

and beneficial results follow. The question of endowments and the better sustentation of the Church in the Dioceses in Lower Canada, is of vital importance. Owing to the peculiar circumstances of the country, the condition of the people, the very scattered nature of many of the congregations, together with the great commercial and agricultural distress that has been so general, and the consequences of which are still severely felt, while at the same time there has been a withdrawal of external aid,—the incomes of our clergy have been kept at a very unfairly low rate. Many have left Lower Canada for the better endowed dioceses in the Upper Province, while several have sought employment in connection with the Episcopal Church in the United States, having found it impossible to maintain their families and keep free of debt with the means at present offered them here. And your Society may rest assured that no better means of benefiting the Church in Lower Canada can be proposed, than by offering encouragement to the endowment of particular Missions by grants made to meet local contributions. Until something considerable is effected in this way, we shall always find it very difficult to retain a settled and efficient ministry amongst us. At present there are several fresh Missions which ought to be occupied without delay, if we had the right men to send to them, and were able to guarantee them any sufficient support. When so much is wanted to be done, amongst settlers lately located on their farms and generally with little or no money to spare, we must not be discouraged because the work seems at times to move slowly; yet it is satisfactory to think that it is moving onwards. In the year 1850, when this Diocese was first established there were only 19 Parsonage Houses: now there are 36, besides three other Missions with glebes, on which we expect soon to have houses erected. During the same period 24 churches have been consecrated, and there are four others to be consecrated during the ensuing Summer; besides 4 or 5 completed or nearly so, the consecration of which has been obliged to be deferred; making now 60 Consecrated Churches in the Diocese. And if we may form any judgment from the increased number of candidates for confirmation, and of communicants, and the very lively interest generally manifested in all the services of the Church throughout the Diocese, we may hope that the cause of true religion, and the advancement of the salvation of souls, are being forwarded through the agency thus employed. In the city of Montreal the progress is most marked and the state of the Church and influence for good increasingly useful. The diminished congregation that for the 3 years, since the burning of the old Christ church, had met in St. John's Church, has now grown up to its fullest proportions, in the new Cathedral, which was opened for service last Advent Sunday. And while all the services in that building are fully attended every Sunday, the free evening service is always crowded with worshippers of all classes and all ages. And in addition to this, a small new church in the centre of the city to be entirely free, is just commenced, and is expected to be ready for service before the end of the year. The congregation of Trinity Church too, which had dwindled away of late years, has