

The insurance of church property is a subject which should receive the attention of the parochial officers of our missions. A large proportion of churches and parsonage houses are still returned as "not insured." When we consider how great a charge the rebuilding of a church or parsonage would be to the strongest of our missions, and the very small sum required to pay the premium of insurance, it seems strange that so obvious and necessary a duty continues to be so frequently neglected.

Nothing having been done as yet to regulate the boundaries of missions and parishes where they are not sufficiently defined, and it being desirable in accordance with the rule of the Synod, that this matter should be attended to at the present meeting, arrangements were entered into to define the boundaries between Bedford and Stanbridge East, and West Shefford and Brome Woods, which object will be doubtless accomplished before this Report is presented to Synod.

The subject of local endowments appears in many places to have taken hold upon the minds of our people, and very vigorous and praiseworthy efforts to that effect have been made even by small missions, by no means abounding in pecuniary resources, as is the case with some of our older and wealthier parishes. It is to be hoped that this example will stimulate others to like diligence to perpetuate the blessings of their regular church institutions, and hand them down to their children unimpaired. And it is pleasing to observe instances in which this duty is duly remembered by members of the Church, when, on the bed of death, they make disposition of their worldly effects. The late Mrs. Reynolds, of Frelighsburg, furnishes an example of this care on the part of a dying Christian to aid in perpetuating, for the benefit of succeeding generations, those spiritual privileges and means of grace which she had found precious to her own soul.

Nor while we are thus chronicling the memory of the departed, who have died in the Lord, should we omit to mention that venerable servant of Christ, one of the oldest of our missionaries, the Rev. R. Whitwell, M.A., who has been recently removed by the hand of death, and called to his reward. Identified, for the larger portion of his ministerial life, with the affairs of this Deanery, his memory will long be cherished by his brother clergymen and the lay members of the church.

In conclusion, the Rural Dean begs to congratulate the members of the Ruri-decanal Chapter upon the generally vigorous and healthy character of the Church's work in this Deanery.

All which is nevertheless respectfully submitted.

GEO. SLACK,  
*Incumbent of Bedford, Rural Dean.*