

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
CHURCH SOCIETY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

It is with feelings of the deepest gratitude to Him, from whom, alone, all good things do proceed, and without whose blessing all human efforts would be unavailing, that your Committee present this their Twelfth Annual Report. The fact that the income of the Society during the past year was much larger than it has ever been, is not the only one which affords matter for congratulation. New parochial branches have been formed, and the reports which have been received from some of them shew results which could hardly have been expected by the most sanguine well wishers of the Society; others, in consequence of certain local engagements, which had been previously entered into, could remit but little to the Society in this the incipient stage of their existence, but they all give good promise for the future. Finding how readily the Laity came forward to assist in carrying on the work of the Church, in most of the parishes visited by your Secretary during the winter, the Clergy, who, in some instances had called their meetings with but little hope of success, afterwards expressed their conviction that such periodical meetings as were required by the Constitution of this Society would not only be calculated to strengthen their hands, and enable them more effectually to carry on their local ecclesiastical improvements, but also by impressing upon the minds of their flock that they should be lively members of the Catholic Body, incite them to evince those fruits of faith—fruits such as our Holy religion is alone calculated to induce—true charity, and the love and unity of the Brethren enlisted under the same banner.

The notes of your Secretary, taken whilst on his journeys in the course of last year and the commencement of the present one, will shortly be published. These, in addition to the several district and parochial reports, which for the most part have appeared in print, and long extracts from which will be found in the appendix to this report when published, will, your Committee hope, satisfy all its members of the wisdom of the Society in adopting the recommendations of the Committee, which in the commencement of the year 1852 were appointed to devise the best means of reforming and giving vitality to it; and also those suggested by the Special Committee which, in February, 1853, was selected to revise the By-Laws, particularly those which related to the Widow and Orphan Fund. A mere glance at the pages of the appendix containing the summary of contributions and collections made in behalf of the several objects of the Society, ought to convince the most skeptical of this, if they have been accustomed to examine the corresponding pages in former years.

INCOME.

The income of the Society, not including monies received on trust or on account of depository, appears previous to the closing of the books to have amounted to £3,156 19s. 4d. Of this sum £64 13s., however, should be deducted, as that amount was received after the closing of the books last year, but belonged to its income. Last year all monies received during the month of April were included in the income, whereas this year the books were closed on the 6th April, and the sum of £156 has been since received, making the income of the present Society amount to

£3,248 6 4

Showing an increase over the past year amounting to £96 9s. 6d.
The estimated income of the several

branches and parochial associations has amounted to, so far as has been yet ascertained,.....	2,501 17 10
Being an increase on last year of £821 12s. 7d.	
Deduct as remitting Parent Society a little over one-fourth.....	790 16 1
	1,711 1 9
To which add monies received on acct. of the late depository, instalments on loans, and dividends and rents paid in for particular trusts	159 17 6
	£6,419 6 7

The total receipts, as reported last year, were £6,246 4s. 4d; but it must be remembered that in this sum were included the proceeds of the sale of the depository stock (£1,400) and debts due to the same, amounting to over £200; whereas this year only about £54 has been received on this account. So far from there being any decrease, the excess in the actual income of the Society and its branches may be fairly set down, as above, at £1,788.

DEPOSITORY.

Your Committee regret to be obliged to report that the affairs of the late Depository are still in a very unsatisfactory state,—large sums being apparently due to it, far more than sufficient to liquidate all claims against it, and leave a large balance to invest, the interest of which might be annually expended in the purchase of books and tracts for gratuitous distribution in the poorer settlements; but only £54 16s. 11d. has been received on this account, few persons having taken any notice of the circulars sent to them at different times. And the late assistant secretary having as yet failed to complete the books, your Committee have refrained from taking steps to enforce settlement; but the accounts have now been handed over to a gentleman to collect on a commission, with instructions to endeavor to close every account without delay.

THE ANNUAL SERMONS.

The proceeds of the four annual collections appointed to be taken up during the past year amounted to £1,291 5s. 5d., of which £23 11s. 8d. have been remitted since the books were closed,—showing an increase of £466 16s. 8d. over the amount collected last year.

The Mission Fund collections were made at 171 stations, amounting to	£209 8 4
The second, the Widow and Orphans' Fund, 323 stations, 468 5 2	
The General Purpose Fund, 209 " 363 14 10	
The Students' Fund, 165 " 249 14 3	

But short notice was given of the appointment of this last collection; but as the by-laws of the Society require that four collections should be taken up in the several churches and missions, and the financial year of the Society ends on the 31st March, there was no option in the matter. If, as your Committee recommend, the financial year do not henceforward close until the 30th April, then ample time will be allowed for the quarterly collections to be transmitted to the parent Society prior to the day named for the closing of the books.

THE MISSION FUND.

The previous year two collections were appointed to be taken up on behalf of this object: the result was, that collections were made at 173 stations, and the amount realized was £309 5s. 6d. But one collection has been taken up in the past year, and has been made at 171 stations, and has realized £209 8s. 4d. There is invested on this account by the Parent Society, £575, bearing interest. The following