

in this county, your Committee find abundant cause supplied for gratitude to Almighty God, who alone ruleth the hearts of men, and renders them obedient instruments in the spread of his kingdom.

The alterations in the Constitution of the Society by more fully manifesting its missionary character will, it is hoped, produce an increased zeal on the part of churchmen to fill its treasury, and thus make it the medium of bringing the ministrations of the gospel to many places yet totally destitute.

Your Committee have learned with much satisfaction, the establishment of the Board of Missions, as supplying a central depository, from which to pay the salaries of the clergy; and involving a principle which, if faithfully carried out, will do much to remove an evil which has hitherto grossly hindered the extension of the Church, and its healthy progress in established missions, viz.—the direct connection of pastor and flock, as concerneth ministerial stipend, and it is most devoutly to be hoped that the board may rigidly adhere to the principle so happily laid down, and further, by degrees bring it into operation in all the unendowed missions of the Diocese. The tendency of this principle to augment the funds of the Society, and the number of the clergy will be obvious from the result of its application in this county, as doubtless in many others.

The crude working of the voluntary system, as hitherto applied to the maintenance of the parochial clergy, has been productive of the most crippling results, and it is confidently believed, that if the regulations of the Board of Missions could be applied to all the rural parishes, more regularity—more satisfaction, and more funds would be the effect, and many of the clergy would be relieved from a position, at once painful and injurious to their influence.

The county of Simcoe has cause to rejoice with thankfulness, at the appointment of two missionaries within the past year, under the auspices of the Board of Missions; one labouring in the North Riding, and one in the South. The immediate marked effect of these appointments has been to make more evident the great destitution which still exists. An earnest desire has been created for the ministry of the gospel, and a corresponding willingness to contribute cheerfully to obtain it.

The Parochial Meetings took place in the month of January, and it is satisfactory to report a large increase, both in the number of meetings, and amount collected, which, as shewn in the Treasurer's account, is \$1043, nearly double that of last year.

Twenty-two meetings were held, viz.:—at Bradford, Coulsons, Cookstown, West Essa, St. Lukes, Mulmer, St. John, Mono, Trinity Church, Bond Head, St. Marks, Oro, St. James, Orillia, St. George's, Medonte, St. Luke's, North Orillia, St. John's, Crayhurst, Penotanguishene, Victoria Hill, Barrie, Thornton, Church Hill, St. Paul's, Innisfil, Harper's School House, Mulmer, Creemore, Nottawasaga Station and Collingwood, being nine more than the previous year. Several of the county clergy and laity attended, aided by Rev. Dr. Fuller, who kindly came from the Niagara District to afford his valuable assistance. Returns have been received from all but two of the places named above. The deputation was every where met with expressions of deep interest in the success of the Society, and urgent appeals for the appointment of more missionaries, especially in the places now travelled over, by the Rev. A. J. Fidler, who is well received, and doing all that one man can do in so vast a field; but it is utterly impossible that he can give anything like suitable attention to so many and distant congregations. The people throughout his Mission came forward with cheerfulness and liberality,

and offered to guarantee much larger sums, whenever the Mission can be so divided as to make both Cookstown and Creemore the headquarters of a clergyman.

Your Secretary has since received letters of thanks from several places in the North Riding, for the efforts which have been made to secure the present missionary, accompanied with earnest requests that the Lord Bishop should at once be applied to to appoint another.

The following extracts are from the report from Cookstown, and a letter from a gentleman at the other end of the Mission:—

"REV. SIR,—In making their returns, the collectors in and around Cookstown inform us, that the people have freely contributed over the amount you demanded of them, and that they are earnestly alive to the necessity of having at least one missionary's whole time to this locality, and they, with one accord, declare that they are prepared to make greater exertions, and to increase their subscriptions whenever that boon can be obtained: this statement we fully endorse, and most earnestly beg to draw your attention to the fact, that there are many parts to the south of Pine-forest wholly destitute of the ministrations of the Church, near many of which your missionary passes each week, on his way to and from Creemore, and which, from absolute want of time, cannot receive attention under the present arrangement—pardon us Rev. Sir, if we take the liberty of begging of you to bring this matter under the notice of the Board of Missions, in order to divide the Mission into at least two, at as early a date as possible."

