

tions, were generally well attended; and our clerical brethren felt amply repaid for their toil and labour, by witnessing a growing zeal on the part of our members, and a generous readiness to co-operate in carrying out and promoting, to the best of their ability, the various objects of the Church Society.

The following abstract will shew the sums respectively raised by the various Parochial Associations within the District during the past year: by which it also appears that the whole amount thus obtained for the Society's objects is £300 11s. 5d. being an increase of £1. 17s. 1d. on the amount raised in the preceding year.

	1852.	1853.
Cobourg	£85 0 0	£108 6 3
Port Hope	9 5 0	45 11 10
Cavan	11 15 0	31 11 10
Clarke	6 17 6	30 0 0
Darlington	1 0 0	21 10 9
Grafton	19 5 0	20 7 9
Colborne	22 6 10	23 0 0
Rice Lake	3 15 0	5 0 0
Manvers	— — —	8 0 0
Cartwright	— — —	7 0 0
Perryown	3 10 0	— — —
	£165 14 1	£300 11 5

From this brief review of the Society's operations within this District during the past year, it will be seen that there is much cause for gratitude to the Author and Giver of all good, by whose gracious aid and fostering care the cause of the Church has met with so much acceptance. Feeble indeed are all our efforts, compared with the magnitude of the great work which lies before us; but when we go forth in the strength of the Lord, carrying forth the everlasting Gospel of the grace of God, and setting forth the Divine Ordinances of the Church, in all their fulness and life-giving efficacy, we need not doubt that a blessing will rest upon our labors, however feeble and imperfect in themselves; and that God will give his people the disposition and the will to be instrumental in carrying on the work of the Gospel by such organizations as the Church Society.

Although the objects of our Society are varied in their nature, and require for their full development and successful operation the combination of much Christian zeal, talent, disinterestedness, and self-denial, yet there is a principle of harmony pervading all its efforts, which is extremely grateful to every sincere churchman. In all our exertions in the cause of religion, the unity of the Church is fully recognized and acted on. Our Society is essentially and exclusively a Church Society, supported and maintained by Churchmen, for the promotion and extension of Church objects; and by a principle of its constitution, is intended to include every man woman and child of our communion throughout the land. In circulating the Holy Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer, together with other approved books and tracts, it becomes a Bible Society, a Prayer Book Society, as well a Religious Book and Tract Society. In establishing and promoting Missions, it is a Church Missionary Society; in aiding and encouraging the erection and endowment of Churches and Parsonage Houses, it is a Church Building Society; in promoting and establishing Daily and Sunday Schools, it is a Church School Society; and in making provision for the families of deceased clergymen, it is a Widow's and Orphan's Society. All these varied and excellent objects the Church Society comprises in its constitution, and is constantly endeavouring to carry out according to the extent of its ability. And surely we must all admit, that in endeavouring to promote such ends and objects, the Society is worthy of our best exertions and

most cordial co-operation. Other religious and beneficent societies may be more or less worthy of support, according to the principles on which they are established, and the objects which they are intended to promote. But to churchmen in this Province there is no Society which can present so many claims to their prayers and beneficence; nor, indeed, any other religious society with which they can consistently unite in promoting similar objects. The Church Society is for churchmen,—a channel by which they can accomplish the largest amount of good,—an organization which is pervaded and governed in all its proceedings by the principles and doctrines of the Church, as taught in the Holy Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer.

Into this great treasury of the Church, therefore, should all our people bring their alms and oblations, in full assurance that by such united and harmonious efforts, more real good can be accomplished than by frittering away their contributions, by bestowing a trifle on every association that may present itself before them. The Church of our fathers claims our warmest love, our purest regards; and therefore, whatever measure of good we may be enabled to accomplish should be done through and by her instrumentality. The maxim which the great Luther recommended by his life and teaching, was—“*Let us pray in the Church, with the Church, and for the Church.*” and we should say to all our brethren, whatever be their station or circumstances,—“*Let us work in the Church, with the Church, and for the Church.*” Let us never compromise our principles, under the specious plea of a spurious liberality; nor be found bartering away our birthright under cover of a worldly expediency, or in order to secure a mere human popularity. The earnest and faithful churchman will be true to his principles, sound in his allegiance, and devoted to the best interests of his spiritual Mother. He will never be found pandering to her enemies, fomenting strife and discord, weakening the ties which should unite all her children in dutiful affection; nor attempting to build up systems which are contrary to her divine teaching, by assisting to disseminate principles and opinions which are at variance with those views of religious truth which he himself professes to hold. As obedience is the test of our discipleship: so if our principles are in accordance with our profession, they will make us humble, dutiful, and faithful in all things; remembering, that after we have done all that we can or should do, we are still, as our Saviour has taught us, “unprofitable servants.”

