

The Church Chronicle.

No. 5.

TORONTO, AUGUST, 1863.

VOL. I.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO,

Read at the public Meeting, on Wednesday Evening, 10th June last.

“That the Almighty has been pleased to make the propagation of the Gospel dependent on the exertions of His church is more a matter of fact than of theory. The responsibility therefore incurred by any branch of the Church of Christ when the necessary work is either declined, or prosecuted in a languid spirit, is undoubtedly great. A positive and unqualified injunction remains on record both as a warning and as a guide, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Nor can there be a more striking manifestation of the vitality of a church than sincere and persistent efforts to carry out this high commission to its fulfilment. Under this conviction your committee submit the 21st Annual Report of the Church Society of the Diocese of Toronto, in the hope that a statement of its past operations and present labours may awaken a warmer interest than has hitherto been manifested in its prosperity.

“The Society’s first and principal aim is the support and encouragement of Missions. Yet, with an uncertain income at the best, manifestly disproportioned to the objects it designs to accomplish, its missionary efforts necessarily vary in accordance with the increase or diminution of its funds. Even at the present moment all available means are almost exclusively absorbed in the maintenance of missionaries who have been labouring for several years under the auspices of the Society, while those subsequently appointed, from the inability of the Society to afford them a permanent provision, are obliged mainly to depend on such voluntary contributions of the people among whom they minister as they are disposed to make. Your committee are induced to mention these facts in order if possible to stimulate churchmen to a fuller recognition of their duty, and a more active zeal in performing it. A fresh impulse of missionary enterprise is much needed. The demand presses with equal earnestness on the clergy and laity of our communion, for the wants of the church are many, and painfully urgent; as those can testify who in advocating the claims of the Society have been led to visit the new settlements in the northern parts of the diocese. There is enough of spiritual destitution to employ our largest liberality—enough of moral and religious barrenness to claim the fullest culture which our offerings can be made the means of supplying. And although the depression of the times consequent upon the scarcity of the harvest of the last year and the effect of the unhappy civil war still raging in the neighbouring country have affected to some extent the receipts of the Society, yet the pecuniary embarrassment produced by these causes can be only temporary. Should our Heavenly Father this season “give and preserve to our use the kindly fruits of the earth,” (at present so promising,) and bestow upon our neighbours and ourselves the bles-