

bled together, many changes have taken place in our parish; some of those belonging to our congregation, who, then, were present and took a lively interest in every matter connected with the cause of religion in our midst, are now absent—one of whom, the foremost in every good work, whose constant care was attending to the education of the young—is now for a time from us, but we fondly entertain the hope to see him soon again occupying his accustomed and useful position in our committee meetings and schools.

The debt of the church, that chief of all our local claims, heretofore a matter of such moment and difficulty, has now completely disappeared. Through the constant exertions of your committee and the liberal spirit of the congregation, the mountain first became a mole-hill, and, at the present even the mole-hill is a creature of the past. It will be remembered that when, at the beginning, this branch was originated in 1848, the debt then was a myth and a mystery—even able accountants felt themselves inadequate to solve the enigma, and it remained for the churchwardens of 1850, Captain Lefroy and S. B. Harman, Esq., to mould the confused mass into some tangible shape. After much pains and labour, these gentlemen placed the matter in such a light, and so directed previous efforts, that it appeared not impossible to reduce this great burden, which seemed to crush every attempt to advance the cause of religion in our parish, and to absorb every effort in the one exertion to pay the debt for the erection of the consecrated edifice of our church. With God's blessing on the well-sustained and self-denying endeavours of the parishioners, we have now to be truly thankful that every farthing of the debt has been liquidated. The party, once so oppressed with responsibilities incurred as a member of the building committee, has been altogether relieved, interest for temporary advances allowed, and bills of cost discharged.

This great work finished, and the debt of the church existing among the things that have been—the other great work—the parochial school house—has not only been attempted, but achieved. On reference to the minute book, we find, so far back as the 28th April, 1849, the following resolution had been adopted: "That three-fourths of the funds at present in hand, and not especially appropriated, be devoted towards the erection of a parochial school house and charges connected therewith." By this resolution the sum of £52 3s. 4d. was placed in the hands of the treasurer as the nucleus of a fund, wherewith to erect a school house for the parish; this sum from time to time was increased—now by thank-offerings—then by the Sunday school children foregoing their accustomed prizes for punctual attendance—again by a collection in the church at the interesting ceremony of the consecration, and other sources—and last, though not least, through the judicious investment of these various sums by the energetic and untiring friend, who kindly undertook the management of the fund.

The object is now accomplished, and upon this night, for the first time, we are assembled beneath the roof of that useful building, the erecting of which has been so long the fondest object of your committee, and the congregation altogether. A teacher also, with the highest testimonials as to character and competency, having had the management of important schools in the old country, has solicited to be permitted, so soon as the school room furniture is procured, to open the school upon his own responsibility and under the superintendence of the parochial clergy. From the attainments of the master, it is confidently expected to impart to the children a sound English, commercial and mathematical education;

while having before our eyes the all-important warning, "Them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." the eternal truths of the blessed Bible and the principles of our Scriptural Church, shall hold in it that prominent position, which is always sure to entail upon such institutions the blessings and favour of the Almighty.

The advantages arising from this structure end not here. In it the children of our parish will assemble for instruction on the Sabbath, thus affording the sexton an opportunity of having the church more neat and clean than heretofore could possibly be accomplished, and also putting a stop, for ever, to that want of due respect for things sacred, in the minds of the children, which the necessity of imparting to them instruction within our church, naturally engenders.

This, our laudable attempt to provide a suitable place for the spiritual and secular education of our youth, will, doubtless, give a still further impetus to the cause of church education in this province—will induce parents and others, to whom is entrusted the care of children, to place their charge in schools wherein lessons not only relating to time, but to eternity, are imparted—where loyalty to their Queen is taught—and love to God inculcated; not in those establishments where religion is in abeyance, and whose system, to use the expressive words of a former report, "Is discarded by the Romanist, and distrusted by all."

