

15.19 per cent.; and of the Episcopal Methodists, 4.10 per cent.; while the other denominations decreased as follows: Church of Scotland, 30 per cent.; Free Church, 13 per cent.; Wesleyan Methodists, 7.8 per cent.

As it is the members of this last denomination that make the greatest efforts to proselyte from the Church, and boast most loudly of success, the following acknowledgment of the want of success of that body, from Egerton Ryerson, who had been nearly 30 years a preacher of the greatest celebrity in it, will satisfy the members of the Church who hear such boasting, that it is altogether beside the truth: "It ought to make a Christian heart bleed to think that our largest increase of members, according to returns over which we are disposed to congratulate ourselves, falls vastly short of the natural increase of population in our own community, apart from the increase of the population of the country at large, and therefore that perhaps five or more persons are sent out into the world as worldlings, from the families of our church [i. e. the Methodist Society], while one is retained or brought into it from the world by all our missionaries and agencies." The committee therefore expect that they shall hear no more in this neighbourhood of this vain boasting.

The amounts collected for church purposes in the mission, during the year, are as follows:

Subscriptions to Church Society	£12	18	8
Collection for General Purposes	0	14	4
" Students' Fund	1	6	0
" Mission Station	1	6	3
" Widows and Orphans	1	10	0
Towards minister's stipend—			
Subscriptions	£38	12	6
Presents	14	9	6
			53 2 0

The above shows a very gratifying increase over the amounts collected last year, for the Society, viz., £120s. 7½d; but a trifling decrease in your minister's stipend, viz., £1 9s 1½d.

The number of services performed during the year was 192, at 11 stations, being an increase of 41 services and 3 stations over those of 1853.

The number of baptisms was 104, of marriages 21, and of burials 10; being an increase in the year of 19 baptisms, 13 marriages, and 2 burials.

As difficulties stood in the way of the survey of the Mono side of the village of Orangeville, the site of the church referred to in our last report was not given in till late in the year; it was however then presented in a very excellent situation, and Mr. Ketchum, in addition to giving it, has increased his subscription to £50; the foundation has been prepared and the stones raised, and, as the contract for the mason work has been let out, the committee trust that early in the spring the building will be commenced. Advertisements were published in one of our county papers, and notices posted up in the neighbourhood, requiring tenders for the erection of St. Luke's Church, but none were received, consequently nothing has yet been done to it.

The committee acknowledge with thanks the receipt of a font for Trinity Church, from Mr. James Ekins, of Toronto, and trust that this act of considerate liberality on the part of a stranger may induce some of the members of the different congregations in the parish to emulate his example, and provide suitable vessels for the administration of both sacraments, in their respective churches.

The lending library, at Mr. John Atkinson's, in connection with St. John's Church, has been revived, and an addition made to it of 23 books, making the number at present 181. Subscrip-

tion to the library is fixed at half a dollar per annum.

Depositories for the sale of books of common prayer have been established at the following places: Messrs. Atkinson & Hutchinson, Mono; Mr. James Kelly, Orangeville; and Mr. John Little, Mulmur. An addition of 1d. per quarter dollar is made to the Toronto price, in order to pay for any expenses that may be incurred, and to assist in increasing the stock.

The state of the payments on the Glebe, which during the incumbency of the late Secretary of the Church Society had been neglected, has, during the last year, been looked into, and four additional instalments paid, leaving four still unpaid, with interest; towards the payment of which there is a small balance in the hands of the society.

The parent society still continues to prosper. During the last financial year, the increase in the actual income of the society and its branches was £1,788. New parochial branches have been formed, and the reports which have been received from some of them show results which could hardly have been expected by the most sanguine well wishers of the society. Three missionaries and four catechists and schoolmasters received the whole or a part of their stipends from the mission fund; four widows and fifteen orphans of deceased clergymen received annuities; and eight divinity students have been assisted from the funds collected for that purpose.

The meeting of the Synod, in October, was marked with the most perfect cordiality, and resolutions of the utmost importance for the future government of the Church were passed with almost complete unanimity.

