

prising that from year to year family after family leave the church of their fathers, and that a great proportion of those now in some other denominations, were once members—but it must be added, neglected members of our own communion. It is a source of deep humiliation before Almighty God, that the Church of England is thus yearly losing ground in this district, and that, too, while the country is rapidly rising in prosperity, and other denominations are growing stronger and stronger. But this painful condition of things, which should lead to sincere repentance for the past and greater activity for the future, must not be wholly ascribed to mere neglect. It has arisen in part from unavoidable circumstances. Death has called away some of our clergymen, and vacancies thus created remain unfilled. Notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of the Bishop, no clergymen could be sent to the destitute localities; and within a few years five clergymen have removed to other parts of the diocese; and although a considerable sum has been annually transmitted from this branch to the Parent Society, yet this branch has been left to support its own missionaries, while the funds of the Diocesan Society, and that portion of it raised in this district in particular, have been generally expended in other parts of the province. And although the expenditure of the Parent Society may in all cases have been judicious, yet it has had a prejudicial effect upon the church here, inasmuch as moneys raised amongst ourselves and which might have been applied in relief, or in preventing the existing destitution, were for the greater part expended elsewhere.

MISSIONARIES.

The Committee, in March last, resolved, if possible, to procure a missionary to relieve, in some degree, the great destitution in the District. With this object in view, correspondence was opened with the Colonial Church and School Society, but neither the proper man, nor the required means were available. Application was also made to the Bishop of Toronto for an experienced clergyman for this important field of duty. The answer to this application gives encouragement to hope that as soon as the services of a suitable clergyman can be secured, the Parent Society will unite with this Branch in giving him a liberal support. It may here be remarked, that the sub-associations in the country are so oppressed with the sense of the prevailing destitution, that they have resolved to apply the whole of their available funds for the support of one or more travelling missionaries. One missionary might, indeed, accomplish much good; but it will require the best exertions of many to extend the kingdom of Jesus crucified throughout this vast field of spiritual destitution.

THE DEPOSITORY.

The Depository has continued to furnish a supply of Bibles and Prayer Books, with other religious books and tracts, sufficient to meet all demands. At the commencement of the present year, the stock of books of all kinds was valued at about £47 currency. Books and tracts, to the value of about £50 sterling, selected by the Rev. W. H. Herchmer, from the list of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, have been added during the year. A valuable selection of tracts was also made by Mr. Herchmer, to the amount of £5 sterling, from the Bristol Tract Society. Hymn books of various kinds have also been procured, to the value of £6 8s. currency. The stock of books has, therefore, been increased by the addition of upwards of £70. The expense of its management, exclusive of per centage on sales, and including all charges on the books received, is less than £4 currency. The Depository has been carefully managed by Mrs. Ferns. The amount of sales since last March has been nearly £30. A large number of tracts and religious works have been sold, together with 233 Prayer Books, 33 Bibles, 254 vols. of other books, making a total of 524 vols. in all.

THE EPISCOPAL ENDOWMENT FUND.

As a report of the Special Committee appointed to look after this fund is added to this, it is unnecessary here to make particular reference to that matter, further than to express the hope that, in the Providence of God, all obstacles in the way of obtaining a Bishop may be speedily removed, and that He may send a man after His own heart to rule over us.

PAROCHIAL BRANCHES.

During the summer, and again during the winter, the Parochial Branches in the country were visited by a deputation. The meetings in the summer, with two or three exceptions, were failures; but at Bath, Napanec, and at Clarke's Mills, a fresh impetus was given to the branches, and good meetings were anticipated in the winter.

BATH.

The Parochial Branch in this place reports, through its chairman, that little for the purposes of the Church Society had been accomplished; that £25 had been raised in money and lands towards a sustentation fund; and that £15 above the annual subscription for the incumbent had been collected.

There was collected in the Parish—

For the Mission Fund	£1 0 0
Widows & Orphans' Fund	0 15 0
Total.....	£2 5 0

Two meetings were held in Bath in the course of the year, and at the meeting in the summer several pounds were subscribed, which probably were applied to Parochial purposes. A meeting was also held at the village of Odessa, or Mill Creek, in the same parish, and a society organized. Speaking of the spiritual destitution in that parish, the Rector says: "It is sad, indeed! Two additional clergymen would find ample employment therein, though I should be thankful, most thankful, could I see any prospect of procuring the assistance even of one." The parish contains 956 members of the Church of England.

