

# The Church Chronicle.

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## THE MISSIONARY WORK OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

*To the Clergy and Lay Members of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Diocese of Toronto :*

MY DEAR BROTHERS,

I addressed you at the close of the last year on the financial condition of the Mission Fund of this Diocese; and stated that, in order to meet the payments of stipends due on the 1st October, 1867, we were obliged to borrow \$1300, and for those due on the 1st January, 1868, \$2260.

I have the pleasure of placing before you now a more agreeable statement: and this is, that we have not been obliged to obtain any loan to meet the payment of the October quarter of the present year; though we shall be under the necessity of borrowing \$1550, to meet the stipends falling due on the 1st January, 1869. The Mission Fund is therefore in a better condition by \$2010, than it was at this time last year. For this we must all be thankful, and I feel that it will inspire the Diocese at large to greater exertions on behalf of so important and interesting a portion of its religious work.

A liberal and general contribution during the present winter,—from every one according as God has prospered him, and not making the gift of preceding years the exact measure of future bounty,—would enable me at this period of the next year to say, that the benefactions of the Churchmen of the Diocese were sufficient to meet all the payments of the year, and that we were now relieved from the inconvenience,—I shall be excused if I add, the humiliation,—of borrowing, in order to meet the claims of a cause so holy.

Our staff of Missionaries assisted from this fund, is thirty-three; and from the proceeds of the collection on the Day of Thanksgiving after harvest, I have been enabled to add three to that number,—involving an annual expenditure of \$500. These, after the ensuing year, can without difficulty be placed on the general Mission Fund.

The Mission Board, from a sense of duty which was made to overcome their reluctance to abridge the comforts of any of our Missionaries, have, since I last addressed you, effected reductions of stipends to the extent of \$750 per annum, and after the 1st April next, there will be a further reduction of about \$250 per annum. What is thus saved will be applied to the support of new missions in the remoter portions of the Diocese; and already a grant of \$400 has been made towards the support of a second Missionary in the Muskoka territory, and \$300 towards payment of a Missionary in the Township of Dysart, north of Minden, in the County of Peterboro'. By the rule which is now being acted upon, the grants from the Mission Fund will be gradually withdrawn from the older and more wealthy portions of the Diocese, and applied to the support of Clergymen in places more remote.

While addressing you, I feel constrained to say a few words in reference to what has been adduced in some quarters as an excuse for not aiding in the work of the Church Society of this Diocese. I refer to the allegation that there has been great mismanagement, and consequent loss, in what is termed the "Commutation Trust Fund," that is, the Fund created by the sums which, in 1855, the Clergy received in lieu of the stipends they, up to that period, had enjoyed from