

Maitland and South Cayuga, to pay the whole amount of the stipend of the Rev. P. W. Smith, to relieve the mission Board of the grant hitherto allowed them. On the 22nd. of January I left Dunnville, proceeded to Hagersville, where I remained the day following. Hagersville as your Lordship is aware, is for the present annexed to the mission of Nanticoki, more also I found an improved church feeling, a readiness to comply with the proposals as to their quota of the stipend of their missionary, viz., \$400, as to their frequency of Sunday Divine services. My duty here being easily fulfilled, I was enabled on the following day to leave for Jarvis by train; and then to walk seven miles to Nanticoke. The roads were in such a terrible condition, that this was the only way I could possibly keep my engagements, as no vehicles could pass over them.

I was pleased with all I seen and heard at Nanticoke. The Rev. G. Johnstone, the new missionary seems an able pious man, and a hard worker. On the 24th, at 3 p.m., I attended service in the church, where a fair attendance of the parishoners greeted us. I had an opportunity of expressing a kind welcome, on behalf of your Lordship and the church of your diocese, to Mr. Johnston which that clergyman very earnestly and truly acknowledged. The members there seem very much attached to Mr. and Mrs. Johnston. Since my return I have received a letter, stating that there was no difficulty in obtaining the quota of the stipend of their missionary that I asked for, viz., \$250. and when I notified them that the Mission Board had been compelled to reduce their grant to the missionary to the extent of \$100 a year, I was informed in a second letter, that they had commenced with every prospect of success, to raise the additional \$100 so that their worthy missionary should not suffer the reduction. Your Lordship will be much pleased to hear that Mr. Johnstone and family are now occupying the new commodious parsonage of brick, built during the incumbency of the Rev. W. P. Smith, but not quite completed when he left in October last. I shall only add that my recent visits as Rural Dean to Dunnville and the other places named in this report, have afforded me a great deal of happiness which I am sure your Lordship and the Mission Board will likewise feel when you receive it. I am, my dear Lord Bishop, very faithfully yours,

GEO. A. BULL, Rural Dean.
Barton Parsonage, Feb., 9th, 1878.

HURON.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

FLORENCE AND AUGHRIM.—On Sunday the 3rd instant the Ven. Archdeacon Sandys, D. D., preached in the morning in St. Matthews church, and in the afternoon in St. Johns church, to large and attentive congregations. On the following evening the annual missionary meeting was held in St. Matthews church, Florence, some of the members of the deputation were prevented from attending. It was much regretted that the Archdeacon could not remain in consequence of the bad state of the roads and was reluctantly obliged to return home previous to the meeting. However the Rev. Mr. Cooper, Rural Dean, from the county of Bruce made his appearance and delivered a long and highly interesting address on mission work in general but more particularly including the necessity of supporting the mission work of this diocese. The Rev. W. Brethour also addressed the meeting referring particularly to the early struggles of the church in the diocese of Montreal where he had so long and successfully laboured among the early settlers of that part of Canada.

On the 5th Tuesday evening, the missionary meeting was held at Augrim, St. John's church where a large and respectable congregation assembled to hear a good word on behalf of missionary work. Again the Rev. Mr. Cooper gave a very powerful address on the good work of the church throughout the world, winding up with the exertions of the church in this diocese on behalf of missionary enterprise. Also the Incumbent gave in detail many interesting facts as to what had been done by the S. P. G., in Canada towards establishing and strengthening the church and pressed on the attention of the meeting the necessity of self-reliance in supporting and

sustaining the church as now established amongst them, on the voluntary principle, and which had been so far successful in this mission during the last five years. The collections at both meetings were much in excess of previous years. It is very gratifying to witness so great an interest taken in missionary work in this mission.

LONDON.—When the Rev. B. Cronyn, who in later years was the first Bishop of Huron, was appointed by Bishop Strachan of Toronto to the mission in London Township, he asked how far his mission extended. Its northern limit he was told in reply is the great Lake Huron. Ninety miles north from his parsonage through woods and clearings, solitary emigrant's log cabins and Indian hunting grounds, stretched in the almost unbroken wilderness the parish of the pioneer missionary. How changed now is that vast country! Towns and comfortable farm houses dot the great expanse. Railroads have penetrated the solitary places, the busy hum of industry is heard on every side, the well cultivated fields of the farmer have taken the place of the wigwam and the camping ground, and the traveller sees at intervals the little church of the hamlet, the most unmistakable sign of civilization. It may however be said here now as of old, the fields are white unto the harvest but the labourers are few. In some instances a missionary has in his course a large tract of country with perhaps five or six churches to minister to. In some parts of the country some even that have been settled for years not a few, one clergyman has as his parish a whole township, and this within a few miles of the diocesan city. We hope however for better things. The church despite the many obstacles that beset her path, is making considerable progress. She has some faithful members, and with her is the promise that can never fail, *if to herself she be true*. New churches are seen arising in every remote place, whenever the railway opens up a new country for colonists, then new towns and hamlets spring up along its line, and there a congregation gather together, and another new church is built. A new church is to be built this year in Blyth one of those new villages along the new Railway line in Huron Co. It will it is estimated cost \$2,500, of this the sum of \$1,600, has already been subscribed.

