

devotion of our energies to the practical work committed to us, we shall see, from year to year, an increasing prosperity in our various diocesan funds. But it must be plain that if the members of our Church, constrained by a sense of Christian duty, did systematically and conscientiously devote a fixed percentage, however small, even one per cent., of their income to this most blessed work of spreading the Kingdom of Christ and promoting the salvation of men in our own Home Mission field, our available revenue for that purpose would not be such an inadequate and unworthy sum as \$8,000 or \$9,000. I think we have a right to expect that it should not be less than \$15,000. You will notice in the report to be submitted to you an item of \$125.82 forwarded for the Diocesan Mission Fund by the Church Mission Aid, in addition to a sum of \$50 for a Lay Reader in West Mono. This excellent Association, whose useful labors in other branches of Church work are deserving of all praise, is calculated to prove a most valuable auxiliary in raising and collecting funds through personal application. I should be glad to see the organization more generally adopted in our parishes.

PROPOSED NEW CONSTITUTION.

In response to a desire expressed by me in my address to the Synod last year, a committee was appointed to take into consideration the reconstruction of the diocesan machinery generally. The result of their labors, so far as they have been able to carry them, is in your hands in the form of a proposition for an entirely new constitution. It would be in becoming in me to take advantage of my position to anticipate the discussion of this proposed measure, or to seek to prejudice it by the influence of any arguments from the chair. But I must be permitted to say a few words in the way of allaying any apprehensions that may be at the first sight aroused by the sweeping character of this suggested reform. The principle involved in this report is, it is true, revolutionary of the existing state of things, but it has not been adopted hastily by the committee. That committee consists not only of practical and experienced, but, it I may venture upon the expression, thoroughly representative men. Their labors have been very close and unremitting. We have had frequent and lengthened sessions, and I can testify that there is not a paragraph in the report submitted to you that has not been argued from every point with the utmost patience, keenness, and jealousy, and subjected to a third review before final adoption. The idea of the scheme is that one large Committee, who would embrace all the working power, talent, and experience of the Synod, should administer all the funds of the Synod, subject to the confirmation of the whole body at its annual session; that the Executive should, in fact, be the Synod in action, thus securing for every fund the benefit of the consultative wisdom and interest of this large body, enabling each member of the Committee to acquire a comprehensive acquaintance with the detail and working of every department of Synod work, and avoiding the confusions which arise from the present attempt to work together a number of independent and isolated Committees. My own personal desire to see this system established in this diocese is grounded upon the intimate experience I have had during five years of the continually increasing success of its working in another diocese. Not to become any further the advocate of a measure whose adoption or rejection must rest with you, I would most earnestly deprecate any hasty judgment of it or prejudice against it as a dangerous innovation, and claim with all confidence your most attentive and impartial consideration of its details.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The occurrence this year of the centenary of the first initiation of Sunday schools affords us an opportunity of seeking to give a new impetus to this invaluable and most interesting adjunct of Church work, and to place it on a footing of increased efficiency and usefulness. A scheme has been prepared by a committee of clergy and superintendents for the celebration in this city of the centennial anniversary on a large scale. The week from June 27th to July 4th has been set apart for the purpose, and the programme embraces special services for the children and the parents; administration of the Holy Communion for teachers; conferences and addresses on practical subjects of Sunday school work; the performance of a service of song by united schools, and a monster picnic. It is hoped that this demonstration will not only exhibit the strength of our great army of teachers and scholars, but elicit a livelier interest in and a more active support of this noble institution from our congregations. I trust that the example set in this matter by the city churches may be followed in many of our country parishes. Some progress has also been made towards forming in the city a branch of the Church of England Sunday School Institute for the adoption of its admirable publications, the greater union of the teachers in their common work, and the establishment of discussion meetings and training classes for their mutual improvement. We anticipate much benefit from this Association, and, as its bene-

