with me in this—that we had no right to ask others for help until we had done our very best to help ourselves. And I most earnestly hope that my appeal will bear much fruit both in special contributions to the Mission Fund, and, in a few cases, in the permanent increase of the annual assessments paid toward the clergyman's stipend. Still it is only too evident that our needs cannot be supplied from our own resources, and I have accordingly (1) prepared an appeal to the whole Church of Canada, which in due course will be published far and wide, and (2) have made arrangements to sail by the *Parisian* on May 15th, that I may have time before the Lambeth conference meets to urge our claims upon our English friends.

I am very reluctant to leave the diocese at this early stage of my episcopate and before I have become acquainted with every mission and clergyman within my jurisdiction. But necessity is laid upon me, and I am the more ready to yield to it since the Ven. Archdeacon Llwyd, whose experience and familiarity with the work, coupled with his personal gifts, eminently fit him for the position, has consented to act as my commissary during my absence.

From May 15th to August 15th, therefore, all correspondence upon diocesan affairs should be sent to the Archdeacon at Huntsville. And in making this announcement I beg to remind all concerned that, since the administration of the diocese will be a very heavy addition to the Archdeacon's ordinary parochial

duties, they must be careful to approach him only upon business of real and immediate importance, and never needlessly to summon him away from his parish.

Those wishing to reach me before my departure may address me until May 1st at Bishopsthorpe, Quebec, Que., and after that date until May 10th, at Lachine, Que.

I believe it is a rule of the diocese that private appeals for aid must be endorsed by the Bishop, or in his absence, by the commissary. The importance of keeping strictly to this rule will be evident to all at the present time.

One other matter I wish to mention. I am anxious that our clergy and people should encourage THE ALGOMA MISSIONARY NEWS (1) by extending its circulation and (2) by supplying the editor, Rev. Charles Piercy, Burk's Falls, with brief parochial items. They who contribute to our funds have a right to know what we are doing. With a little more support this magazine would pay its own way and would thus give all needful information to our benefactors without laying any burden upon the Mission Fund. I know that missionaries naturally shrink from chronicling their own doings. But they might, with out violence to their feelings, or serious drain upon their energies, send a memorandum announcing the date, character, object, results, etc., of any Church event occurring in their midst, and if they did that they would be doing much to further what I am commending. Of course, if they would add comments throwing light upon their work for the benefit of those who live far away; or would send brief accounts of such incidents of missionary work or travel as would interest outsiders they would be doing far more. I have approved of Mr. Piercy's proposal to visit such missions as are accessible to him for the purpose of giving information and stimulating interest in regard to his work. I bespeak for him a warm reception.