FREDERICKSBURG AND ADOLPHUSTOWN.

This parish contains two townships; Fredericksburgh, having within it 694 members; and Adolphustown, having only 169 adherents of the Church. The Rev. J. A. Mulock has a large and laborious mission. He reports that in both his churches, the collections, amounting to £4 5s., were taken up and transmitted to the Parent Society. Mr. Mulock closes his report in the following words:—"The Church Society languishes here, in consequence of the apparent neglect of this part of the Diocese, there being five vacancies in this section within the last two years, none of which have been filled; and, until there is a better prospect of something being done for these destitute missions, an appeal to the people on behalf of the Church Society, from whose funds they receive no benefit, will be in vain."

ANNHST ISLAND.

There is no report from this mission; but the sum of £2 5s. was collected for the Widows & Orphans' Fund, and transmitted to Toronto. There are about 400 members of the Church in this parish.

TYENDENAGA.

This parish contains a prosperous branch. The whole amount raised for the Church Society during the year, is £33 6s. 9d., of which £15 17s. 8d. should have been sent to this District Branch, but was remitted to Toronto. There are 1640 adherents of the Church in Tyendenaga, and the Missionary, the Rev. J. A. Anderson, has very arduous duties to perform. It is certainly very much to his credit that the Parochial Branch is so effective and zealous; and that so large an amount has been collected.

NAPANEE.

There are 1019 members of the Church in this mission. It has two or three different stations, and a small but substantial church, built by the late Hon. John Cartwright. Two meetings of the Church Society were held here during the year. The Parochial Branch is well organized, and reports a sum raised for various purposes of £15 10s. 6d.

For General Purposes	£1 2 10
Theological Students	0 7 0
Mission Fund.....	1 7 0
Widows and Orphan's Fund.....	3 2 1½
Collections at Annual Meeting,	
Mission Fund	1 11 7
Subscription to the Church	
Society	6 14 0
Clergyman's Subscription	1 5 0

Total..... £15 10 6½

The Church has been much improved, and the congregation considerably increased in the year. There is every reason to be satisfied with the exertions of the Society in this Parish. The whole report is worthy of insertion, but there is only space for a short extract:—"Your Committee have to complain, that considering our great spiritual destitution in this part of the diocese, that the whole of the mission fund should be expended west of Toronto; they think that inasmuch as this part of the diocese contributes its portion, it should have a share in its appropriations."

The townships to which reference has now been made were originally settled by the United Empire Loyalists, who came here after the revolution, and it is a most mortifying reflection, that having left all, home, friends, lands, relations, and every earthly consideration, out of regard for the King and the Church, that their descendants to the third generation should have remained, comparatively speaking, and as far as their own communion is concerned, in a state of spiritual destitution.

CANDEN.

This township contains a Church population of 1187, and Sheffield, another township in the same Mission, 384 members of our communion. A very interesting meeting was held in this parish last summer, where a subscription was made, and the greater part paid at the time, of £7 10s. for the Church Society. A committee was appointed and a parochial branch organized, and it was hoped that in the winter the fair prospects then in view might be fully realized. At that meeting the Rev. Paul Shirley, the incumbent, presided and addressed the audience with much animation. But God's ways, however, are not our ways, and our hopes were painfully and unexpectedly disappointed. The Rev. Paul Shirley not long afterwards, while discharging his duty as superintendent of Schools, and while in the act of examining a class, suddenly dropt down dead. He had laboured long and was much beloved in that extensive mission. The funeral services were performed by the Rev. W. B. Ladar, and his mortal remains committed to the grave, until the great day of God Almighty. The vacancy which was thus created remains as yet unfilled.

LOBOROCOH AND STORRINGTON.

In these townships was once a flourishing Society, but the frequent changes of ministers in the mission, and of late the removal of the minister from the mission, have led to the disorganization of the Society, and now nothing is done. There are in this mission two churches, and about one thousand members.—This mission is much indebted to the Rev. Mr. Bower for occasional visits. The Secretary visited Storrington, and found a large and attentive congregation. A very active branch of the Church Society might be formed, with a little attention, in this place.