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FIFTH ANNUAL REPORT

The Incorporated Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto,
Presented at the Annual Meeting at Toronto, held on
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HOLY SCRIPTURE teaches, that "every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights," and that all preventing and co-operating grace is derived from the same sacred fountain, while to Christians is conceded the high and inestimable privilege of being workers together with Him, and of being used as His instruments in works of piety and mercy. Hence it is manifest, that every exertion which is made for the propagation of the Gospel, whether by individual members of the Church, or by the Church herself, in her corporate capacity as "the body of Christ," must be made in a spirit of faith and trust, and in the way which has been divinely appointed; for such labours alone can expect to receive that grace of perseverance, which is promised to obedience, and so being watered by the continual dew of the Divine blessing, to effectually realise the solemn and important ends proposed. Bearing this great truth in devout remembrance, The Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto commences the Fifth Annual Report of its labours, by recording its humble thanks for the considerable measure of success, with which it has pleased Almighty God to continue to bless its exertions during the past year, in behalf of the various objects, for the accomplishment of which the Society received its Act of Incorporation.

In reviewing the labours of the Society during the last twelve months, it will be found, that though no new object has been carried out, and though it has been impossible to take final action on several important measures, in which the clergy and laity feel a deep and mutual interest; yet that all things, it may be said, are in a healthy and satisfactory state, and proceeding gradually, but, it is hoped, securely in their legitimate course. Year by year more systematic measures are taken for concentrating the business of the Society, and for putting every thing in a more efficient train of action.

The attention of the Society has been much engaged from the first in devising some method for making a moderate but secure provision for the Widows and Orphans of the Clergy in this Diocese, but it has not as yet been able to adopt any definite plan of operation. In the course of deliberation many questions have come up incidentally, and many difficulties have arisen, which require the most patient investigation; besides which, it is a matter of such grave moment, and from the smallness of our means demanding such nice calculation and management, that the Society may surely be pardoned for acting on this occasion with extreme caution, and for not engaging hastily in any plan which, after working for a few years, might then suddenly fail to afford the assistance so much required.

So likewise with regard to Education: the Society brought this matter up in its last Annual Report, and called upon its members to bear in mind, that one of the objects, for which The Church Society was incorporated, is "the encouragement of Education and the support of Day-schools and Sunday-schools," in conformity with the principles of the United Church of England and Ireland; but from the peculiar difficulties, occasioned by the Common School Act, now in force in this section of the Province, the Society has hitherto found itself unable to engage in any system of religious education, and no grants have been made to any school. Still, however, the subject is being carefully weighed; the unremitting exertions which the Bishop of this Diocese has made in the cause of education through a long series of years, are well known, and whenever the proper time for acting in this matter shall arrive, the Society will, with his Lordship's recommendation and sanction, adopt such a system as shall combine an ordinary and secular education, with daily religious instruction in the Holy Scriptures, the Catechism, and the Liturgy, and which shall at the same time be adapted to meet the wants of the country, and be proportioned to the means which may be annually placed at the Society's disposal for this purpose. It is hoped that this time is not far distant, and that such assistance will be obtained from the Government in this matter as we can make available, consistent with the teaching of the Church. By the minutes of the Committee of Council on Education, issued from Whitehall, in August and December, 1846, provision is made for the instruction "of Pupil Teachers, in Church of England schools, in the Holy Scriptures, Liturgy, and Catechism, the parochial Clergyman assisting in the examination." And, in furtherance of this object, the Home Government have lately caused the necessary money estimates to be placed before the Imperial Parliament, which have passed by a very large majority. The moral effect of this measure will be felt in all the Colonies and dependencies of our Empire, nor is it unreasonable to expect that our own Colonial Legislature will follow so just an example, and, under the same limitations, provide for the members of the national Church in the Dioceses of Quebec and Toronto the like religious instruction, as may now be obtained in every Diocese throughout England and Wales. At least the same privileges will ere long be undoubtedly conceded to the members of the Church of this great Empire, as are now, in this Colony, exclusively granted to the Romanists.

