

promote or sustain the advancement of such objects of a parochial nature, as merit attention, and need christian sympathy and support. 2nd. To bring under the contemplation of the members of the church, the spiritual destitution that may be known to exist, beyond the bounds of each parish; so that attention may be aroused, a deeper sympathy awakened, and christian efforts for its relief, inspired with fresh energy and vigour.

It is of immense importance for our individual welfare, that the mind should be enlightened and thus rendered capable of forming a sound and discriminating judgment, respecting the relative merits and importance of the various objects that solicit our regard; for otherwise, the foundation which is the only true basis of christian sympathy and all well directed and systematic effort, will be defective.

To give of our worldly means, for the relief of necessity, whether temporal or spiritual, from a mere impulse of feeling, or, as is not seldom the case, to be rid of troublesome importunity, or from any kindred motive, is to fall far short of that discriminating charity, which true christian beneficence implies and requires for its full and perfect development.

A heart naturally abounding with sensibility, and disposed on all occasions to sympathize with distress, is by no means indeed to be despised or undervalued; such seems to be that honest and good heart, which when it has received the good seed of the word of God, will, our Saviour assures us, bring forth fruit abundantly; nevertheless its sympathies, unless animated and controlled by a careful survey and christian appreciation of the several objects and circumstances that present themselves, will be prone to flag; or, what is perhaps of more dangerous consequence, to degenerate into a spurious sentimentality, which is proverbially capricious in its character, and irregular in its actings.

For the due performance of the duty of christian beneficence therefore the exercise of an enlightened understanding is as requisite, as it undoubtedly is to acceptable prayer according to the saying of the apostle: "I will pray with the Spirit, and will pray with the understanding also;" and if those who attend these meetings come, not to gratify a mere idle curiosity, nor to indulge in hostile criticisms, nor from any other evil motive, but rather to pay serious attention to facts and statements in order that they may be enabled to investigate the relative importance of each, and thus be qualified to decide with discrimination upon a settled course of christian philanthropy; then, it is reasonable to expect, that these meetings will neither be devoid of interest, nor fail in promoting alike the welfare of individuals, and the interests of the christian cause they are meant to sub-

Having premised thus much, your committee would respectfully present their Annual Report, arranging their remarks, for the sake of perspicuity, under the twofold division above alluded to; and, 1st. With respect to the proceedings of these associations, in relation to the Parent Society, and the promotion of objects strictly parochial, your Committee beg to Report: that a statement of the annual subscriptions and special donations collected during the past year was in due time handed in to the Parent Society, and may be seen in its Annual Report.

These contributions amounted in the aggregate to £40 17s. 6d.; one-fourth of which, together with special donations and incorporated members' subscriptions, without deduction, was remitted to the Parent Society at Toronto, and amounted to £14 18s. 2d., being a decrease of £1 19s. 1d., as compared with £16 17s. 3d., the remittance from this source for the preceding year.

Your Committee further report, that all the Sunday quarterly collections were made at the time prescribed by the Society's by-laws, and for the objects specified; and the whole, amounting to £10 3s. 6d. was paid into the Society and placed to the credit of those special objects. The income derived from this source the preceding year was £15 4s. 6d., which exhibits a decline in this branch of income for the last year of no less a sum than £5 1s. 0d. Adding the quarterly collections and the annual subscriptions and donations together, we obtain £51 1s. 0d. as the gross income for the past year, which compared with £53 9s. 4d. the gross income for the year preceding, gives a deficiency of £2 8s. 4d. in the gross income of the past year.

Lamentable as this deficiency is, and a cause of much disappointment as the announcement of it will undoubtedly be to the friends of the Society, your Committee must in justice observe that it might, and without doubt would have been much greater had not a few old and tried friends of the Society come liberally forward, and largely increased, in some instances to double the amount, their ordinary annual subscriptions. For this generous and practical proof of benevolence and cordial good will towards the Society, your Committee return their grateful thanks; as well as to the collectors, who were at the pains of explaining to the subscribers the extent of the Society's necessities, and its claims upon their consideration. These parties were no doubt actuated by a sense of duty, in the performance of their praiseworthy act; but it is no less incumbent on those who accorded a lukewarm or less earnest support, to consider in a christian like spirit, how far their individual circumstances really justified a niggardliness in

giving to this cause bordering almost upon parsimony. "Let every man do, indeed, as he is disposed in his heart; yet not grudgingly nor of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver."

It is in the Sunday quarterly collections that the falling off principally occurs. These have declined, as above stated, from £15 4s. 6d. to £10 3s. 6d., the latter sum making the average quarterly collection in this church amount to only £1 11s. 6d. and so low as nine shillings at St. Stephen's, Vaughan.

Your Committee in making this comparative statement, do so in no censorious spirit; but rather with the view of enabling the friends and supporters of the Society, at this their annual meeting, when they professedly assemble to consider her claims, labours and necessities, to form an intelligent judgment of the real extent of their bounty; and in the hope and expectation, that if the support accorded to the Society shall, upon mature consideration, appear to them to fall short of that which its noble aims and designs deserve, or individual circumstances can justify, then that they may be induced, in the coming year to manifest a more enlarged spirit of liberality; remembering from whom they receive all that they enjoy, and that He has expressly declared, that "there is that withholdeth more than is meet; but it tendeth to poverty."

Next, with reference to local objects of a parochial character, your Committee would observe, that there are two of primary importance, which have long engaged their serious attention—viz., the enlargement of their burial ground attached to the church, and the erection of a parsonage house within the bounds of this parish.

An attempt was made a few years since to accomplish the first of these—viz., the enlargement of the burial ground—by means of a special subscription, and a member of this congregation gave a most munificent donation towards it. This has been invested, and forms the nucleus of a fund which, with accumulations of interest and a small fee on the interments, will amount to £62 5s. 2d. on the 13th of April next; but as this is little more than a third of the sum required for the final accomplishment of the object in view, no further steps can be taken until the fund is greatly augmented. In the meantime a subscription book lies open in the hands of the Churchwardens, who will thankfully receive and acknowledge any further contributions that may be made for this purpose.

In regard to the Parsonage house, some progress has been made. A suitable site has been purchased in this village by means of a subscription made for the purpose; and a balance remains in the hands of the Treasurer, which with accruing interest