

I regret to say that the dreadful fever and ague, so prevalent in this place, has so affected my family and myself during three summers that I was obliged to obtain leave of the bishop to reside at St. Catharines, promising to come here by railway to do my work. This will be very inconvenient for myself, but it will be better than to see one or two of us suffering all summer long, and it will oblige me to spend more time (two or three days every week) among the people, so that in that sense my usefulness may be increased. I shall, however, be prepared to resign the mission so soon as the society think they can provide for it in a better way. Indeed I should have done so at once, were it not that I could not dispose of the property which the want of the house which had been promised me led me to purchase; and also being very anxious to see the church at Marshville built, and the mission thus made more encouraging for another missionary to take charge of the same when I leave it. I am doing all I can to show the people that they are greatly indebted to the society for having undertaken to support me, and I believe something more than last year will be obtained, but I understand they have not yet paid the last year's salary, long overdue, or if they have, it has been done by one man alone, upon whom the whole burden has fallen, so that you will easily see that in pecuniary circumstances we are far from flourishing.—The voluntary system will not work well in poor and scattered congregations.

I remain,

Rev. and dear Sir,
The Society's faithful servant,

And yours very sincerely,

JOHN STANNAGE

To this he made a supplementary report to the secretary, giving account of his exertions on behalf of the society:

Welland, Jan. 14th, 1861.

REV. AND DEAR SIR,—

Although I wrote my last report to the chairman a few weeks ago, it did not contain an account of my people's contributions during the last year, which I believe you require. I was waiting to have as much as I could possibly collect. Seeing the difficulty of finding efficient collectors in such a mission as this, and wishing to have a chance of explaining the many reasons why churchmen should heartily contribute to the Church Society, especially when that society supports the missionary, I undertook to go myself to every family belonging to the Welland congregation, and I have gathered \$38 47½ as annual subscriptions. Considering all our circumstances, this was, perhaps, as much as could be expected. The offertories in Welland for all purposes to 6th January, 1861, came to \$50.052½. Thus the Welland congregation have paid, during the last year for church purposes, the sum of \$288.53. I trust that the next year's annual contributions will greatly increase. I felt that calling upon a people that had never been used to pay for religion, immediately after they had been called upon for the clergyman's salary, appeared like too heavy a pressure. I hope next year to call upon the people in Marshville for the Church Society. Notitia.—No. of communicants 61; (many have removed and some have died:) burials, 6; baptisms, 22; marriages, 2; public catechisings, 62; pastoral visits, 62; miles travelled, 1,500; confirmed, 47.

I am, &c.

JOHN STANNAGE.

The parish of Dunnville.—The committee of the Dunnville Parochial Branch reports as follows: We are happy to state that in no instance has the contribution been any less on account of the alteration in the constitution, which prevents the half of the money from being returned to the

parish; and we believe that in some cases more has been given than would have been obtained if this practice had continued. The amount which our collectors have received is in all \$76. Of this \$24 are for assisting in his studies the gentleman whom the Committee of the Parochial Branch have engaged, thus to aid in preparing for the blessed work of the ministry. The remaining \$52 are to be sent to the parent society in Toronto, and include the \$5 required from the clergyman, and \$3 given by two contributors, expressly for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. The sum raised by this parish is only small, but it is to be remembered that the people, though neither numerous nor wealthy, pay their minister \$640 a year; and this sum is not merely promised, it is paid. The clergyman has much pleasure in saying that during five years he has received the whole amount.

The parish of Fort Erie reports for the year ending April 30th, 1861: Balance from last year \$3.25 for M. F.; collected by Mrs. Keogh, and Miss Rainford, \$10 50 for M. F., \$9 W. and O., \$2 Special Div. Stud. Fund; collected by Mrs. House, \$4 M. F.; collected by Miss Miller, \$7.75 M. F.; the Rev. H. Holland, \$2.50 M. F., \$5 W. and O., \$10 Special Div. Stud. Fund, making in all \$54. The Rev. H. Holland's subscription of \$2 50 to the Tract Fund for the current year, has been paid to the assistant secretary in Toronto.

The Parish of Chippawa reports \$151.50, \$18 of which is for the Special Divinity Students' Fund.

