

The Canadian Ecclesiastical Gazette;

OR

MONTHLY CHURCH REGISTER FOR THE DIOCESES OF QUEBEC, TORONTO, AND MONTREAL.

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We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of that excellent weekly, the *New York Church Journal*, with a request that we would exchange with it. We shall gladly accede to the proposal, and we trust that the time is not far distant when our chronicle of Canadian Ecclesiastical events will be published semi-monthly at least, if not weekly. If the members of our Church in the North American Dioceses evinced any *esprit de corps*, and forwarded brief notices of meetings, addresses, &c., which are continually occurring in the numerous parishes of this continent, a Canadian Ecclesiastical Gazette could easily be published as a weekly. Some persons there are who will not aid us because we profess to belong to no party in the Church, and therefore admit no controversial letters; but, without evincing our own particular views, chronicle events of interest to any portion of our Zion to which our attention has been directed. We cannot afford the time, gratuitously given to the conducting of the *Gazette*, to the perusal of many exchanges, nor have we at any time contemplated in the small space to which we have been forced to confine ourselves, publishing the proceedings of societies not in immediate connection with the Church of England and Ireland. We took as our model the London *Ecclesiastical Gazette*; and we hoped, in a new country like this, to have been able to publish such missionary intelligence as would have not only made our exchange desirable to that most useful and well-conducted periodical, but also to have enlisted the sympathies of our brethren in England towards the Missionary work in the North American colonies.

We must confess, however, that we are becoming disheartened. Lists of the clergy and their cures have been yearly published, and no preference shewn for one Diocese over another; and yet we have not effected what we hoped for—namely, by a small beginning, to awaken the North American Church to the necessity of having an organ, which, irrespective of party feeling in any Diocese, would give an impartial view of what was being effected by the Church.

That such a paper, well-conducted (but then the Editor must devote his time almost

exclusively to it, and should be remunerated accordingly), all Churchmen will acknowledge is much required; and the several societies ought to contribute towards its support by ordering a number of copies annually for gratuitous distribution, as an advertising medium for the cause which they especially advocate.

In enunciating these views we cannot be accused of endeavoring to further our individual interests; though we would attain what we have sought for from the publication of the first number of the *Gazette*, the establishment of a non-party paper, "An Ecclesiastical Intelligencer." We do not hesitate to state that if we saw a prospect of the scheme ultimately succeeding, we would, for a short time, be ready to devote hours, which as hitherto, properly belong to sleep, to bringing it to maturity, having only some guarantee that the unselfish and spirited publisher of the *Ecclesiastical Gazette*, who at our solicitation undertook the work (for which he has at present been barely paid the expense), would be enabled shortly to remunerate competent persons to conduct it as it ought to be conducted. A certain portion of the paper, if issued weekly, might be devoted to advertisements, which, when circulated generally (as no party paper can be) would soon render it self-sustaining. By a united action the North American Dioceses might soon have an organ which would not only be a credit to them, but also of the greatest advantage to their missionary objects. Want of space has hitherto prevented us publishing in full many parochial reports, such, for instance, as we give in this number. Let any one attentively peruse these, and consider the amount of work performed by our Clergy, the extensive field in which they, under so many disadvantages, labour, and, under the circumstances, the great liberality of the people of this new country,—the inhabitants of which were, previous to their immigration, unaccustomed to be thus directly called on to support the Church,—and he will not only admit that such statistics must be beneficial to the Diocese at large, inasmuch as they tend to excite emulation in other portions of the vineyard, but that they are also calculated

to call forth the sympathies of those who look upon our Church as a Missionary Society, and to bring to our assistance many laborers imbued with a missionary spirit.

WIDOWS AND ORPHANS' FUND.

The Clergy are reminded that the Quarterly Collection to be taken up in the month of October is for the increase of the Widows and Orphans' Fund of the Clergy of this Diocese. The Society has been incorporated since 1846, and yet all the funds invested by the Church, inclusive of 25s. annually from each of the Clergy, only amount (independent of life subscriptions and benefactions) to £7160 8s. 11d., which, at legal interest, will yield an income of about £435 per annum. The average income during the last twelve years derived from the annual collections for this fund amounts to about £405. Let what the Clergy and their families contribute towards these collections be added to their annual subscriptions, and their miserable incomes taken into consideration, then a comparison be drawn between what they give and what should be contributed by the numerous lay members of our communion—for whose benefit they labor; and it may with reason be asked, what inducement do the laity hold out to young men without private fortunes to devote themselves to the work of the ministry in a country like this, where by devoting themselves to other callings, (should their lives be spared) they can ensure a competence, if not wealth, instead of penury, for their wives and children?

The number of widows and orphans at present having claims on this fund are six widows and eighteen orphans, and the amount pledged by the Society, £380,—nearly the whole of the sum usually received as the proceeds of the annual collections. Every exertion should now be made to augment the fund for investment, for in a very few years, in the natural course of events, the applications from widows and orphans will be greatly multiplied; and there is not a man, woman or child, who would not be shocked at the idea that the pittance of £50 currency a year at present allowed to the widows and