"DEAR SIR,—In addition, I would beg to state the great and earnest desire, expressed by all the people with whom we have conversed on our collecting tour, to have a resident minister of the gospel of Christ permanently stationed among us. Although Mr. Fidler makes all the exertions that is in the power of any good and faithful servant of Christ to make; still, what can one man do in the extensive field of labour which he has to travel over. My opinion is, that it is only arousing a religious feeling, which cannot be satisfied with the small cultivation that can be spared upon it.

I hope you will from your own knowledge, and what you obtained in your kind visit among us, in January, and the few imperfect observations I have made,—and which is the mind of all around—press the subject on the attention of his Lordship the Bishop, and the Church Society. I am afraid I have trespassed too long upon your valuable time; but it is hard to be without a professed servant of God among us, and to see so many young people growing up without a shepherd to watch over them."

In the North Riding, the want is equally great, but without the same prospect of increased subscriptions, as the call for missionary help comes chiefly from the new township, now rapidly settling, and as these settlers are all poor and struggling; nothing for some time can be expected from them, and unless a missionary can be sent, supported by some public fund, they must remain destitute of Sunday ministrations, as the Rev. W. M. Ross.—The Society's missionary finds abundant employment in those places, which contribute to the Society's funds.

The review of the past is surely sufficient to encourage every soul who desires the extension of our ministrations, to put his hand with new vigour to the plough, and not turn back, until all the desolate places of our land are rendered vocal with the sweet strains of heavenly worship, through the instrumentality of our spiritual liturgy.

If any notice was required to impel the Church to put forth her strength to plant the truths of

the ever blessed gospel of Christ on a firm foundation in this vast colony, it would be found in the alarming spread of infidelity, in subtle forms, and appearing even in high places in our father land.—May God avert the evil, and increase devotion to his own most holy name in the hearts of all men!

T. BOLTON READ,
Secretary C. S. B. C. S.

GORE AND WELLINGTON BRANCH ASSOCIATION OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1860.

The Managing Committee of the Gore and Wellington Branch of the Church Society present their Nineteenth Annual Report to the members of that association, and congratulate them as they do the diocese at large, upon the increased interest that appears to have been awakened in the cause of the Church Society during the twelve months which have recently expired. This interest has been manifested by the large attendance at parochial meetings, the formation of new parochial associations, the increase in the number of subscribers, and in the growing confidence which has been expressed by speakers both lay and clerical, at the public meetings of the society.

Your committee are disposed to attribute this promising state of things to the changes which have recently been effected in the constitution and working of the parent society—especially as regards the very important branch of their operations—establishing and maintaining missionaries in the most destitute parts of the country. This object has had assigned to it a greater prominence than it held before. It is entrusted to a board of missions so constituted as to command the confidence of the various district associations, and also to secure due attention and support to the wants of each locality. Of this board the chairman of the district association *ex officio* members, and two other members, one lay and one clerical, are elected annually from each of the several district associations.

The funds formerly expended for missions in these districts are still appropriated to the same—no deviation has been made from the practice of former years, except that the stipends are paid by the Board of Missions, instead of by the several local managing committees, and the very first rule for the government of the Mission Fund provides that no application for a stipend for a missionary shall be taken into consideration by the board, unless the same shall be recommended by the committee of the District Branch Association within the limits of which the mission, in whose behalf the application is made, is situated. The transmission of the whole of the collections to the treasurer of the parent society, instead of one-fourth as heretofore, does not in the slightest degree alter the appropriation of those funds as formerly made in this district—one fourth is as before applied to general purposes, and the remaining three-fourths to the destitute missions. In those districts when the three-fourths were retained for local expenditure, and not for missionary purposes, the change which claims additional support for missions cannot but commend itself to the approval of every reflecting christian mind.

The meetings of the parent society in Toronto are now held quarterly instead of monthly, and all business of importance intended to be transacted at these meetings must be published in the *Eccliaastical Gazette* a month previously, and a copy furnished to each member of the Standing Committee. The result of this change has proved