fits become more widely appreciated, hope to see its operations extended throughout the diocese. The Sunday School Committee have, I believe, this subject under their consideration. It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of the Sunday School as an agency for the recruiting of our Church. In its organization a mighty power and invaluable opportunity is in the hands of the clergy for training and moulding the young of their flock into intelligent, attached, and steadfast members of the Church; but there is cause to fear that this function of the Sunday School as a nursery and training school is not recognized and availed of as fully as it should be. It would be an interesting subject of investigation to enquire what proportion of the children receiving instruction in our Church schools come forward for confirmation. I think that the discovery would result that it is a lamentably small proportion. In the first place, more attention must be directed, in the course of teaching, to a careful and thorough instruction in the distinction principles of the Church. We cannot afford, in these days of excessive religious liberalism, to allow the old-fashioned but sound and safe guide of our own and our fathers' childhood's orthodoxy—the Church catechism—to fall into disuse. And further, we must be more careful and watchful in training our children in the habit of attending services of God's House. It is too much the case that the Sunday School is made the substitute for the Church, instead of the vestibule leading into it. It is undoubtedly imposing too much strain upon a child's mental and physical powers of endurance to require that after an hour's severe exercise of his faculties in the school-room he should give his attention to a lengthened service in the church, supplemented by a half-hour's discourse that is both too high for his understanding and too dry to engage his interest; but if the circumstances of the parish do not allow the holding of a regular children's service, shortened for them and specially adapted for their comprehension, it is well worthy the serious consideration of the clergyman whether it would not be better for the elders of his congregation, as well as the little ones, if he were to bring down the plane of his weekly addresses something more to the level of the lowest understanding, or at least to introduce into every sermon, as is now introduced into the Church family newspapers, the children's corner or children's page. We should, no doubt, be compelled to confess, with some amount of shame, if we were closely questioned on the subject, that modern preaching in its conventional and stereotyped form produces very poor results as a means of instruction. I, for one, should hail as a most hopeful omen for the future intelligence and steadfastness in the faith of our Church people, a return to the good old fashion of catechetical teaching in the Church as a plain, direct, and personal mode of imparting religious knowledge. I commend to my brethren of the clergy, as deserving most serious attention, this important question, How to make the Sunday School and its great opportunities subserve most effectually its proper end by filling the ranks of the Church with disciplined and effective recruits.

GENERAL.

It is probable that in the programme of work that lies before us ample material for discussion and action is provided to occupy our present session; but I would suggest one or two matters which seems to me ought to engage our early attention.

A pressing need is the formation of a Superannuation Fund, which would enable the aged and infirm servants of the Church, when they become incapacitated from further active duty, to be retired upon a well-earned competency. I suppose that we are about the only corporate body which has no provision of this kind, and I earnestly hope that the combined wisdom and ample wealth of this Synod will be able to devise some scheme for effecting this benevolent object, or rather, I would say, for discharging this sacred duty to the Church of Christ.

Another object which ought to engage the early and serious attention of the Synod, as well as draw forth the resources of the diocese, is the provision of a suitable Synod House, with hall for the annual sessions, committee rooms and offices, the accommodation for library, reading-room, depository, etc. This is a much-felt want, whose existence for so long must be regarded as a reproach against the Church enterprise of this important diocese. Amongst several canons which seem to be much needed, I would desire to see one framed for the regulating and restraining the building of churches. This is a matter which ought to be placed under the direction of some responsible authority. I should also be glad to see a more uniform system of parochial registration adopted, believing that the efficient working of a parish depends largely upon the method, care, and attention observed in keeping the records of its progress, the accurate registration of its members, their ages, church-standing, and residence, the summaries of the Sunday School, financial, and other statistics. I do not propose to enter into any discussion of these practical topics at present; but merely throw out a hint

that you may give them your consideration for future action. It will probably seem fit to you, at this present session, to give some expression to the sentiment of the Church in this diocese on the question of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, in the shape either of a resolution or a petition memorializing the Legislature against its proposed legalization.

And now, brethren, I commend to your patient and best attention the various important matters which will be brought before you for your determination, bespeaking for them an impartial consideration and a courteous, forbearing discussion—feeling full confidence that all your proceedings will be dignified by the calmness, temperance, and courtesy that become debates on such weighty and serious subjects. May the spirit of love, of peace, and of a sound mind preside over our councils, and the Spirit of the Prince of Peace rule in our hearts, that we may strive together for the one faith and one truth and one hope of our calling, and that the end of our strivings and conclusions may be for the glory of God, the honor of His Church, and the edifying increase and perfecting of the body whose members we are.

