

The Society for the propagation of the Gospel in foreign parts, with that parental solicitude for the success of its Missions, which has characterized it since its foundation, has most generously placed at the disposal of the Lord Bishop of this Diocese an annual grant of money, which, if the conditions thereof be complied with, by the hearty co-operation of the Laity, will, in a few years, render the incumbent of each Mission, if not independent, at least above want.

There are few Missions, especially among those of more recent establishment, wherein a good glebe cannot be purchased for a sum averaging from £200 to £300. The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, with great liberality, offer to pay one-half this cost.

Without this aid, the difficulties were insurmountable—but with it, thus unexpectedly and munificently offered—the desired object is placed within the reach of all.

Laymen must bear in mind, that the day cannot be far distant, when the entire support of their Clergy will devolve on them,—therefore how gladly should they now avail themselves of the boon so opportunely presented for their acceptance, and by one strenuous and united effort secure the first great step towards permanent endowments.

The Lay Committee therefore recommend immediate action to be taken in this matter in every parish,—that influential members in each do forthwith call meetings of the inhabitants, —organize Committees,—make collections, &c., and when such an amount shall have been raised, as, together with an equal sum from the Society P. G., (within the limits above assigned,) shall be sufficient for the purchase of a suitable Glebe,—such amount shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of this Society, together with a notification to its Secretary of their intention of making such purchase, in order that the Committee of selection and purchase may proceed thereon. This Committee consists of the Lord Bishop, the Chairman or other member of the Lay Committee, and the Incumbent and Churchwardens of the Mission in question.

Moved by Rev. J. Flanagan, seconded by Rev. Dr. Bethune, and Resolved,

“That the Report now read be received.”

Moved by Rev. A. D. Campbell, seconded by Rev. T. Machin, and Resolved,

“That the Report be adopted, and that the Chairman of the Lay Committee, and the Secretary of the Society, be authorised to cause to be printed and circulated the address therein contained.”

Moved by the Rev. W. B. Bond, seconded by the Hon. Judge McCord, and Resolved,

“That an additional sum of £30 annually be granted to the Lord Bishop for Missionary purposes, from the 1st of January last.”

No Report from the Finance Committee.

No Report from the Education Committee.

The Report of the Insurance Committee was read, when it was moved by Rev. Dr. Bethune, seconded by Rev. C. Morice, and Resolved,

“That the Report be received and discussed.”

Moved by Rev. W. B. Bond, seconded by Rev. T. Machin, and Resolved,

“That the Report be printed and circulated among the Clergy, with an intimation that a vote will be taken on it at the meeting of the Central Board of the Church Society on Tuesday, the 4th of May, and with a request to know their opinion on the subject, and to state that the present meeting recommends its adoption.”

Ordered—“That the account of the Montreal Gazette, to the amount of £5 11s 1d, be paid.”

Moved by Hon. Judge McCord, seconded by Rev. A. D. Campbell, and Resolved,

“That the Secretary of this Society be authorised to procure the Registers and Stationary required for the use of the Society and Lay Committee, together with cases for papers &c.”

The Treasurer's account was received and laid on the table.

The meeting was then closed with prayer.

*Extracts from the Report of the Church Society, read at the Annual Meeting at Montreal, on the 20th Jan. last.*

Not as a matter of form—not simply in accordance with a time honoured custom—but with deep, sincere, and earnest feelings would the Central Board,—in presenting this its first Annual Report,—record its gratitude for the success with which the Church Society in this Diocese has been blessed, and for the many marks of Divine favour with which its course has been cheered and supported.

The division of the over extensive Diocese of Quebec, whilst it relieved our late laborious and much beloved Diocesan from heavy duties faithfully but arduously performed, resulted in the appointment to the new Diocese of Montreal of our present Bishop, a cause for congratulation to the whole Church and of praise to Almighty God.

Now,—constituted a new Diocese, with a Bishop of our own living in our midst, and (by a blessing from on High) infusing through his presence and counsel fresh life and energy into our operations, and imparting to us the strength of unity—it was felt by every one that the organization of a Church Society for the Diocese of Montreal was amongst the first steps to be taken to give efficiency to the working of the Church. \* \* \*

But the great object kept in view by the Central Board, has been “the bringing the glorious gospel of the blessed God” home to the door and heart of every member of the Church,—has been to meet the spirit of evil at the very threshold, with those ministrations which the Spirit of God is pleased to use as means for the salvation of souls—to send forth Missionaries and fill up those gaps that are apparent in the ranks of the army of the Cross—to assist the great Societies, which are among the chief glories of our Father-land, in contending with the wide-spread ignorance around us.

What the Board has been enabled to accomplish shall presently be recorded; but the question may first be put, what has the Church done? How have her members,—richly blessed with the great and precious promises of the Word of God, responded to our call on behalf of those who are still insensible to the invitations of the Gospel? We will leave the reply to our statistics, and make an appeal to you, founded upon the fact, that one of the Clergymen in this Diocese has 500 square miles of new country, pretty thickly settled, to serve in spiritual matters, and that many others have very nearly the same extent of country, and the same amount of duty to attend to. Should this be? What can that poor Missionary do to stay the destruction of the multitude? Have you no sympathy with him? Is there no deep stirring of the feelings of your souls as you hear of these things? Will you not put forth your efforts? What you want is the Missionary with the Word of God in his hand, and the Spirit of God in his heart, going from house to house proclaiming peace, peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Building up the sanctuary—celebrating the ordinances of the Church—dispensing the Bread of Life—and leading into every village the parochial schoolmaster, who will conduct the children to Christ, and, as the right hand of the Clergyman, be his willing minister. You want all this until the land echoes with the cry: “Be ye reconciled to God.”

Now let every one of us put to ourselves the question, what have I done towards contributing to so glorious a consummation? Have I to the utmost of my power aided the Central Board in effecting so desirable an object?

Men of God—Men of Prayer—Brethren and Sisters in the Lord, come ye up to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty.

The extent of what has been accomplished will be apparent by a consideration of the following summary, but an idea of what might be done should be gathered from the Report of the Lay Committee for December 2nd, (published in No. 7 (for December last,) of the Ecclesiastical Gazette, p. 51,) which has been widely circulated, showing that thirteen additional Missionaries might be easily supported from 2s. 6d. contributions, amongst our own people alone within the Diocese.