

# Church Society Missionary Meeting.

## ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS :

### HYMN.

Prayers were read by the Rev. H. J. GRASETT, B.D.

The LORD BISHOP OF TORONTO then delivered the following opening address :—

The Church Society, my Christian brethren, is now so much a part of our local history, that little need be said in reference to its origin, its objects, or its progress. It had its rise in the conviction that as the Church of England is, and always has been, a Missionary Church, every member of that church is bound to take a share in diffusing its principles and extending its blessings. With the priceless treasure of evangelical truth and apostolic order in our hands, we must not be content to keep it there inoperative and unfruitful. It must be borne, as it were, on the wings of the wind, over the vast field of the world. But if we, in our comparative weakness, may not take so wide a range, we know that there is, within our own land, many a village, many a township, unsupplied with the ministrations of religion according to the truth and order of our Apostolic Church. We have calls abundant, within reach of our daily hearing, such as woke the great Apostle of the Gentiles to the toils and perils of the missionary life : all around us, we have heard, and are hearing, the cry, "Come over and help us."

The aim of our Church Society has been to relieve the spiritual distress,—to provide for this religious destitution ; and with the scant resources at our command, we have been able to furnish to eight and twenty missionaries of this Diocese a stipend each of two hundred dollars per annum. This, with the contributions guaranteed from their respective flocks—four hundred dollars per annum,—and a residence, places them in comparative independence. Small as this annual allowance from our Mission Board is, it is regarded as a great boon by those who receive it, as it supplements a scant and precarious income from other sources, and is punctually paid. But it is no exaggeration to say that, had we the means, fully twice twenty-eight might be thus aided, to their own great comfort and to the incalculable good of the Church.

But, in providing to this extent for our present staff of missionaries,—so few in number and with so slender a stipend,—we have had so many adverse influences to contend against, that even the outlay we have undertaken has proved to be larger than our missionary resources could well supply. The maintenance even of that number, without abatement of their allowance from the Mission Board, has seriously crippled our means and accumulated such a debt as almost to drive us, with all our hopefulness and faith, to the painful necessity of either reducing