MEETING OF SYNOD, (Continued).—The following officers were elected:—Rev. John Pearson, Honorary Clerical Secretary; Dr. Hughes, Honorary Lay Secretary; W. P. Atkinson, Secretary-Treasurer; Clerical Scrutineers, Rev. S. Jones, Rev. C. W. Paterson, A. R. Boswell; Scrutineers of the Lay Vote, Rural Dean Stewart, G. J. Hoyle, and John Carter; Scrutineers for the Executive Committee, Rev. Canon Brent, J. D. Cayley, S. G. Wood, G. M. Evans.

The Reports of the Clergy Committee Trust Fund Committee and of the Endowment Sees Committee were adopted.

The Widows' and Orphans' Fund Report was presented. A resolution was passed, instructing the Assessment Committee to make out an additional assessment, if necessary, for the liquidation of the sum borrowed from the capital of the Special Fund in 1877, by the Widows' and Orphans' Fund Committee—the assessment to be spread over a number of years.

On Wednesday, the new Canon for the Widows' and Orphans' Fund was considered. The first clause was accepted without discussion.

The second was amended so as to read:—"Every clergyman, of any degree, who is duly and canonically exercising his ministry in the Diocese, shall be entitled to the benefit of the Widows' and Orphans' Fund, in compliance with the conditions of this Canon."

The third clause directs that every qualified clergyman shall pay all arrears at the rate of five dollars a year. Such arrears, if not paid before April 30, 1888, interest at 6 per cent. per annum to be charged on the arrears till paid.

The table of annuities to be paid to widows is to be as follows:—Length of service being under 5 years in the Diocese, \$100; from 5 to 10 years, \$125; 10 to 15 years, \$150; from 15 to 20 years, \$175; over 20 years, \$200.

Clause 12 provides that only such payments as the Committee should see fit are to be paid to widows and orphans who cease to be members of the Church.

The 18th clause provides that the pensions shall be paid quarterly.

Clause 14, that "permanent removal of any clergyman from the Diocese shall entail the forfeiture of any claim whatever to an annuity from this Fund."

A clause was added to section 4, providing that the schedule should remain as it was as far as it concerns clergymen already in the Diocese, but limiting the entrants to those not more than 55 years of age. The clause was then adopted as a whole.

The delegates to the Provincial Synod were as follows:—Clerical—Rev. John Langtry, 67; Ven. Arch. Whitaker, 66; Rev. C. J. S. Bethune, 62; Rev. John Pearson, 59; Rev. A. J. Broughall, 58; Rev. W. S. Darling, 56; Rev. W. Logan, 54; Ven. Archdeacon Wilson, 53; Rev. A. J. Fidler, 52; Rev. J. Carry, 49; Rural Dean Allen, 46; Rev. J. D. Cayley, 42. The following received the next highest number of votes:—Rev. Canon Brent, 37; Rev. Canon Stennett, 33; Rural Dean Beck, 33; Rev. O. W. Paterson, 28; Rural Dean Boddy, 23; Rural Dean Stewart, 20.

Lay Delegates.—A. H. Campbell, 115; Clarke Gamble, 114; Dr. J. G. Hodgins, 113; T. M. Benson, 112; Dr. Wilson, 112; Col. Gzowski, 112; V. C. Blake, 111; W. H. Howland, 111; Sheriff Jarvis, 111; A. Hewson, 110; J. K. Kerr, 110; B. H. Dixon, 109. The following were the substitutes:—Chandler Sprague, 98; C. J. Campbell, 98; Col. Boulton, 98; Hon. G. W. Allen, 97; C. J. Blomfield, 97; S. J. Vankoughnet, 95.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE—Clerical.—Canon Brent, Rev. A. J. Fidler, Rural Dean Beck, Rev. W. S. Dar-