

The Rector, the Rev. R. T. Stephenson, M.A., presented eighty-four candidates—35 males, and 49 females. After "the laying on of hands," the Bishop addressed the candidates at some length. At the close his Lordship was assisted in the administration of the Holy Communion by the Rector and the Rev. Wm. Cruden, B.A. There were 151 communicants. Nearly all the newly-confirmed received their first Communion.

At 7 p.m. the annual Missionary Meeting was held. After the authorized Missionary Service, the Rev. R. S. Stephenson stated that the parish had contributed \$174.75 to Missions during 1879. Of this sum \$30.80 had been forwarded to the Rev. F. W. Kirkpatrick, M.A., Kingston, for Missionary work in the Diocese of Algoma. The Rev. Wm. Cruden, spoke on the Christian duty of giving. The Bishop regretted that the Diocesan Mission Fund was over \$7,000 in debt, and this debt simply meant that no new Mission could be opened until it was paid. In speaking of the progress of the Church in his diocese since his consecration in 1862—he said that the Missionary clergy had increased from 18 to 40—the entire number of clergy being nearly 100, and that 120 new Churches had been built, and 20,000 persons confirmed—5,000 of whom were converts from the denominations. The diocese needed \$10,000 annually to carry on its missionary work, and to provide this amount necessitated increased liberality on the part of the members of the Church. The Church at both services was filled to its utmost capacity. Eight hundred persons being present on both occasions. The collections at the Missionary Meeting amounted to \$50.00.

The town of Perth contributed \$1,050.00 to the Irish Relief Fund. Of this amount \$261.00 was given by the members of the Church.

THE MARRIAGE QUESTION.—The following petition of the Lord Bishop of Ontario has been presented to the House of Commons:—

To the Honourable Members of the House of Commons, in Parliament assembled, this petition of the Bishop of Ontario—Humbly sheweth:—

That your petitioner has heard with surprise and alarm that a bill has been introduced into your honourable House, to legalize the marriage of a man with the sister of his deceased wife, and also to legalize the marriage of a woman with her deceased husband's brother.

That your petitioner prays that the said bill be not passed, for the following reasons:—

1. That there has been no demand for or petitions in favour of such a bill, and that its enactment is prompted by those who, having broken the law, wish for indemnity.

2. That the Church of England, in Provincial Synod assembled, in the year 1877, solemnly re-enacted "The Table of Affinity," which forbids such marriages, and that the Synod was composed of the bishops and representative clergy and laity from the Provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

3. That Holy Scripture plainly forbids such marriages. In Leviticus 18. 16 and in 20. 21, a man is forbidden to marry his brother's wife, and by parity of reasoning a man may not marry his wife's sister, unless it be argued that the Tenth Commandment does not forbid a woman to covet her neighbour's husband, because such prohibition is not stated in so many words.

4. That by the Law of Christ, a man and his wife become "one flesh," and that therefore the church for one thousand four hundred years after Christ held that a man's wife's sister becomes his own sister.

5. That an infringement on the "Table of Affinity," in the case of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, must inevitably lead to the abolition of the whole code, so that a man may marry his wife's mother or his wife's daughter.

6. That history proves relaxation of the prohibited degrees "wherein whosoever are related, are forbidden in Scripture, and our laws, to marry together," leads to laxity of morals, and frequency of divorce, and that if a man may marry his deceased wife's sister, he may marry his divorced wife's sister.

7. That the proposed bill for the abolition of aunts and sisters-in-law will wholly revolutionize domestic life, and introduce jealousies into families now happily free from them.

8. That there is no force whatever in the argu-

ment that the sister of a deceased wife is the best and natural guardian of her nephews and nieces. She may be so in the capacity of an aunt, but not necessarily as a stepmother.

9. That three great departments of Christianity—the Church of Rome, the Church of England and the Church of Scotland—are wholly opposed to the principle of the proposed bill. It is true that the Church of Rome grants dispensations, but the fact of dispensation is a witness against the lawfulness of the marriages in question. The first dispensation was given A. D. 1500, by Pope Alexander VI. (Borgia) to the King of Portugal.

For the aforesaid reasons your petitioner humbly implores your honourable House to postpone action regarding the proposed bill and allow the various religious bodies of the Dominion an opportunity of expressing their convictions, and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray,

(Signed,) J. T. ONTARIO.
Ottawa, 11th March, 1880.

BELLEVEILLE.—*St. John's Church*—Rev. R. S. Forneri, Incumbent. Two liberal members of this Church have offered the sum of \$200 towards the liquidation of a debt of \$600 on the Church lot, on condition that the balance be subscribed before the Easter Vestry Meeting, or the adjourned meeting a fortnight after. The last hundred of this balance the congregation find themselves unable to raise. If any friends have the means of aiding this spirited little congregation in their difficulty, their contributions will be most thankfully received by the Incumbent.

TORONTO

SYNOD OFFICE.—Collections, &c., received during the week ending March 20th, 1880.

IRISH RELIEF FUND.—Scarborough, Christ Church, additional, 50 cents; Mulmur West, Whitfield, \$1.07; Elba, \$3.30; Honeywood, \$1.31; Grafton, \$16.00; Guildford, \$2.35; West Dysart, 81 cents; Orillia, additional, \$2.00; Barrie, \$29.50; Minesing, \$3.00; St. Luke's, Toronto, \$10.00.

MISSION FUND.—*Parochial Collections*—Port Perry, \$49.42; Whitfield (Mulmur West), \$24.81; Brooklin, Columbus and Ashburn, on account, \$80.00. *January Collection*—Brooklin, \$1.13; Columbus, 88 cents; Ashburn, 22 cents.

PERMANENT MISSION FUND.—Walter G. P. Cassels, subscription, \$50.00.