Your committee beg, in conclusion, most earnestly to recommend the claims of the Church upon all her members; that they would study to promote her best interests by their prayers, their time, their talents, and their contributions. By such means only can they be instrumental in carrying on the work of the Gospel, first in their own hearts, and then in the hearts of others. They beg to conclude their Report in the words of a departed brother, who was wont on such occasions as the present, in his own plain and homely but forcible and straightforward manner, to urge the claims of the Church upon this assembly. In the immediate prospect of death, and only three days before he was released from his earthly tabernacle, in writing to the Secretary of this Branch of the Society, he thus expressed himself: “*I wish the Society success; and I wish and pray that none of our Clergy will either speak or act to injure it.*”

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN WILSON,

Secretary.

Cobourg, 8th March, 1854.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TALBOT DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

The Committee of the Church Society for the district of Talbot have much pleasure in being able to state that the improvement manifested last year, when the society seemed in a manner to be resuscitated, continues; and that there is an encouraging prospect of its becoming more and more efficient.

The number of contributors last year, including the congregations at Vittoria and Port Dover, was 96, and the sum collected £23 6s. 3d., which, with the exception of 8s. retained for incidental expenses, was remitted to the parent society, to be divided between the Widows and Orphans' fund and that for general purposes. This year the collections from Simcoe alone are from 80 subscribers, and amount to £18 17s. 6d.; while Vittoria, where there will in future be a separate parochial branch, has raised £6 12s. 6d.

The peculiar position of this district branch, as alluded to in the last year's report, continues essentially the same as it was then described, the operations of the society, in the matter of annual contributions at least, being mainly confined to the parish of Woodhouse. The quarterly collections from the parish of Woodhouse have amounted to the sum of £11 7s. 6d.

During the past year the churchyard at Vittoria has been surrounded with a substantial fence. A brick church at Port Dover has been contracted for, at a cost of £500, which is well advanced towards completion; and a small church at Watersford, under the charge of the Rev. E. R. Stimson, will shortly be ready for the service of God. A bell, weighing upwards of 7 cwt, has been provided, by voluntary contributions for Trinity Church, Simcoe. It is expected, also, that steps will be taken immediately to put the old church and cemetery of St. John in a proper state of repair, and that the funds at the disposal of the Churchwardens of Trinity Church, Simcoe, will be applied to surround it with a suitable fence.

The Committee have very great satisfaction in being able to testify that an increasing spirit of Christian liberality characterizes the proceedings of Churchmen among us, which, it is hoped, will keep pace with the rapidly improving circumstances of the population at large, the marks of which have been discoverable in instances of generosity, the recital of which does not enter into the duties of your committee.

In conclusion, your committee feel that we should bless God for the measure of success which He has vouchsafed to this and kindred branches of the Society, and they look forward with pleasing anticipations to the results which may reasonably be expected to ensue from the synodical action taken by the church in this province, and from the very important measure of the sub-division of this vast diocese, which is now urged upon the community by our venerable Bishop.

All which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. M. EVANS,

Sec. T.D.B.C.S.

Simcoe, March 2, 1854.

CHRIST'S CHURCH, HAMILTON.

The enlargement of this Church, by the commencement of a new edifice, as an addition to the former building, on the east end, took place in 1852, and is now completed; the Church being opened for public worship, including the enlargement, on Easter Sunday last; and considering the difficulties that had to be surmounted in attaching a portion of a new building, entirely different in style to the old structure, the general effect obtained is decidedly good, even much better than could be possibly sup-