An addition of only one has been made, during the past year, to the number of Missionaries. This has again arisen from an impossibility of procuring Clergymen, and not from a want of funds for the purpose, as the Society is now in a position to support from ten to twelve Missionaries. It must be likewise remembered, that the temporary investment of the Missionary Fund, beyond the sum specially invested by an order of the Society, occasions no loss to the Church, and that there is a manifest propriety in husbanding resources for the present, which will be speedily diminished, when a sufficient number of Clergymen can be procured. It is only from the Diocese itself that we can look for persons, who shall be prepared to undertake the office of a Travelling Missionary; for when Clergymen come out from the Mother Country, they are generally advanced in years, and they have often found themselves unadapted for this office, however zealous and earnest they may be, from being previously unaccustomed to such a manner of life. In accordance with the Constitution of the Society, the investment of the Missionary Funds is only temporary, it being intended that such funds shall be immediately applied to their legitimate purpose, whenever the Society can be furnished with additional Missionaries.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE.

The following is a brief account of the Society's Income and Expenditure for the past year. Previous to the present Report, it has always been customary to include, under the head of Actual Income, the amount of receipts from sales in the Depository, and also of the rents received from lands held in trust for special purposes, but the officers of the Society are of opinion, that such a system, if persevered in, might unintentionally mislead the members of the Church in this Diocese, with regard to the amount of the Society's resources, actually available from year to year; and it has therefore been deemed advisable, that, for the future, the account of the actual income for each year, should be confined to the amount of charitable contributions received during the year, and of dividends arising from monies invested for the general purposes of the Society. It will be proper to state, that the accounts have always been kept separate, but that heretofore it has been usual to publish in the body of the Report merely the gross amount of all actual receipts during the year,—a practice, which has been this year discontinued for the reasons above stated.

Balance from last years' account.....	£ 442 18 4
Receipts of the Society for the year ending 31st March, 1847.....	£1921 13 3½
	£2364 11 7½

This statement exhibits a small decrease in the Society's Income. Last year the sum of £1970 8s. was received under the head of Charitable Contributions, and dividends on monies invested for general purposes, while during this year the actual income has amounted to £1921 13s. 3½d. This, however, may still be considered to evince a satisfactory state of things, as it must be remembered, that during the past year it has pleased Almighty God to afflict parts of the Empire with famine, meet which distress great exertions have been made in all quarters, and the considerable sums which, during the last four months, have no doubt somewhat diminished the Society's receipts during the same period.

It is gratifying to be able to state, that the labours, which have been entered into in behalf of the Society, have for the most part called forth corresponding exertions throughout the Diocese for local purposes. Here, as elsewhere, it has been generally observed, that every exertion, which has been made for Diocesan purposes by any Parochial Association or Mission, has been so far from impeding the accomplishment of objects strictly Parochial, that, on the contrary, the Clergyman has generally found an increased readiness evinced on the part of his people to assist him in local matters.

The Income of the District Branches has amounted this year to.....	£1054 0 9
Deduct proportion remitted to Parent Society	198 4 3
Which leaves a balance of.....	855 16 6
To which add the Income of the Parent Society	1921 13 3½
Total.....	£2777 9 9½

THE ANNUAL SERMONS.

There has been a decrease of upwards of £145 in the proceeds of the three sermons, preached during the past year, under Article XIX. of the Constitution, in behalf of the Society. This is a matter to be deeply regretted, as the steady working of the Society must depend largely upon this source of revenue. There are in the Diocese of Toronto 106 Missions, but collections have been this year received from only 84 Missions in behalf of the Widows and Orphans' Fund, 83 for the Missionary Fund, and 73 for the Bishop's Students' Fund. This circumstance, taken in connexion with the fact that there are yet many Missions in which no Parochial Associations have been formed, makes it necessary for the Society to call most urgently upon all the Clergy to assist in carrying out the objects for which these sermons are intended severally to provide. Justice requires that common exertions should be made by all in behalf of measures calculated to promote the common advantage of all. Take, for instance, one of the objects of these Annual Sermons—the Widows and Orphans' Fund. In the case of a death in any Mission, where the Clergyman had constantly neglected to bring this subject before his people,—and thus had never made any contribution,—under such circumstances, assistance could hardly be claimed from this fund with any degree of justice. In matters connected with charity, we do not look at the amount given, but at the spirit and heart, in which the gift is made; as from local circumstances some parishes are able to contribute much more than others; but it must be understood that, in a Society incorporated for charitable purposes, there exists a reciprocal obligation for mutual help, between the Society on the one hand, and those who contribute on the other, and therefore that, as a general rule, the Society cannot render assistance made in its behalf—according to the circumstances of the Mission.

