

having been made, and deeming that it would be more satisfactory to the members of the Society to have a report presented, although informally, than that our meeting should pass over without one, I have taken upon myself the duty of framing the present, which I hope will receive your approval.

There cannot perhaps be a more faithful index conceived or planned to point out the true and unmistakable character, condition and feeling of the Church, its principles and its policy, than the annual reports of its "Parochial Church Committee;" and did time and the occasion admit of it, it would be no less pleasing than interesting to analyze the great benefit that results from these annual reunions and reports, not only to the Church in its collective capacity, but to the individuals themselves who compose the Church. They spread the truest and minutest information concerning her great work, they stimulate the interest of her members—they foster their affection for their spiritual mother, and by necessary consequence advance the cause of Christian holiness—not in one particular branch or point, but in all branches and in all points, making men good, not in part, but entirely; and that from the only motive that can originate true goodness—a grateful love for Christ who saves them from their sins, and conducts to immortality and blessedness amidst the dangers, the delusions, the follies, and the madness of a fallen and a ruined world.

The subject before us naturally leads to a review, not only of the things which have transpired within our own limits during the past year; but also of those things which, although done at a distance, yet affect our interests as Churchmen, and the interests of our offspring. Time will permit barely more than an allusion to the most important, the spoliation of the Church, the taking forcibly from her that property which she possessed, and was economizing for the service of God, to satisfy the cravings of an imaginary political expediency. Our rulers have not so much robbed men as they have robbed God, and yet they seem to ask in the blind spirit of the ancient Jew: "wherein have we robbed thee." The example of her master, however, teaches the Church the duty of submission to the powers that be. Having raised her voice in earnest remonstrance, and employed every lawful means to avert so unjust an act, she leaves the issue in His hands who has promised to be with her even unto the end of the world, and who, while inflicting her that trial and persecution is to be her lot, holds out the cheering assurance that He will be her protector and her guide. The Church, however, has, it must be confessed, received a great blow. Let it be our care to moderate its injurious effects—let it be the means of rousing into active life all our hitherto sleeping affections and powers—let the hour of need exhibit to our enemies the reality of our faith, the sincerity of our professions and the substantial character of the Church. Let us, in fine, turn a seeming evil into a positive good, convert an intended injury into an actual benefit. The clergy have already done their part, they have handed the principal from the interest of which they had hitherto derived their incomes, over into the hands of the Church for the benefit of her members and their posterity. No loud sounding trumpet of self-adulation has gone before to proclaim their intended sacrifice—no pious efforts to stimulate a temporary enthusiasm in behalf of an act of duty, and as a kind of compensation for it, have been resorted to. The thing was done because it was right that it should be done. It was done with the pure and single intention of benefiting Christ's people; all that is required of

them in return is to imitate the act as far as lies in their power—not for another's, but for their own good, for it is their good that the Church seeks the good of the "lambs" and the "sheep," which are entrusted to her pastoral charge by her Spiritual Head. This they can do through the medium of the Church Society, for this comes strictly within its objects. These objects are to promote in every way the Spiritual advancement of all those who come within the sphere of her operations, and in order to effect this she seeks to place the Church, which is Christ's appointed means of bestowing his grace upon his people, upon a sound and safe footing in temporal matters, that she may be the better enabled to propagate religious truth and effect the great design of her Divine Lord.

