

# Church Association of the Diocese of Toronto.

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## ANNUAL REPORT, 1875.

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In reviewing the work of the past year, the Executive Committee of the Church Association of the Diocese of Toronto cannot but recognize, with deep thankfulness to Almighty God, the important results which have been brought about in a wholly unlooked for manner as the fruits of their labors in defence of the simple Protestant worship, and the scriptural teaching and services of the Church of England in Canada.

When the last annual report was presented to the Association, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese had sent forth a pastoral—addressed “To the Churchwardens, Delegates, and other Lay Members of the Church of England in the Diocese of Toronto,”—in which he declared his “conviction that we have not in a single instance in this Diocese an approach to the extravagancies in Ritual which in many cases are so painfully exhibited in the Mother Country,” and added that he had “never received from any congregation in his Diocese a complaint that unsound doctrine was preached.” Such an authoritative declaration seemed to many to confirm the belief that no cause existed here to justify the formation of an Association to resist innovations and novelties borrowed from the Church of Rome, or derived from that Anglican school of Ritualists of whom Monsignor Capel, a dignitary of the Church of Rome, has recently declared: “Our experience bears witness to the fact that a steady and ever-increasing current has set in from the Ritualistic party to the [Roman] Catholic Church.”

Such a testimony in reference to the dangers now assailing the Church of England in the Mother Country is alone sufficient to justify an attitude of jealous watchfulness, and to show that this is no time for the cry of “Peace.” Unhappily, the Bishop