GRANTS.

The following grants have been made by the Society during the past year:—

Towards repairs in the Parsonage at Woodstock	£12 10 0
The expenses of a Missionary visit to the Indians at the Sault St. Marie, by the Rev. Dr. O'Meara.....	5 15 0
Do. Rev. J. McIntyre, in visiting certain Indians in his Mission.....	3 7 6
The travelling expenses of a Catechist serving Mimico Church.....	10 17 6
To the Church at the Manitoulin.....	10 3 10

Grants have likewise been made of a Bible and Prayer Book for the use of the Congregation at Queenston. Of a Common Service Book for the use of St. Mark's Church, Barriefield.

In the Simcoe Travelling Mission, Books and Tracts have been given to the value of £2 10s.

Two Travelling Missionaries are entirely supported by the Society, and the stipends of two more Travelling Missionaries are paid in part; while four resident Missionaries are likewise in part supported from the same source.

During the year salaries have been paid to two Indian Interpreters, and a small grant has been made to one Catechist and Schoolmaster.

Assistance has also been given from the Bishop's Students Fund, to four Divinity Students in the Diocesan Institution at Cobourg; one of whom, having found himself in circumstances to do so, has liberally returned to the Society the sum, which had been granted to him.

DEPOSITORY.

The issues have been to the value of £860 15s. 2d. By a comparison with the last Annual Report, it will be seen that the sales have decreased by rather more than £150. It is, however, satisfactory to know, that this decrease, which appears in the Depository sales of this year, may be attributed to circumstances over which the Society had no control. It was occasioned by the death of our London Correspondent, whose successors in his business refused, without any previous notice, to serve us on the same terms, and thus unexpectedly disappointed us in the receipt of our Miscellaneous Stock last fall, at a time when it was too late for us to obtain it from any other quarter. It is of great importance that every exertion should be made to increase the sales in the Depository, as it has ever been the object of the Society to disseminate useful and orthodox books of a doctrinal and devotional nature, and such works as set forth the Divine and Apostolic constitution of the Church of Christ. For, it must be remembered, that it is only on Scriptural and Catholic grounds, that the Church of England can be truly Protestant, and her members taught to resist successfully the erroneous doctrines advanced by Romanists and other Dissenters.

There have been circulated through the medium of the Depository, as follows:

Bibles.....	543
Testaments.....	865
Prayer Books.....	1649
Publications of this Society—Bound.....	126
Tracts.....	962
Society for Prom. Christian Knowledge... Bound Books.....	2348
Tracts.....	8738
Bristol Tract Society—Bound.....	1589
Miscellaneous—Tracts.....	2177
Tracts.....	383
Total.....	19380

PROPERTY INVESTED IN STOCK.

During the past year the sum of £197 10s. has been invested on account of the Widows and Orphan's Fund, and the sum of £149 temporarily—both in the stock of the Upper Canada Bank; the sum of £2 15s. in Land Scrip; loaned from Septuagesima Fund, £100; invested in lands including disbursements which are charged to the parties interested in the lands, £372.

Under this head it will be necessary to repeat, that during the past year the Society's attention has been again directed to the following important matter; the Widows and Orphan's Fund; and a careful report has been likewise submitted on the subject of building Parsonage Houses, and on the best system which can be adopted of loaning out small sums to aid in their erection; but, as was stated above, it has hitherto been found impossible to bring these matters to any safe and practical issue. The smallness of the means at the disposal of the Society calls for the most careful deliberation before any important measure is definitely adopted, as any false step would materially throw back, if it did not absolutely ruin, the particular measure taken in hand.

