

The Church Observer.
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Calendar.



AUGUST.

- 7. 9th Sunday after Trinity.
- 14. 10 " " " "
- 21. 11 " " " "
- 24. Day of St. Bartholomew.
- 28. 12th Sunday after Trinity.

The ready and generous response made by some of the Nova Scotian parishes to the special appeal from the B. H. M. is highly creditable to the loyal churchpeople, who gave instant heed to the voice of the synod of their church, and did their part to replenish an exhausted missionary fund. Every mission and church in the diocese should sacredly share the responsibility of the present condition of the B. H. M. fund and at once send in an offertory. Faith in mission work is as strong as ever, but faith in the ability of small and struggling congregations to give is weak and needs fuller fruition. The Church's missionary work needs the hearty devotion, effort, and offerings of every member of the Church. Let the laymen enthusiastically bestow upon the Church's interests the outcome of their own increasing care.

B. H. M. Deficiency.

THE CAUSE AND REMEDY

The following article from the pen of an enthusiastic layman of our Church deserves a prominent place in these columns and the careful attention of every member of the Church of England in Nova Scotia—

Clergy and laity alike were both more or less startled by the announcement made at the last session of the synod by the auditing committee, that the B. H. M. Fund had an overdrawn balance at the bank of \$563.63 and no funds with which to meet the grants due to the clergy for services rendered for the quarter ending June 30th, resulting in the Appeal and Pastoral letter ordered to be read in all the churches on Sunday July 3rd or 10th with which all must now be familiar. The appeal being for \$20.00 to enable the Board not only to meet the grants due July 1st but also those maturing Oct 1st

and the overdraft as well

What has caused the deficiency?

Briefly a non-realization by individuals and parishes of their responsibilities and duties to the diocese as a whole. The diocese being the unit; the parishes only fractions or parts of that unit. The intense parochialism existent in many parishes, where men of influence known to be the wealthiest in the neighbourhood, give amounts disgracefully out of proportion to their ability and disclaim against sending so much money out of the parish. Those of smaller means following the precept and example set by those whose influence and example should be a spur and incentive to greater liberality, give in like proportion, and the total from the parish is discreditable. This occurring in more quarters than one in the past, has resulted in using up the reserve of \$7965.27 (see year book of 1896, page 158) gathered by careful saving when the parishes were largely supported by grants from English sources. And since 1895 when the reserve fund was finally absorbed, there has arisen a deficiency in income of \$1100, instead of the increase reasonably anticipated, resulting in the present difficulties.

Another cause! Annual collections! Small sums given annually which could as easily be given in many cases monthly and in very few cases without inconvenience, quarterly.

That in the past so little was required from the parishioners and that little given without any sacrifice on their part, that giving in that way has become the usual and stereotyped habit.

What are the remedies?

The most important is an increase of spirituality in giving. Let the prayers and the alms of the faithful go up together "like a sweet savour" unto the giver of all good.

Facilities for giving more frequently than once a year. The adoption of the Tangier or Truro scheme of weekly or monthly contributions including all diocesan and outside objects.

The adopting of a standard of giving by individuals of a definite proportion of their means (looking to the tenth as a standard) not at hap-hazard, but on principle, not grudgingly or of necessity remembering that "The Lord loveth a cheerful giver." Finally, a standard of what is required from each parish, as the least they should give. The grants made by the B. H. M. for 1898 were \$4176 expenses of the Board say \$700. Total required \$4876.

To meet this each parish in the diocese not including P. E. I. would be required to give twice and a half times the amount it is assessed for the episcopal income.

Example: Assessment for see income.

2200.00 X 2 1/2 is 5500.00
Less for P. E. I.

242.00 X 2 1/2 is 605.00

4895.00

This with interest on invested capital 400.00

Makes a total of \$5295.00

Leaving a surplus of \$419.00 to meet unforeseen contingencies.

Twice and one half the amount assessed on each deanery shows the amount each deanery requires to raise for the diocese.

Twice and one half the parish assessment shows the amount required from each parish to make up the deanery proposition.

The amount to be assessed on each deanery was made up by a committee of Synod after careful consideration of their proportion ability; and after a trial of two years no protest was made against it.

The proportion to be paid by the parishes in each deanery was settled by conference among themselves. And until these proportions are changed by lawful authority, they must be considered the fairest test available of the ability of parishes and deaneries to contribute to diocesan objects.

If any parish through misfortune or actual poverty is unable in any one year to make up its proportion, the better circumstances of the others will enable them to make up the deficiency and thus save the credit of the deanery; and giving a much needed elasticity to the fund.

Finally the standards as thus indicated, are a minimum, enabling the board simply to maintain present missions without ability to open new ground.

Surely it is time for the diocese to awake throughout its length and breadth and let their be no slackness in parishioners, parish or deanery in giving as the "Lord hath prospered them" for the extension of his kingdom.

As this is a question of the most urgent importance to the diocese, a discussion of the points raised if conducted in a prayerful spirit cannot fail in arousing a much needed attention to the subject; and it is to be hoped the adoption by numerous parishes of some systematic plan for weekly or monthly collections for the fund.

In a future number I will furnish a table showing what should be given by each parish by the scale mentioned to make the annual amount required by the B. H. M.

The Rev. Mr. Parkinson has entered upon his duties as rector of St. Jude's, Carleton, and preached his first sermon there on Sunday July 11th.

Notes.

Rev. W. J. Armitage is spending his vacation with his family at Chester.

Mrs. Margaret Milledge left \$1000 to Trinity Church, St. John.

St. Luke's Dorcas Society, Annapolis Royal, forwarded a bale of winter clothing &c. to Rev. John Sanders, of Biscotasing, Moosonee. The value of the bale was \$90.00.

The result of the special appeal on behalf of the mission fund to the deficiency was an offering of \$303.05 from the congregation of St. Luke's cathedral, Halifax. The rector asked for at least \$196.50 which would have been their quota by assessment. The response was a most agreeable surprise.

Work has commenced on the site for the proposed new church at Newport. The parishioners will do the work of levelling the hill on which the church is to be built, grading the roads leading thereto and building the terraces. Several members of the guild of Christ's church, Windsor, gave a concert to Brooklyn in aid of the building fund, which realized \$24.15. Another concert was held in Dartmouth by kind friends for the same object.

Professor W. J. Hutchins, organist of St. Paul's church, Halifax, is likely to get a position on the staff of organ professors at the Guildhall School of Music, London, England, an institution of immense size, and having some thousands of musical students. This will be through the combined influence of the celebrated Dr. T. J. Hopkins, organist of the Temple church, London, and known the world over as the father of organists; and also through his wife's uncle, Sir William Richmond Cotton, some years ago lord mayor of London, and one of the founders of this now famous institution. The present principal of the Guildhall School of Music, Mr. William Cummings, and Mr. Hutchins were choristers, and also studied both organ and theory for years under Dr. E. J. Hopkins.—Ez.

It was a great pleasure to be present at one of the sessions of the Sunday School at Walton. Too much praise cannot be given the few earnest churchpeople in this settlement. The church is kept scrupulously clean, and the service is hearty and very devotional. The Sunday School is under the charge of several ladies of the congregation and the very excellent bible class speaks well for the religious sentiments of the very earnest members; and very gratifying was it to see several young men present, who were evidently sincere and the deep interest they took in the exercises and in their study of the Holy Scriptures.