

Trinity, Holland.....	1	10	0
Clearville	0	10	0
Ridgetown	0	5	0
per Rev. C. C. Johnson	2	6	0
Elora, per Rev. J. Smithurst.....	2	5	0
Brook, per Rev. R. Garrett	1	0	0
Tyrconnel, per Rev. H. Holland ...	2	2	4

13 collections, amounting to £11 11 7

STUDENTS' FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDING APRIL, '56

Previously announced.....	£196	11	1
Sarnia	1	3	0
Sutherland, Trinity Ch.....	0	16	3
Froomfield, St. Mary's.....	0	6	10
Butler's	0	4	5
per Rev. A. Williams	2	10	0
Stony Creek	0	3	11
Blainbrook	0	13	7
Ontario	1	2	6
per Rev. J. L. Alexander	2	0	0
St. James's, Penetanguishene, for April 1855, per Churchwarden ...	0	13	11
St. James's, Toronto, per Church- warden	22	10	0
New Hamburg, per Rev. J. Van- lingo	0	13	6

105 collections, amounting to ... £224 5 1

FOURTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NIAGARA DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY, D. T.

This is the Fourteenth time that the managing committee of the Niagara District Branch of the Diocesan Church Society have been permitted, in the good providence of Almighty God, to present their *Annual Report*: and, for the mercies and blessings vouchsafed to them during those past years, they desire to express their unfeigned gratitude to the gracious "Giver of every good and perfect "gift."

During the past year one of their number, the Rev. Adam Townley, Incumbent of Dunville, and who always took a deep interest in the Society, and afforded efficient aid to the Parochial and District Meetings, has been transferred to the rising town of Paris, and thus left the circuit of this association. Whilst praying the great Head of the Church to bless him abundantly in his new and important field of labour, your managing committee would tender a most hearty welcome to his successor, the Rev. John Flood, and beseech Almighty God to bless him in like manner in the discharge of his duties amongst us.

It is a cause of deep regret to your Managing Committee to be obliged to report the District as still destitute of the invaluable labours of a travelling missionary. This being an object of such primary importance in the estimation of the members of our association; and the hopes of those more particularly interested in the labours of the travelling missionary having been so often and so sadly disappointed within the last two years, your Managing Committee deem it right, in justification, to enter fully into an explanation of the causes which have led to the present destitution. Immediately after the removal of the Rev. James Godfrey, our last travelling missionary, to a settled parish, application was made to the Lord Bishop for a successor to that gentleman; but we were answered that no promise could be made to us in consequence of the limited number seeking ordination and the many places waiting for

clergymen. This was discouraging indeed; and early in the following spring your Secretary, as Rural Dean, drew up a scheme by which most of the stations occupied by our travelling missionaries might have been partially supplied, through the aid of the clergymen settled in this District. This plan was submitted to His Lordship the Bishop, and met with his full concurrence. Most of the clergy on whom this additional burthen was thrown, cheerfully undertook to supply the places allotted to them, with occasional services. But, though this plan was devised to afford a temporary supply, your Managing Committee never lost sight of the duty of obtaining, as soon as possible, a missionary for the district. In the course of the following autumn information was received from a gentleman just returned from Ireland, that a friend of his, a clergyman of some four or five years' standing, had expressed an anxiety to come out and undertake the duties of our travelling mission. As this gentleman was well acquainted with the county, having been for many years a member of our Church Society, and as he brought out with him for the inspection of our authorities strong letters of recommendation on behalf of his friend in Ireland, your Secretary took those letters to Toronto, and submitted them to his Lordship the Bishop, and was authorised by that venerable prelate to write to the clergyman in Ireland who had expressed a desire to come out, offering him on his Lordship's behalf the situation of travelling missionary. Accordingly your Secretary wrote to that gentleman on the 16th November, making him the offer of the situation of travelling Missionary in this Rural Deanery. In the month of January following, your Secretary received a note from the Rev. H. J. Grasett, B.D., Secretary to the Lord Bishop, stating that his Lordship wished to know if we had funds on hand to support a travelling Missionary, and also if we desired the appointment of one, as it was thought that one of the young gentlemen about to be ordained at the special ordination to be held for that purpose, could be spared for our District. Your Secretary felt himself bound to answer that, having with the Lord Bishop's direction invited out for that duty a clergyman from Ireland, he did not think that the Managing Committee would feel themselves at liberty to employ any other gentleman, until such time as they had heard from him, or that full time had elapsed to enable him to answer your Secretary's letter of the 16th November.

This was the only opportunity that has ever been afforded us of obtaining a young man ordained in the country since the mission became vacant, was lost.

Month after month passed without any letter from the clergyman in Ireland; and at last your Secretary having been informed by the friend who first brought the matter under his attention, that his friend in Ireland had received no letter from him, on the subject of the travelling Mission, he wrote him again, making the same offer as he had done in the letter of the 16th of November previous. This letter reached its destination, and the gentleman to whom it was addressed said that he would be most happy to accept the duty, for that it was the kind of charge he had long desired to have; but, that, unfortunately he had just ten days previous engaged to supply a clergyman's place for the summer; that that clergyman had already gone abroad, and would not return till September; but that he would be ready to sail for America by the 1st of October, if we could wait so long. As your Secretary learned on

enquiry that there was no prospect of obtaining a missionary from amongst the few who were to present themselves at the next ordination, he replied that your Committee would wait for him till then; and that he would endeavour himself to supply as far as possible those parts of the travelling mission within his reach, until his arrival in October.

That month came and passed, and early in November your Secretary, much to his surprise and disappointment, instead of welcoming his brother clergyman from Ireland, and introducing him to his interesting field of labour, received a letter from him, stating that the clergyman whose place he had been supplying had not returned till a month later than he had expected him; that he could not leave the parish till his return, and that he was strongly advised by several persons who had often crossed the Atlantic, not to think of venturing across at that inclement and dangerous season of the year; but that, if we would wait till the spring he would be most happy to come and take charge of our travelling Mission. Your Secretary lost no time in replying, and expressed his surprise at the reasons alleged for his failure to meet his engagement; stating to him that our venerable Bishop had not feared to cross the Atlantic in the month of November, though at the age of 72, and that it was the constant practice of our merchants to cross and recross during the winter months; and that, unless he set out immediately on the receipt of his letter the Secretary could hold out to him no prospect of employment in this District.

On the 26th December last, your Secretary received a letter from the rev. gentleman, in which he endeavoured to defend the course he had pursued, and stated, as a further reason for his not coming out according to his promise, that a friend, who had promised to furnish him with funds to bear his expenses out had not been able to procure them,—but would be able to do so in the spring. Your Secretary having occasion to visit Toronto early in January, laid the whole correspondence before his Lordship the Bishop; and his Lordship's advice was, that your committee should give up all ideas of employing one who had disappointed them so often; and advised your Secretary to apply to a clergyman from the diocese of Montreal, who was then supposed to be disengaged; but on doing so, your Secretary found that he was already engaged as assistant at Simcoe.

Your managing committee have deemed it their duty to enter thus fully into an explanation of the causes which have so unfortunately left this travelling mission vacant for the last two years.

Since last report your Secretary has continued to supply the missionary stations at the junction of Marshville once a month, whenever the state of the roads would admit of his doing so, and he has much pleasure in reporting that he has been well repaid for his labours by the blessing, which appears to have attended his humble endeavours to break the bread of life to those who would otherwise have been destitute of it. He would allude specially to one case which it may be well to report.

Amongst those who attended his ministry at the junction, was a family not belonging to the church, and composed of father and mother and seven children, four of whom were grown up young persons.

The parents were pious people, and highly respectable farmers. They had taken great pains with their children, and had carefully instructed them in their social relation and reli-