The Society takes this opportunity of acknowledging the kind and valuable assistance which the Parsonage Committee have received from the Rev. Dr. Beaven.

LANDS.

Some very valuable donations of lands have been made to the Society during the past year, the particulars of which will be immediately taken in relation to the arrangements for those Missions not already so provided, and in furtherance of this object, a plan has been suggested by his Lordship the Bishop of the Diocese, which, it is hoped, when fully matured, will receive the hearty cooperation of every member of the Church in the Diocese.

During the last year the second instalment has been paid on certain lands in the Home District, in several townships not otherwise provided with glebes; in the hope that the members of the Church in such townships will repurchase them for the endowment of their respective townships; in which case the Society will assist the purchasers to a moderate extent, if their circumstances require it, and will, as far as its means allow, extend this system to other districts; and with this object in view, will be glad to receive information from all quarters, of lots of land eligible for glebes. The land department of the Society is entirely managed by the Assistant Secretary, who, as secretary of the Land Committee, has by his exertions brought this branch of the Society's operations into a very methodical and orderly system.

DISTRICT BRANCHES.

Considerable efforts have been again made by some of the District Branches, and the Society trusts that every exertion will be used to second the labours of the Parent Society, and that the District Branches will each year more effectually cover the face of the Diocese, and direct the attention of the people to the necessity of making a permanent provision for the ministrations of the Church in each township.

The District Branches are still 9 in number:

1. Newcastle and Colborne.
2. Midland and Victoria.
3. Prince Edward.
4. Eastern, Johnstown, Bathurst and Dallsouise.
5. Niagara.
6. Gore and Wellington.
7. London, Western and Huron.
8. Brock.
9. Talbot.

Newcastle and Colborne District.

The Committee of this Branch Society report, that the arrangements which have been made for carrying out the Travelling Mission, have not been altogether those which the Committee would have chosen, had circumstances permitted at Cobourg; and that the assistance which the Society cannot allow him to appropriate more than three-fourths of his time to ministrations in the distant settlements, and though it is true, that a proportionate decrease has been made in the assessments for Missionary operations from the several parishes in these Districts, yet it is obvious, that we should do our parts in raising sufficient funds for the employment of a Missionary, whose time should be wholly given to the work, as soon as the Bishop can ordain a Clergyman for this office.

Your Committee take this opportunity of bearing testimony to the zealous and judicious manner in which the present Travelling Missionary has devoted the due proportion of his time to the arduous duties of his Mission. The encouragement he has received compels your Committee to regret that more cannot be done in this interesting field of the Society's operations. In several successive Annual Reports the necessity of having at least two Travelling Missionaries in these districts has been brought forward. In fact there can be no question whatever, that were every member of the Church within the bounds of this Association to exert himself as he ought, the very desirable object might in due time be accomplished of placing a Missionary in the exclusive charge of Cartwright and Manvers, and another in Seymour and Perey, while a third might be profitably employed in the Colborne District. And in saying this we have of course in view the assistance which we might expect from the Parent Society, and the exertions to contribute towards the maintenance of their minister, which the townships, where he laboured, must admit it to be their duty to make.

Midland and Victoria District.

A Report has been received from the Kingston Parochial Association, which appears to be the only Association in that district. A resident Missionary at Barriefield is considerably assisted by this Association, at which place the Rev. Wm. Greig is now labouring diligently and successfully in the room of the late Rev. T. Pope.

Prince Edward District.

No Report has been received.

Niagara District.

