

special large sum in this year of £100, from the sale of a necklace left for the purpose by my sister, Lady Vernon. I have also, I regret to say, to announce that a sum of £20 received from All Saints', Middlesboro', the parish of the brother of the late Bishop, will not be received again. It is, however, most fortunate that we were able to send out such a large sum last year, as owing to that and also to the fact, which of course in itself was a matter of regret, that several districts were last year unavoidably vacant for some months, so that the grants from the Diocesan Fund were not called for, there was a considerable balance in the Diocesan Treasurer's hands at the beginning of this year, enabling the Executive Committee to renew the grants for this year, without deductions, and this in spite of the reduction in the grant from the S.P.G. of £71, the grant being £640 instead of £711 in 1898.

I am really very sorry to have to allude once more to what I cannot but consider a most mistaken, deplorable and short-sighted present policy of that Society with regard to North-west of Canada. Especially am I sorry to have to do it this year when all friends of that Society desire to see its Bicentenary celebrated with the very utmost enthusiasm, and made productive of largely increased support. And I would say that, though I should like to see its policy and methods in several respects different from what they now are, I yield to no one in loyal devotion to that venerable Society—the oldest of our Missionary Societies—both for the sound principles on which, and the great purposes for which, it was founded. And I do most heartily trust that the celebration of this year may be the means of enabling it to take the place which it should occupy in the very forefront of Missionary Societies, by reason of the spiritual fervour and devotion for the great cause for which it is founded, that it shall inspire amongst all Churchmen, and especially those who most highly value the privileges of Churchmanship. But it is no sign surely of real devotion to a Society to be silent if one considers the policy of those responsible for its management at a particular time to be mistaken. Now I think the policy of the Society inaugurated some five years ago with regard to the North-west of Canada not only mistaken but very greatly to be deplored. And in saying this I am only repeating what has been constantly pressed on the Executive of the Society by the Bishops and Synods of the several Dioceses interested, and lately emphasised by the somewhat unusual course of a Petition to the Archbishop of Canterbury as President, and the Bishops as Vice-Presidents of the Society, to bring their influences to bear on the Society to reverse its decision. Since 1897 all the Block Grants to Dioceses in the North-west of Canada have been reduced 10 per cent. annually, *i.e.*, for instance, while the grant for the Diocese of Qu'Appelle was in 1897 as it had been since the creation of the Diocese only thirteen years before £800, the grant for next year will only be £519, or nearly £300 less. The grants for the three Dioceses affected, Rupertsland, Qu'Appelle, and Calgary, will have been reduced in the same periods over £1,000.