WIDOWS' AND ORPHANS' FUND.—Rev. John Carry, annual subscription, \$5.00.

TORONTO.

At the recent meeting of the Synod Committee, the Mission Board passed the following resolutions:—

1.—That on the receipt of bonds from Campbellford for \$400, and from Workworth for \$80, the Secretary-Treasurer be instructed to pay the grant quarterly.

2.—That the Mission Board, in reply to the application from Streetsville, regret that they will not be in a position to make the payment until the meeting in May, when the financial position of the Board will be ascertained, and the Board hopes to be able to comply with the request.

3.—That a grant of \$200 be given to the Mission of West Mulmur for one year from December 1st, 1879.

4.—That the guarantee from the Mission of Charleston be accepted and the annual grant of \$800 be continued.

5.—That the bonds from Stayner for \$250 be accepted, and upon the receipt of bonds from Creemore and Banda for their former amount, the Secretary-Treasurer be instructed to pay the grant.

6.—That the grant to St. Matthew's Church, Leslieville, of \$200 be continued for one year from the expiration of the last quarter.

7.—That the Mission of Coldwater receive the sum of \$400, the Mission of Galway \$200, and that of North Orillia and Medonte \$800 per annum; and that this Board pay the same as from 1st of October, 1879.

To the Reverend the Clergy of the Diocese of Toronto.

REV. AND DEAR BRETHREN.—His Lordship the Bishop has directed me to call your attention to the date of the close of the Synod's Financial Year, viz., April 30, in order that you may, before that period, have remitted to the Secretary-Treasurer, the full amount of your missionary contributions, both Parochial Association, and other. He has so directed me, that there may be, at the May meeting of the Mission Board, a full statement of its resources; that due

liberality, continued with due care, may characterize its actions. Permit me also to state, that I have found, in some instances, a discrepancy between the amounts acknowledged, and those alleged to have been forwarded to the Synod Office; which, upon enquiry, was seen to have been occasioned by the unacknowledged sums having been remitted after the fiscal year had closed; necessitating the delay of their report until the following year.

Very respectfully yours,
THOS. J. HODGKIN,
Missionary Secretary.

ST. GEORGE'S.—The organ in this Church has for some weeks past been in the hands of Messrs. S. R. Warren & Son, by whom it has been entirely reconstructed and greatly enlarged, and it is now an instrument of great beauty and power. It is intended to be used for the first time on Easter Sunday.

PARKDALE.—*St. Mark's.*—The annual Missionary Meeting was held here on Monday evening, 15th inst. The Incumbent in the chair. The deputation consisted of the Rev's Dr. Hodgkin, W. H. French and J. P. Lewis. Dr. Hodgkin pointed out that while we lay claim to the Church of England being a "Missionary Church," we in this Diocese are far from really being so. So few clergy have we for the ground we cover, that on Sunday last no less than thirty-three stations were closed for the want of men to open them. The cause of this want of men is chiefly owing to the lack of funds to support them.

The Rev. Mr. French followed with a very earnest address, calling attention to the bright side of Missionary work, and the great blessings it brings to those engaged in it.

The Rev. Mr. Lewis, who paid a very high tribute to the Missionaries of our Diocese, who, he said, though perhaps not all brilliant men, yet were all earnest, loyal Churchmen, working for the cause of Christ and His Church, and that as a class they stood first among the clergy of the Province as regards intelligence, learning and zeal. The Liturgy of our Church, after careful examination, he had no hesitation in saying would, if properly used, create a far higher state of devotion than any other form of worship of which he knew. He then solemnly charged those present to do what lay in their power to promote the Missionary work of the Diocese.

After the Incumbent had thanked the speakers for their able addresses, a collection was taken up, and the blessing was pronounced by the Rev. Dr. Hodgkin.

The subscription list for our new building fund has so well progressed, upwards of \$1,000 having been subscribed in the parish, that we expect to see the foundations started early in April. The building which is to serve as a Church for the present, accommodating about 300, is to be the school house eventually, when the congregation has become sufficiently strong to put up a large and handsome Church. The site has been kindly given by R. N. Gooch, Esq., on the corner of King street and Clare avenue. The necessity for increased Church accommodation has now become apparent to all, the congregation having increased to more than 80 families.

BEETON.—The new Church of St. Paul's in this village was formally opened by the Lord Bishop, on Saturday, February 29th. The building is a substantial brick one, and its interior presents a very neat, pretty and Churchlike appearance, the grained ceiling adding much to its beauty. Its dimensions are nave, 80x50; chancel, 15x13; its position, north and south; the south-east corner is the tower, the base being 13 feet square, carried up 36 feet, on which is placed a belfry 10 feet high, which bears a steeple 47 feet in height.

It is only right that the names of Messrs. Ham-mell, Evans, Lilly, Douglas and others be especially mentioned in connection with the building of this Church. It is very doubtful whether our congregation would for some time to come have had a Church to worship in had it not been for their liberality and zeal. Very few churches have been built with so little trouble to their clergyman as this one. May they have their reward and not only in this life.

In the morning the service commenced by the choir singing the anthem, "I will arise." Morning prayer was then read by the Incumbent, the lessons by the Rev. A. W. Spragge, of Bradford, the Litany by Rev. H. Owen, of Newmarket, the ante-communion service by the Bishop, Rev. H. B. Owen reading the Epistle. The sermon was by the Bishop, who took for his text 2 Chron. ii, 6th verse, and preached a most eloquent sermon, which was listened to with rapt attention by the large assemblage. After which His Lordship, aided by the Incumbent, administered the Holy Communion to a goodly number.

In the afternoon the service consisted of the Litany, read by the Incumbent, after which the Sacrament of Baptism was administered by the Bishop to six infants. The Rev. A. W. Spragge was preacher.