The Report from this well-managed branch exhibits a small increase of funds over the past year, and a continuance of that steady and warm attachment to the Church, which has characterised its proceedings from the establishment of the Society. During the past year public meetings, in furtherance of its objects have been held in the churches at Port Dalhousie, Port Robinson, Thorold, Chippewa, Stamford, Dunnville, and the Lake Shore Township of Dunn. A similar meeting was appointed to be held in the church at Jordan, but it was omitted in consequence of the illness of the Rector. These meetings were generally well attended, and had, the Committee would hope, a salutary influence on those who were present. The Clergy of the district, who attended, were assisted at Thorold and Chippewa by the Rev. Dr. Beaven, at Chippewa and Stamford by the Rev. R. Garrett, at Dunnville and the Lake Shore by the Rev. F. Evans, and at the Lake Shore by the Rev. Wm. Stewart Darling and Thomas Champion, Esq. The Committee entertain the confident expectation, that at an early day this district will be provided with a Travelling Missionary, the whole of whose time will be devoted to supplying, with the services of the Church, and the preaching of the Gospel, those portions of the District which are without the ministrations of a settled clergyman. And they would make this arrangement a ground for a renewed appeal to those of their fellow-churchmen within their bounds who have hitherto done little or nothing in this good cause, and also to those who have failed to throw even a single mite into the treasury of the Lord.

London District.

Since the separation of the Brock and Talbot Districts, there remain within its limits but seven stations, where Parochial

Associations could be formed with any prospect of success; namely, the town of London, the township of London, St. Thomas, Delaware, Goderich, Adelaide, and Port Burwell; Associations have been organized in each of these places, but reports have been received only from three of them, viz., the town of London, the township of London, and Port Burwell. The particulars of these reports will be found in the Appendix.

Brock District.

The Committee of this Branch express their regret that their annual report should exhibit a falling off in the amount collected during this year in the Rectory of Woodstock. It will however be seen, by comparing the accounts of the past year with the present, that the contributions from the district for general purposes have increased; and those for special purposes are likewise stated by the Secretary to be large. The amount of appropriation for local purposes is larger this year than formerly, which accounts for the remittance to the Parent Society being smaller. This Branch has conformed itself strictly to Art. xviii, which provides that "all monies not required to be expended for local purposes, and remaining unappropriated at the general annual meeting of the District Branch Association, shall be forthwith transmitted to the treasurer of the Society at Toronto."

The Hungerford Parochial Association is in full operation, and the return made from that parish is highly satisfactory. No returns have been received from any other stations in the district.

Talbot District.

A report has been received from this District Branch, which states, that the District Branch has not been able to do any thing this year for the general purposes of the Society, owing to the exertions which have been made for local matters, but they confidently express a hope to be able to do so for the future.

Gore and Wellington Districts.

This well managed Branch continues its prosperous course. An active and zealous Travelling Missionary is engaged in those Districts, from which Mr. Mockridge was removed, to take charge of a settled parish. The Rev. D. Fraser has been but a few months in his present sphere of duty, and yet the results of his exertions are already apparent, and are most satisfactory.

Application has been made by this Branch to the Bishop of the Diocese, for the appointment of a second Travelling Missionary, which they feel persuaded the Members of the Association will consider as causing an additional claim upon their zealous co-operation.

This Branch has, during the past year, had to deplore the loss of the late lamented Treasurer, Thomas Stokoe, Junr., Esquire.

The following parishes have recently rendered their Annual Reports, in each of which it will be perceived there is a gratifying increase upon the success of the former year.

"The Guelph Parochial Committee reports its income for the year just closed as being £44 1s. 3d., an increase of £6 over the previous year. This amount includes a donation of £5 by the hands of W. A. Thring, Esq., from an anonymous friend of the Church in England. Their Depository was in a flourishing state, and the sum of £13 had been expended in the purchase of a Lending Library.

"In the parish of Galt, a locality in which, until the last few years, the ministrations of the Church had never been enjoyed, the claims of the Society have likewise been met in a liberal manner. Their report exhibits an increase in the number of subscribers as well as in the amount of subscriptions. The former is 225, the latter £31 11s. 10d., including a donation of £5 from William Dickson, Esq. The Committee of this Parochial Association gratefully acknowledge a munificent donation towards their Church on the part of Messrs. Dickson and Shadle. These gentlemen held bonds for monies advanced to the Building Committee to the amount of £130, which, in consideration of the difficulties still to be encountered in finishing the church, they most generously cancelled, and assigned to the Society. The Depository of this parish is likewise represented as being in a very prosperous condition.

"The Dundas Committee report, as paid over to the District Treasurer, the sum of £43, being upwards of £13 more than the income of 1845; and the number of their subscribers has been increased from 95 to 169. These cheering results, the Committee trust, will act as an incentive to still more vigorous exertion, and that they will be enabled, at their next anniversary meeting, to render a like pleasing account of their stewardship.

"The Ancaster Parochial Association reports its receipts as £17 6s., being £5 more than the amount raised in the preceding year, whilst the number of subscribers has increased from 36 to 84; and the Committee justly remark, that although the amount of collections has not kept pace with the number of subscribers, yet the great addition to the number of the latter evinces a growing interest in behalf of the Church Society.

"In the Mission of Binbrook and Saltfleet, the Society has not only maintained its former reputation, but exhibits an increase in the number of resident subscribers as also in the amount of their subscriptions. Although the whole amount paid over to the Treasurer in both years is the same, the last year's income included donations from non-residents, which, if deducted from the whole income, would leave the amount of subscriptions from residents £20 5s., whereas the amount of similar subscriptions this year has been £24, being an increase of nearly £5; the additional £5, which make up the £30, was a donation from the Binbrook Committee, for their funds for local purposes.

"The Committee of the Nelson Branch report with pleasure an increase of about £8 over the past year, the amount collected for this year being upwards of £21, which sum must be considered large when the various local improvements effected during the past year are taken into consideration. It is gratifying to hear this Committee record with pleasure and thankfulness, that in no instance were the claims and necessities of the Church heard with coldness or indifference; her prosperity and extension seemed to be an object dear to the hearts of all.

"The Brantford Association regret that, in consequence of heavy local claims pressing upon them, the sum of £260 having been subscribed to liquidate the debt upon their church, they are unable to take as active a part in the operations of the Society as they could have wished; they express a hope, however, that they will be able to contribute their usual proportion to the Missionary Fund.

"A similar regret, arising from somewhat similar causes, has been expressed by the Committee of the Oakville and Trafalgar Association; at the same time, they communicate their intention to contribute a fair proportion to the Missionary Fund.

"The Mohawk and Tuscarora Association have again remitted the sum of £7 10s.

"The Hamilton Parochial Association are pleased to find a small increase in their subscription-list during the past year. The number of subscribers has advanced from 97 to 139, and the amount of subscriptions from £59 6s. 3d. to £81 7s. 11d. They cannot, however, close their eyes to the fact that the progress of the Society in this parish has not been proportional to that of other parishes in the united Districts, to the increase of our own population, or to the rapid improvements in other respects which are witnessed on every side. They fear there is yet too much indifference and lukewarmness, and too little individual effort; that too low an estimate is formed of personal responsibility, and consequently too low a standard of personal exertion adopted. They have much pleasure in recording two instances of generosity on the part of individual members of the Church. One a donation to the Church of two furnaces, which supply the building with hot air, and which were erected by D. C. Gunn, Esq., at his own individual expense. The other a donation to the Missionary Fund of the Parent Society of £14 12s. 6d. from Geo. L. Beardmore, Esq. The Committee take this opportunity of stating that the funds raised in this parish in 1845 were expended as follows:—

Insurance on the Church.....	£14 17 0
Sunday-School.....	11 10 0
One-fourth to Toronto.....	16 3 5
Mission Fund.....	22 14 0

The Depository, which has hitherto been rather cramped for want of means to increase its stock, is to be replenished immediately with Bibles and Prayer Books, and other publications of a religious and instructive nature."

Eastern, Johnstown, Bathurst, and Dallsouise Districts.

From the Report made by this Branch, it appears, that returns have been received from Brockville, Prescott, Cornwall, Richmond, and Williamsburgh only, although there are 14 Missions in the District. The Secretary, in his Report,