

to induce that venerable society to reconsider its decision to withdraw its grants from Canada. If it should be carried out it will simply mean unparalleled disaster to the Church in this still new and struggling country. Archbishop Machray states that in his own diocese of Rupert's Land notice has been given that the S.P.G. will reduce the grant for next year by £150, and that the society proposes to withdraw all help from Canada after the year 1900, and His Grace adds, "It is hard to see how in that case our missions can be maintained." Some new society will have to be formed in England to help the daughter in Canada if the good old S.P.G. breathes over it its threatened chilling breath! The contention of the society that the Church in Canada does not stand in need of aid from England, because it is now one consolidated Church from ocean to ocean, is not one of justice to the daughter Church. The relations existing between the missionary dioceses and those of the older part of Canada are not altered, as far as aid and support are concerned, by the consolidation of the Church. They are all just as poor as they ever were. The older dioceses of Canada are themselves, almost to a unit, missionary in character, and have to maintain their own mission fund. It is the only way by which many parishes now doing a good work could be maintained. And to suppose that these dioceses could supplement what they are now doing for domestic missions by the amounts now granted annually by the S.P.G. is to suppose what certainly can not be done. The Church in Algoma and the Northwest will simply have to suffer and contract its work, for, as Archbishop Machray says, it is difficult to see how, without aid from the S.P.G., the missions can be maintained. Some strong resolution on the subject should be passed by the General Synod in September next, and suitable representations made to the S.P.G. to reconsider this most important matter. Probably when the bishops assemble in England next year for the Lambeth Conference some more hopeful phase may be put upon the case, which is one which affects largely the future of the Church in this country.

ALGOMA GENERAL MISSION FUND \$6,000 IN ARREARS.

To the Clergy and Laity of the Church of England in the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada:

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN,—I am confronted with a financial crisis which demands the most serious attention of the Church at large. My "General Mission Fund," from which grants are made towards the stipends of the clergy, the erection of churches and parsonages, and other diocesan objects, is now \$6,000 in arrears. Such was the intelligence with which our dio-

cesan treasurer greeted me on my return, when about to resume my missionary work with new heart and hope, in the health and strength which God has, in His great goodness, restored to me. The causes leading up to this lamentable condition of things are manifold: (a) The extension of our work in the occupation of new missions and the subdivision of old ones, involving a corresponding increase in the number of my co-workers.

(b) A very serious diminution of late years in the sums received from the D. and F. M. B., consequent, I am informed, on the great shrinkage in the amount of undesignated funds placed at the Board's disposal.

(c) A marked reduction in the contributions of individuals, attributable to (1) an idea, wholly unfounded on fact, that Algoma ought by this time to be all but self-supporting; (2) To the fact that ever since the Board declared against appeals for individual fields, as not consistent with an even-handed justice to the whole area of the Church's domestic missionary enterprise, Algoma has almost totally abstained from them. (3) To the diversion of the support of former sympathizers into new channels, created for the maintenance of foreign missionary work.

(d) Add now to all this the recent receipt of an official notice from the committee of the S. P. G. of a serious reduction in their annual grant, and of its intended total withdrawal in 1900. These, then, being the facts of the case, and their assignable causes, what is to be the solution of the grave financial problem which confronts your missionary diocese?

1. Algoma is willing to help herself to the full extent of her ability—I can answer for it—but her ability is very limited. (a) Several of her stronger parishes, at centres such as Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Bracebridge, etc., are just now struggling to enlarge or rebuild their churches, and the effort completely exhausts all their available resources. Until they have succeeded in it I cannot, with any justice, call on them to increase the local quota to their clergymen's stipends. (b) In the rural districts the farmers have a hard struggle to maintain themselves and their families, what with light crops, mortgaged farms, heavy taxes, hay, *e.g.*, \$18 and \$20 per ton last winter, and feed, therefore, so scarce that many cattle died; three-year-old steers were sold for \$12, horses for \$10, etc. Nor are the prospects much more favorable this season. Yet, despite all this, we are doing our utmost to develop our local resources, deputations being appointed to visit the missions, and a pastoral letter issued urging the laity to increase their contributions where at all possible, and so relieve the pressure on our "General Mission Fund."

2. Yet another solution has been suggested, viz., the reduction of our expenditure by the