The Church Society is not a body of which we hear much but see nothing; but it is a body with which we are acquainted intimately. We ourselves here assembled constitute a true Church Society, though in subordination to the Parent Society—we are a branch. The Parent Society is the stem or trunk from which we spring and by which we are upheld. It permits us not only to retain the three-fourths of our contributions to it, for our own local purposes, but it also lends us its aid when we require it, and its funds permit. During the past year, we have much reason to be thankful for the liberal grant by the Society of £1 worth of books and tracts to us, although not of even twelve months existence as a branch. These books are at present in circulation throughout every part of this extensive mission; and I have been much gratified with the many assurances I have received of the pleasure with which they have been read, and of the profit derived from them by the members of the Church. The Society has reason to be gratified with the response which this mission has made to its first appeal. I find on referring to its last annual report, that £37 5s. 0d. has been raised for the Society, of which £10 6s. 0d. was forwarded to the Secretary, and the balance expended in the mission. With a portion of this sum, the Church in Pakenham has been enclosed with a substantial fence, and serviceable additions made to the furniture of the interior; while Fitzroy Harbour has applied one portion of its share to the increase of the fund collected for the erection of a handsome stone Church in that locality, and the other to the purchase of a Sunday School Library. These are visible, substantial, and permanent benefits which we have already derived from a single collection. What future results may we not then anticipate from this Society, when its objects being more fully known and appreciated by the members of the Church amongst us, their contributions will increase, and grow more in proportion to these objects; and, it is to be hoped, to their own means? With regard to the amount above stated as the contribution of this mission for the last year to the Society, it must be said that it was considerably swelled by the addition of the pew rents of the Pakenham Church. Members holding pews, handed in as their subscriptions the amount of their year's rent. This was not strictly correct, because in the first place, pew rents should be appropriated by the vestry; and 2ndly, It gives a false estimate of the strength of the Society in the mission, which should rather be tested by the direct contributions of its members, than by the application of funds derived from other sources to swell its income.

There is much reason for congratulation in regard to the feeling which prevails amongst us, as well as the "material guarantees" afforded of it. We have every reason to rejoice over the state of freedom we enjoy from those strifes and

divisions which unhappily too much prevail among Christian communities. We can truly say that concord and unanimity on all important points prevail, making due allowance, of course, for those inevitable peculiarities which are incident to human nature. The members of the Church seem to feel their duties as such in the ready practical recognition which they afford of the Church's claims upon them to aid with their "worldly things" him, whose duty it is to minister to them in "spiritual things," as well as to contribute their means to those other purposes, the object of which is to promote the extension of Christ's Kingdom on earth. But much remains yet to be done. The question is, not so much what have we done as what proportion does that which we have done bear to what we ought to have done, and what our means enabled us to do. Examining ourselves from this point of view, we have little cause to feel satisfied. The Church has reason to expect much from her children in these highly favored townships. Those who regard all the blessings which they enjoy from nature as well as from grace as proceeding from the same divine source, cannot be insensible to a sentiment of gratitude to the God of Providence, who has cast their lot on so fertile a soil, and in the midst of so many natural attractions. An abundant prosperity has rewarded the toil of the laborer. Peace and plenty abound. The God of nature has been liberal of his favors to you. Prove then that you appreciate his goodness and his liberality, and that you are persuaded that all you possess you owe to Him, by generously contributing for the promotion of His glory as well as your own spiritual benefit a portion of that which he has, unasked, given to you. None of us can say that we are worthy of what we have received. The language of our hearts ought to be:—"I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth that thou hast shewed unto thy servant; for with my staff I passed over this Jordan; and now I am become two bands."

This mission is a most extensive one, and the members of the Church in it very numerous, numbering in the Township of Fitzroy alone in the year 1852, 1172. Taking these facts, in connection with their prosperous circumstances, it is not unreasonable to expect a proportionate expenditure upon religious objects. It will then be interesting to know what has been done during the preceding year. We will first give the figures, and then proceed to detail those projects in contemplation, and which are necessary for the more efficient ministrations of the Church in the mission.

The entire sum contributed by the mission during the year 1854—that is, from the 31st of December, 1854, to the 1st of January, 1855, exclusive of the salary of the incumbent and sundry sums subscribed towards the erection of the Church in Fitzroy Harbour—amount to £75 10s. 1d. Of this sum, £13 16s. 0d., was contributed to defray the expenses of three delegates to attend the meeting of the Synod lately held in Toronto. As however, this amount was not sufficient, the mission was represented in the person of the incumbent only, thus leaving the entire amount subscribed by Fitzroy Harbour, £4 6s. 3d. still on hand, to be applied to the same purpose whenever the Synod meets again, which, there is reason to suppose will be some time during the ensuing summer. The offertory collections in the several stations stand thus:

Fitzroy Harbour,	£10 14 6½
St. Mark's, Pakenham,	7 5 2½
Ninth Line Church,	3 5 0½

The sums collected for the special objects of the Church Society are as follow: