

usually allotted to his daily avocations. He freely gave it. Did she call him away from the pursuit of earthly things, to give attendance upon her holy ordinances? He gladly came. Did she ask the first fruits of his vineyard—the choicest of his flock? The demand was answered by abundant offerings of corn, wine, and oil; his stall gave up its fatlings, his herds surrendered the most unblemished of his oxen; his flocks, the sheep of the greatest beauty and value. And shall a Christian, a member of the same church, though under a better and happier dispensation, shall he, exalted by higher distinctions—in the enjoyment of more exalted privileges, do less than he? By no means. He has sworn to be faithful to Christ his Sovereign Lord, and to consecrate all he is and has to His service. The Cross of Christ is laid upon the baptized child, and he is bound to carry it to his grave, or to cast it aside by the way. To secure this end, all the brethren must realize the solemn fact, that they have been “bought with a price and are not their own.” They do not belong to the world; they do not belong to their friends; they do not belong to themselves; but are Christ’s. “In their bodies and in their spirits,” they are “to glorify God;” so that “whatever they eat or drink, or whatever they do, they are to do all to his glory.” These are striking words, but they are the words of the Holy Ghost, and refer as much to the laity as to the clergy. The Christian is described in sacred writ as a steward entrusted with talents for the promotion of God’s glory. Those talents consist of whatever he is, or has, or is capable of acquiring, that can be used for the benefit of his master’s cause.

Our laity must see all this, and they must feel it before they will fill up the measure of their duty, and shew to the world what part God has given them to do.

Much good can be effected by parochial organization, and by giving to every man something to do suited to his talents. Every clergyman should endeavour, through God’s assistance, to raise up about him a godly band of the faithful, pledged to each other, and more than pledged to their common master, to do all they can to promote his kingdom upon earth. Then would he be able more than to quadruple his present work.

1st. He might select such persons from this band as he would deem best calculated to attend to the financial affairs of the mission or parish; to raise the necessary funds for meeting its expenses, to audit and pay all accounts, and to report to the vestry at its meetings the exact condition of the parish treasury disbursements and liabilities.

2nd. He might select from the same band the superintendent of his Sunday school, to aid him in carrying out the faithful instruction of the lambs of Christ’s flock, in providing teachers and books for the Sunday school, and to keep him acquainted with the individual cases in the school needing counsel, warning, and encouragement.

3rd. A very important portion of every congregation consists of young men who have been confirmed, but not yet settled in the world. These are at a most dangerous period of life, and require counsellors and friends to advise, warn, and encourage them. The world has its emissaries to lead them into the broad, frequented, downward road to ruin. It would be well if every clergyman had some one in his parish whose peculiar talents fitted him for the charge of such, and who would kindly advise them for their good, warn them of their peculiar dangers, and encourage them to fight manfully under Christ’s banner against sin, the world, and the devil. The care bestowed upon this class would secure for the Sunday school an abundance of

male teachers, the want of whom is generally felt.

4th. The same band would furnish him with some individual to whom could be safely intrusted the direction under him of the music of the church.

5th. Others could be intrusted with the important duty of district visitors to look up those who never come to church, who consequently neglect the care of their souls, and to bring them under the notice of the clergyman.

6th. One or two might be specially entrusted with the duty of providing accommodation for strangers coming to church, that they be not repelled by indifference, but attracted by ready, cheerful, and polite attention to their comfortable and suitable accommodation.

7th. Others of this band would afford him most valuable assistance in raising funds for missionary and other extra parochial calls. They would feel that this was the special object with which they are charged, they would attend to it and would report regularly to the vestry, as to their success, and the objects to which they have been devoted.

8th. Another most useful way in which others of this godly band could be employed, is in distributing suitable books and tracts. Much that is defective in its teaching, much that is decidedly erroneous and poisonous, is being circulated in many parishes. A light, flashy, and fatal literature is presented at a cheap rate and in an attractive form to the community; infidelity and error are propagated among young and old; unholiness principles have penetrated many minds; the foundations of conscience and truth are unsettled in youth and age; ignorance, prejudice, and delusion abound in many parts. The more formal teaching of the pulpit does not always reach this evil. A little book or an humble tract may do this, and may be the means, under God, of arresting, modifying, and averting it. This is an agency which should be every where employed; and under the responsible direction of the parish clergyman it would tend to great good.

9th. Others of this godly band might effectually assist their clergyman by giving attention to the poor, the sick, and the destitute of the parish. Poverty, sickness, and suffering are the lot of God’s people, the heritage of the church. Attention to them exacts no small amount of the time, interest, and labour of the clergyman, especially in cities and large towns, and yet there is a great deal of it that might be profitably performed by laymen. The parish might be divided into districts, and each district have a visitor assigned it. All cases should be reported by the visitor, to whose district the person needing assistance belongs, before relief is extended. The church would thus discharge its duty towards those for whom it is necessary to make provision as long as the world lasts: whilst the commissioned ambassador of Christ, relieved from those lesser duties which occupy so much of his time, and waste so much of his strength, could devote himself more uninterruptedly to the great work of his calling.

It is believed that this plan, when fully carried out, would be exceedingly beneficial to all engaged in it. The clergyman would have at command a band of assistants, who would find full employment for those particular talents which God has given them; every sphere of duty in the parish would be well and easily attended to; no interest would be neglected; the spiritual and temporal wants of the people would be duly cared for; the young would be encouraged to grow up as polished corners of the temple; sinners would be won from the error of their ways unto God, and the faithful Christian built up in

his most holy faith. Those persons thus employed in performing congenial labour would find their talents increased by using them. They would become more and more interested in the church by having a portion of its work entrusted to them. An *esprit de corps* would be called forth, and many whose temperaments require employment, and go elsewhere for it, would be kept within the church, and become its most useful members; whilst the poor overburdened clergyman would be relieved of a great deal of unnecessary labour, and the work of the parish would be much more effectually performed; and those who thus labour in the Lord’s vineyard would find, that in watering others, they themselves have been abundantly watered by the Lord.

All which is respectfully submitted.

Rev. Dr. FULLER moved, seconded by R. B. DENISON, Esq.—That the report be printed in the *Ecclesiastical Gazette*, and he recommended to the members of the Church in the Diocese, to be carried out where practicable.—*Carried*.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PAROCHIAL STATISTICAL REPORTS.

The Committee, to whom was referred the subject of Parochial Reports, beg leave to submit, that, in their opinion, it would promote the best interests of the church, if every clergyman in charge of a parish, and when the parish is vacant, if the senior Churchwarden were required to hand or send into the Clerical Secretary of the Synod, with the certificates of Lay Delegates elected, a full parochial report for the preceding year.

This report should show—

1. The number of families connected with the mission or parish, specifying how many in them are adults, how many children, and the number of those.
2. The number of baptisms administered or confirmed, specifying the number of adults and the number of children.
3. The number of communicants, showing how many had been added during the year, how many received from other parishes, and how many removed from the parish, as also how many communicants of former years had ceased communicating during the past year.
4. The number of funerals attended.
5. How many public services had been performed during the preceding year, specifying those performed on Sundays and those performed on other days.
6. How often the Holy Communion had been administered, (1) in public, and (2) in private.
7. How often the children of two parishes had been catechised during the year.
8. The number of children on the Sunday School books, and the average attendance.
9. The number of teachers divided in male and female.
10. The number in attendance on the Bible classes.
11. The amounts raised for various church purposes, dividing them into (1) parochial objects, (2) Diocesan objects, (3) objects exterior to the Diocese.

The Committee would recommend that when a clergyman has charge of two or more separate and distinct congregations, he should report for each separately; and that in case of the mission or parish being vacant, the senior Churchwarden should report for the congregation to which he belongs. They would further recommend that these reports should embrace any other matter that would be interesting, and that such reports having been first read to the Synod, unless the reading of them be dispensed with by a vote of