

THE

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## DIOCESE OF QUEBEC.

### CHURCH SOCIETY MEETINGS IN THE MEGANTIC DISTRICT.

The Clergy of this District aim at holding a Meeting in each Mission annually. The first is usually held at Pointe Levi, where the dates of the other Meetings, &c., are determined by the assembled Clergy. A brief notice of those held during the present winter may not be uninteresting to other Districts, shewing the Missionary character, the exertions, and the hardships of the Clergy in the discharge of their duties.

The Meeting at Pointe Levi was noticed some time ago in the *Gazette*. The next on the list of appointments was St. Giles, in the Mission of the Rev. W. King, for February 1st. The evening before, the Revs. W. King and J. Carry, and Mr. Ward, Catechist, from Inverness, assembled at Mrs. Fraser's, near the Church, where they were hospitably and comfortably entertained. It is but justice to the Church people of the neighbourhood to observe, that, had a larger number of Clergy arrived, they were most willing to receive them, having made ample preparations. The Rev. Dr. Adamson, Secretary of the Diocesan Society, Rev. J. Torrance, Chairman of the District, Rev. W. C. Merrick, Frampton East, District Secretary, Rev. H. Roe, New Ireland, and Rev. J. VanLinge, were also expected, comprising all the Clergy of the District. But none of these gentlemen came; sickness, pressing duties, and other causes having hindered.

On the morning of the 1st, a fair congregation assembled, and prayers having been said by Rev. W. King, the Rev. J. Carry (instead of the Chairman, who was to have preached,) delivered a discourse with special reference to the objects of the Meeting that was to follow.

The Meeting being opened, the Rev. W. King, as Chairman, gave an outline of what had been done in each Mission during the past year. Resolutions then were passed, setting forth the duty of Christians, especially in our circumstances, to exert themselves for the furtherance of God's Church and cause amongst us, by wise counsels, faithful prayers, and liberal contributions; that the inestimable privileges of our holy religion may be preserved among us, and be extended to the poor and destitute, who now unhappily, in many places in this large Diocese, want them. The necessity and the duty of self-reliance, under God, were largely insisted on; the past favors, unparalleled, of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and her late determination, were brought prominently forward as grounds of Christian exertion; and the Diocesan Church Society was strongly commended as "worthy of the confidence and support of every Churchman, as well for its objects as the manner in which it aimed at carrying them out." In moving and seconding the various resolutions, there was no *fine speaking*—out of all place, if it were possible, before a rustic audience; but there was the oratory of truth, and zeal, and Christian earnestness; and that it was not without God's blessing, nor devoid of effect, was seen in the unflinching attention of the audience, and the promptness with which several, at the close of the proceedings, came forward and gave in their names as Annual Subscribers to the Church Society.

Immediately after the Meeting, the three gentlemen before named drove to the Parsonage, St. Sylvester, a distance of eleven

miles, service having been appointed for 6½ P. M., and meeting after. Here an accession of Clerical strength was expected and earnestly desired, but in vain. Meantime the abundant hospitalities of the Parsonage prepared for renewed exertion, and momentarily contributed to remove the chagrin of having to engage again with no reinforcement. At service there was a full congregation; the same persons officiating. The proceedings of the Meeting at St. Giles were here repeated, some additional facts being stated, and some more observations of a telling character being made. The people throughout evinced great attention, and shewed a very laudable zeal. Thus may be a proper place to observe, that the two Churches in which these services were held, manifested, in a palpable manner, the praiseworthy efforts of both Clergyman and people. Not long ago the Churches were in a most dilapidated and incommodious condition—"a disgrace," as the Clergyman said. But no sooner did he moot their restoration, than the people willingly assisted; and they are now really comfortable and creditable.

Messrs. King, Carry and Ward afterwards started for the Parsonage, Leeds, where they arrived about *midnight*. To their no small joy they found a valuable aid, the Rev. H. Roe, of New Ireland, had arrived before them.

Next morning the Holy Communion was administered, an hour before Morning Prayer; agreeably to a late arrangement, that wherever the Clergy met the previous evening, the Sacrament, after due notice to the people, should be celebrated.

The Rev. H. Roe read Morning Prayer, and the Rev. W. King preached on "Man doth not live on bread alone," &c. After a general outline of operations by the Chairman, in lieu of the Secretary's Report, much the same observations and speeches were made as at the preceding Meetings. Mr. Roe, however, pointed out, in very strong language, the shame it was to us to be pensioners so long on the bounty of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel,—us, who are in general so much better off in worldly matters than the labouring people of England, who contribute to the funds by which our spiritual wants are supplied. He also insisted on the positive injustice of lavishing upon us the instrumentalities and means which ought, in right, to be applied to the work of converting the millions of heathens within the British Colonial Empire; and he ended by declaring that no such circumstance could be found in the annals of Missions, as a Country or Colony, converted to the faith, having its religious privileges supplied for a long course of years at the charge of another Christian community. Christianity was not thus in ancient times propagated: it was self-supporting, even when its adherents were as poor as they can be now in any of our Colonies. At the conclusion of the Meeting, those present were invited to come forward and become subscribers to the Church Society. Upon which a considerable addition was made to last year's list, by new subscriptions and increase of old ones.

The weather was propitious, and the Meeting was large and respectable, some persons having come from parts of the Mission twenty miles asunder. Great interest was manifested, and after the Meeting many expressed themselves much pleased and edified.

The Mistress of the Parsonage was evidently not behind hand in hospitable intentions and preparations; and the Clerical band, having spent a few hours in agreeable conversation, and in re-