Connected with this subject, your Committee are reluctantly obliged to mention that the contractors for the school house, themselves working mechanics, have not as yet been paid for their work and labour done, and this debt to the contractors would have been much more considerable, had not a member of the Building Committee advanced large sums from time to time, to enable them to pay the workmen their wages; but though these sums, thus advanced, have moderated the debt to the contractors, they, nevertheless, are due by us to the gentleman who advanced them. And your Committee would respectfully submit that some prompt and vigorous effort should be made, not only to repay these advances, but also to liquidate every fraction of debt.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

J. H. McCOLLUM,

Secretary.

A statement of the accounts for the year is subjoined.

The following were the Resolutions:—

1st. Moved by Richard Freeman, Esq., and seconded by the Rev. C. L. Ingles,

Resolved,—That the report now read be received and adopted, and that it be printed and circulated among the parishioners.

2nd. Moved by the Rev. the Provost, and seconded by the Rev. T. S. Kennedy,

Resolved,—That this meeting, while convinced that all the specific objects of the Society are commendable, and deserving of general support, yet views with especial approbation, all efforts on the part of the Society, to increase the number of missionary clergy.

3rd. Moved by James Borell, M.D., and seconded by the Hon. J. H. Cameron,

Resolved,—That it is a matter of much thankfulness to Almighty God, that we have been permitted to see the completion of the two great works which, in this parish, we proposed to ourselves as the most desirable objects of our exer-

tions, viz., the extinction of the debt on the church, and the erection of a parochial school house; and we trust that, as we have been already permitted to set apart the former to the worship of God, so we may be enabled at once to appropriate the latter equally to His service, in bringing the lambs of the fold to the knowledge of His ways.

4th. Moved by R. B. Denison, Esq., and seconded by Andrew Fleming, Esq.,

Resolved,—That the following gentlemen do constitute the Committee for the ensuing year:—Messrs S. B. Harman, R. B. Denison, D. Delamere, W. McCleary, A. Fleming, D. Burns, — Viners, J. P. Roberts, — Fergusson, P. McBrien, R. Freeman, K. Tully, J. Dunn, R. McGillivray, J. Jackson, with the clergy.

The Lord Bishop then addressed the meeting in forcible and energetic terms; he congratulated the congregation of St. George's on the achievement of the liquidation of the heavy debt which once was such an incubus upon them, and also on the erection of their noble school house. His Lordship gave a rapid and most interesting review of Church progress in Upper Canada, detailed some of the difficulties with which the pioneers of the Church had to contend in the early settlement of the Province, and concluded with a strong appeal in favour of Church education.

The meeting then joined in singing the Hundredth Psalm, after which the Bishop pronounced the Benediction.

Not the least pleasing part of the proceedings was the presentation of an illustrated family Bible to S. B. Harman, Esq., who filled the office of Churchwarden for several years, and by whose unwearied exertion the financial position of the affairs of the church has been brought to such a satisfactory issue. The following is the inscription on the clasp:

"From the parishioners of the church of St. George the Martyr, to Samuel B. Harman, Esq., on the 11th of February, 1858, at the opening of the Parochial School House, erected principally through his exertions."

DIocese of MONTREAL.

Montreal Church Society's Office,
7th April, 1858.

A meeting of the Central Board of the Church Society was held this day. The Dean of Montreal in the chair.

The Treasurer reported that the following sums had been received since the last meeting:

Collection at St. George's, Clarencoville	\$ 4 01
Do. St. Thomas' do.	2 99
Do. Coteau du Lac	2 50
Do. Aylmer	6 00
Do. Clarendon	3 40
Do. Portage du Fort	4 60
Subscriptions at Mascouche	102 00
Do. St. George's, Clarencoville	33 00
Do. Rev. E. J. Rogers	7 50
Do. from Montreal Parochial Association	80 60
Do. Boxes from do.	101 59
Donation to a Fund for the Education of the Sons of Clergymen, in the Junior Department at Lennoxville	40 00
Collection at meeting of Missisquoi Clerical Association, for the Widows and Orphans' Fund	4 00

EDWARD J. ROGERS,
Secretary.