ST. GEORGES BELMONT.—The three churches of Belmont, Harrietsville and Dorchester Station united to form one parish, a territory large enough certainly for one clergyman to minister to, comprising North Dorchester Township. The adjoining township, West Missouri, also having three churches, forms another parish. On Wednesday evening, the 13th inst., there was in the Masonic Hall, in Harrietsville, in aid of the funds of St. Georges Church a lecture by Rev. J. Gemley of St. Pauls London, on his visit to Europe. The lecturer told in eloquent and graphic language of his voyage across the Atlantic, and incidents of his travels in England Ireland and Scotland and France. In connection with the lecture there was a concert also in the Hall, giving a double treat to the audience. The concert was by the choir of Christs Church London, under the direction of the organist Mr. Ellis, the singing was appreciated no less than the lecture, and every song was rewarded with the plaudits of the large audience. Many of them had availed themselves of the opportunity, coming from long distances by Canada's pleasantest mode of travel sleighing by the moonlight. Votes of thanks were given to the Rev. lecturer, to Rev. Mr. Smith of Christ Church, to the chairman, R. Tooley, M. P. P., and to the choir.

Correspondence.

NOTICE.—We must remind our correspondents that all letters containing direct personal allusions, and especially those containing attacks on Diocesan Committees, must be accompanied with the names of the writers, expressly for the purpose of publication.

ONTARIO MISSION FUND.

MY DEAR SIR:—Several plans for the reform of our Mission system have been suggested, each of which stands forth as the needed panacea for our ills. And in these plans, as in panaceas gener-

ally, there are elements which, taken singly, are valuable; but which, when accepted as a whole, are not likely to realize expectations. Before, however, experiment be tried on the patient, it may perhaps be well to enquire into the nature and extent of the disease—to ascertain whether the trouble be transient and, perchance, even now passing away, or whether it be of a graver character, requiring instant and extreme treatment. The widely differing views of your correspondents would seem to justify this caution, as no two of the doctors agree either as to the disease or the treatment.

The disease.—The actual state of the case is this: The Mission Fund has, for a year or two, been at a stand-still. It has not been increasing. It is moreover in debt to the extent of nearly \$2,000. This debt has been taken to indicate a falling off of interest in the work,—as a proof, in short, that something being wrong, a remedy was required.

To a dispassionate looker on the very opposite conclusion recommends itself. Our people have been passing through a crisis of unprecedented severity. Every department of labor has been crippled, business at a stand, labor almost unprocurable, money beyond reach, save at ruinous cost. That under such circumstances a charitable fund, which in 1875, realized \$7,292.27, and which in 1876 amounted to \$7,970.20, should (in 1877-8) have fallen off, not 25 or 30 per cent., but only \$299, would argue not a lessening, but a strong increase of interest in the work. During the last two years a very large number of our subscribers and givers have been so straitened in their circumstances that, save by indulgence of credit, they could hardly support themselves. Nevertheless they certified their loyalty to the cause by a contribution only a trifle (\$299) below the level of our most prosperous year. It is further to be remembered that several of our deputations of last year were very unfortunate in the weather and roads at the time they visited their respective sections. It may, therefore, fairly be doubted whether the actual state of affairs justified the statements put forth in your columns; or whether it be advisable to submit the case to the tender mercies of practitioners whose judgment fails in those very points on which alone action should be taken. The fund, it is true, is \$2,000 in debt! But when and how, was it contracted? Not lately, of a certainty, or through mismanagement. The debt is of years standing. It was contracted to meet liabilities in the mission field when, as yet, our system was not in full play. It was contracted at a time when every reasonable probability existed of its being paid off without difficulty—contracted, even then, by an over anxious, yet laudable desire to meet with supply, the demand for assistance which assailed the Board from every quarter. A few years of average prosperity in the country would have put the Board in a position to liquidate this indebtedness. The data of the previous years certify this: Unhappily, the "hard times" set in—and the debt remains. It could not be otherwise. Every monetary institution in the province has had its share in this experience. Alarmists would resort, at once, to extreme measures. Their cry is for change "root and branch"—new expedients, new men. But churchmen, we are sure, will pause ere they yield themselves to the counsel of experimenters. They will weigh well the pros and cons before they revolutionize a system which for years has worked reasonably well. That our system is perfect no one ventures to assume. It was started on the principle "solvitvur ambulando." But change should ever be cautiously entered upon. Some measure of change in our organization may be needed now; but every detail should be carefully considered, its probable influence rigidly calculated, before it be allowed to supersede existing rule. We must thoroughly understand what we are dealing with before we can hopefully devise or apply remedies.

(2.) The treatment.—The changes recommended affect: 1st, the mode of increasing the revenue; 2nd, the appointment and payment of missionaries. As to the former, "the mode of increasing the revenue," the correspondent who helps us the least, (who, in fact, merely asserts that if you can command the effect, the effect will sufficiently indicate its cause), is the gentleman who promised us