But, while there are matters that are calculated to afford comfort and pleasure to a true-hearted churchman, the committee must not refrain from referring to others of a far different character, the tendency of which is to produce gloom and despondency in the heart; the clouds that have been so long gathering over us have at length burst, and swept away with them our clergy reserves; the Church has no longer a portion or inheritance in the public property of the province, but is obliged to rely principally upon her own resources. But, though the enemies of religion have succeeded in "robbing God," through the Church, of the "offerings" presented to him by the king and parliament of Great Britain, yet they shall not succeed or overthrow that Church; for her foundations are upon the holy hills: the Lord of Hosts is still with her; the God of Jacob is still her refuge.

From every diocese in our vast colonial empire the most pleasing tidings are continually reaching our ears,—giving us encouragement to expect that the sound of the gospel shall soon be heard in the most remote portions of our globe.

We still continue to receive the most satisfactory accounts of the progress of reformation in Ireland. A striking proof of it is found in the astonishing decrease of the Romish clergy, who, about seven years ago, were said to be upwards of 5,000, while in 1853, according to a return then made, there were only 2,366.

In England the onward motion of the Church still continues, being manifested by the great increase and enlargement of churches, the zeal and activity shown in promoting every project for the spiritual instruction of the masses of the people, and the self-denying devotion of her ministers; and the consequence is, that the dissenters themselves are compelled to acknowledge her prosperity, while they confess that their own bodies not only do not show that prosperity, but are in general on the decrease. The English correspondent of the *New York Recorder* (a Baptist paper), after observing that the ratio of in-

crease in their denomination is smaller than formerly, thus proceeds: "Probably the greater zeal which has been displayed by the Church of England during the last twenty years will in part account for this; . . . one substantial proof of which is to be found in the following fact: From 1801 to 1831 the increase of church accommodation within the pale of the establishment was in the aggregate no more than 4.6 per cent. in that already existing; whereas the aggregate increase during the period 1831-1851 was 17.9 per cent." Another writer (the correspondent of the *Christian Observer*—an American Presbyterian paper), after speaking in the highest terms of the life and growth now so evident in the Church of England, thus gives the state of facts as they stand with the dissenters: "It is well known that Scotland is the stronghold of Presbyterianism, and that in England the Presbyterian Church scarcely numbers 100 ministers and congregations, and this Church, though small, is the most vigorous and healthy of all. The Independents and Baptists, by their organs, deplore the apathy and worldliness now so rampant, preventing their advancement during the past year. The various bodies of Methodists give in exact statistics, from which it is mournfully true that they are all retrograding. This might be accounted for in the Old Connection, from the fratricidal warfare carried on for the last four years by those who have mis-called themselves reformers. But this will not help the case of the minor Methodist bodies, because, in the ordinary course of things, they might be expected to derive advantage from the agitations of the parent body, whereas they all report a defalcation of members. The Methodist New Connection, which commenced in 1797, reports a small decrease on their total membership, which now amounts to a few above 17,000. The Primitive Methodists report about 92,000, being a decrease of about 1,020 in the year. The Association Methodists, who began with the expulsion of Dr. Warren from the old body in 1835, report a decrease of 7,000, being just one-half of their entire number. The Reforming Methodists, who have robbed the Wesleyan Conference of at least 90,000 members, only reported at their delegate meeting, held a fortnight ago, 43,000, stating that they have already lost 10,000, and the Parent Connection itself has a further decrease this year of 6,787 members." It is therefore only reasonable to conclude that those persons who had been perverted from the faith and form of sound words delivered unto them, and had strayed to other folds, have now seen their error, and are returning to the Church.

As members of this Church, it is our duty to rejoice at her prosperity, and to show our joy by increased exertions in her behalf; and as our Government has seen fit to rob us of our right, let us by increased subscriptions to the Church Society endeavor to counteract the evils intended for us by our enemies, and thus show that, as the flames of Smithfield, while consuming our martyred ancestors, kindled a fire which no human efforts could extinguish, so the tyrannical persecution of the Church by the dominant party in the colony shall only have the effect of binding her more closely to the hearts of her members, and of giving her that position which, as the Church of the living God, she is authorized to expect—that of being triumphant over all opposition, and of becoming the glory of this colony as well as of all other lands.

Moved by the Rev. F. L. Osler, M. A., Rural Dean, seconded by Mr. J. Atkinson,—

That the report now read be adopted.

Moved by the Rev. H. B. Osler, seconded by Mr. J. Alexander,—

That we desire to give expression to our gra-