

while the Pope, Clement VIII., declared that "liberty of conscience was one of the most accursed things that ever existed."

The date of the Edict has been in some doubt, but according to Mon. Weiss, of Paris, an eminent historian, the provisions were signed on the 3rd, 13th, and the 30th, April, 1598, and the Promulgation took place on the 2nd of May of that year, and the celebrations will likely take place on that date. The Canadian and other Churches of the Presbyterian order will no doubt send their greetings to their French brethren on this historic occasion.

LATE ARCHBISHOP CLEARY.

THE late Archbishop of Kingston was eminently the controversialist of his Church in Ontario. To his lot fell the defence of the Separate School System, and of the distinctive doctrines of his Church when they seemed in danger from the growing enlightenment of the age. In the Cleary-Methodist controversy, in the controversy concerning the morality of Ontario's Public Schools, recently in the pastoral respecting the participation of Roman Catholics in marriage ceremonies in which Protestants were the principals, Mgr. Cleary but maintained the traditions and doctrines of his Church, and while he did so with a vigour considered generally to have been unnecessary, it should not be forgotten that his course was consistent with his opinions and his view of his duty as the Shepherd of his flock. At the time we pointed out that the Archbishop was exemplifying the teachings of his Church and should not be blamed for raising his testimony before the world that the Church of Rome is always the same. Now that he is no more, his ability as a prelate, his love for the traditions in which his Church lies entrenched, his restless activity as an administrator, his fearless warfare on opponents, and withal, his scholarship and his distinction in the counsels of his brethren, must be acknowledged. Those who came in close contact with him found him a kindly and well-disposed priest, consumed with the desire to establish and strengthen his Church on lines in which he believed thoroughly. His was an outstanding personality and his death will remove a strong pillar from the Canadian hierarchy.

CLOSE OF THE YEAR.

AS will be seen in another article on this page, dealing with the Schemes of the Church, the financial year ends on the 31st of this month, before which date all returns should be made to the Agent. The close of the ecclesiastical year brings to congregations and their managers the important duty of making up any leeway in the several funds; and of seeing to it that no vital interest shall suffer. The General Assembly is a conservative body and its sanction is carefully given to the Schemes of the Church, so that no over-burdening of resources need be feared. The Church, as a rule, responds loyally and generously to the demands made by the Stated funds, and no complaint lies at her door on this score; but it is well that the various funds should be carefully scanned by those contributing so that allocations may be fairly made and no important cause overlooked. We need not specify the more important funds, such as Home and Foreign Missions, Colleges, French Evangelization, and Aged and Infirm Ministers. These are kept before the Church. There are other schemes equally worthy and whose needs are equally pressing. None should be overlooked. What ought to be kept in mind is that the time for contributing is short, and that the friends of the Church should lose no time in forwarding to their Treasurers, the

offerings they propose to give to the good cause so that by the end of the month the books may be closed without heavy deficits.

Every member should realize his or her responsibility in contributing to the Church funds. Congregational needs and necessities are not to be forgotten, but the Presbyterian system is a comprehensive one and includes the oneness of the Church. The needs of the whole Church, and mutual interests as between congregations and agencies are to be considered. And every member should aid at contributing something to every scheme, be it ever so small. These two things,—every one, and every thing,—if acted upon would place the funds where they ought to be, at a figure which would cover all indebtedness and secure efficiency. One thing more. Our own Church and its direct work have the first claim on our offerings. Let us be loyal to our Church, remembering that its obligations have been assumed in the faith that the people will stand by her in the present and future as in the past.

THE KLONDIKE MISSION.

THE energetic steps taken by the Executive of the Home Mission Committee are resulting satisfactorily with respect to the special Klondike Funds. Ten thousand dollars is the amount aimed at and from many quarters donations are flowing in, the amount received up to the end of last week being about \$2,294 25. It will be learned with satisfaction that the Committee have secured the services of Rev. J. Pringle, of the Goodrich Avenue church, St. Paul, and formerly of Kildonan, Winnipeg, for missionary work in the Yukon region. There are already Messrs. Grant and Dickey in the field and Mr. Pringle will prove a valuable ally to them in their arduous work. The liberality of the Church cannot be better shown than in upholding the committee in this branch of missionary enterprise.

SCHEMES OF THE CHURCH.

The Rev. Dr. Warden has furnished us with the following Comparative Statement of receipts for the Schemes of the Church, to February 28th., 1897 and 1898.

Schemes.	1897	1898
Home Missions.	\$15,166.55	\$18,133.24
Augmentation	12,760.08	11,677.93
Foreign Missions	65,172.22	64,061.93
French Evangelization	11,759.35	13,092.64
Pointe-aux-Trembles	5,876.26	4,110.69
Widows' and Orphans' Fund.	3,475.11	4,397.74
Aged and Infirm Ministers' Fund	1,298.73	6,270.56
Assembly Fund	3,604.11	3,811.05
Knox College.	1,751.93	1,161.48
Queen's College	2,169.10	2,295.68
Montreal College	1,316.61	1,311.08
Manitoba College	2,588.49	2,735.54

A close estimate of the expenditure of the month of March has been made. To end the year free from debt, it will be necessary to receive during the month of March the following sums for the respective Schemes:—

Home Missions	\$15,000
Augmentation	8,500
Foreign Missions	14,000
French Evangelization	8,000
Pointe-aux-Trembles	5,500
Widows' and Orphans	1,000
Aged and Infirm Ministers	7,000
Assembly Fund	1,500
Knox College	7,500
Queen's College	1,500
Montreal College	1,000

The books close on the evening of Thursday 31st. inst.