The united charges of Stamford and Drummondville, in the Parish of Chippawa, report in all \$60 44½ (\$6 for Special Div. Stud. Fund, G. P. \$1.37½; W. and O. \$5; clergyman's subscription, and \$48 07 M. F.) \$2 50 for the Tract Fund usually sent with the above will be forwarded direct to the parent society.

The Parish of Thorold.—The Parochial Committee report that the change made in the constitution which debars one-half of the amounts raised from the annual collections being returned to the several parishes, has had no material effect upon the contributions; but they have been far more effected by the cessation of all public works in the parish. The amount of collections this year are \$120, which includes \$24 towards the support of a divinity student.

The Parish of Niagara.—The committee regret very much that they are obliged to report a considerable falling off in their collections during the past year, as many of the regular contributors decline to give until the indebtedness of the parish is liquidated. They have been able to procure only \$62.35, nor can they look for much increase in the annual contributions, until the debts of the parish are paid.

The Parish of St. Catharines.—Owing to various parochial necessities, the committee can report only \$205.75 as annual subscriptions; yet they are thankful that this is more than they at first anticipated it would be.

The Parish of Louth.—Reports \$25. The members of St. James' Church have since Christmas subscribed \$90 for a melodeon, and for the improvement of the choir in church music, which, together with other necessary collections, must account for the smallness of the amount. At a meeting of the district committee on Sept. 24th, last, at Thorold, an application was read by the Rev. the Rural Dean, from a Mr. McLeary, now a divinity student at Trinity College, asking for aid to the amount of £30 per annum for two years, to enable him to complete his theological course. The sum was readily guaranteed by the various parishes represented.

From these reports it will appear that the cause of the society is not languishing, though

not prosperous as it ought to be. Much has yet to be done, and while we rejoice over the successful labours of our indefatigable missionary, we cannot but regret that so large a field yet remains untilled. Again and again let all pray that "the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers into his harvest." Many are yet without the precious "bread of life." Many within our own bounds are suffering from a "famine of the Word." Many who know little or nothing of their Redeemer are calling upon us for aid, and whose souls, if we supply them not with "food convenient for them," will accuse us before our God in the dread day of account.

In conclusion, your committee cannot omit to notice with deep emotion the apparent trials and perils which they fear at present await our sister church in the U. S. of America. Ferently do they pray, and earnestly do they call upon all the faithful to pray, that God would so overrule the doings of men in that country, that the Body of His dear Son, which has from so small a beginning grown to such gigantic a stature, may not suffer thereby; but that the members thereof, whatever be their political relations, may ever be found firm in the "unity of the spirit, and in the bond of peace."

All of which is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. LEYCESTER INGLES,

Secretary.

W. LLEMINO, Chairman.

Niagara, Jan. 28th, 1861.

N.B.—The parishes of Niagara, St. Catharines and Louth have only now reported, thus causing a delay in the publication of the report.

C. L. I., Sec.

April, 1861.

RESOLUTIONS.

I.

Moved by J. POWELL, Esq., seconded by the Rev. the Rural Dean,

That the report now read be adopted and printed in the *Ecclesiastical Gazette*, and two hundred and fifty copies be ordered for distribution in the several parishes.

II.

Moved by W. BALL, Esq., seconded by Rev. J. FLOOD,

That this meeting do record its humble and hearty thanks to Almighty God for the measure of success which He has hitherto graciously vouchsafed to the Society, and the prospect of still further usefulness now before it.

III.

Moved by COL. KINGSMILL, seconded by the Secretary,

That the extension of the Church of Christ is a subject for the devout prayers and earnest endeavours of every believer in the Gospel of Christ.

IV.

Moved by P. CLEMENT, Esq., seconded by R. HISCOTT, Esq.,

That the thanks of the meeting are due to the office-bearers for the past year, and that the Rev. C. L. Ingles, B.A., be requested to act as secretary, and the Rev. the Rural Dean as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

CHAS. LEYCESTER INGLES,

Secretary.

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY, MIDLAND DISTRICT BRANCH.

The present meeting takes place under circumstances differing from any previous occasion. This is the last Anniversary of the Midland District Branch, which will be held in connexion with the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto. We are all alike anxious that a Bishop should be