

solemn duty it was—to heal the sores of Lazarus; but they had now lived into a time when, through the rapid multiplication of population, and through the various disorganising influences which attended the rapid creation of population, the poorer classes had been permitted to fall out of the habitual traditions of religion, and the clergy had, with inadequate means, to face a real missionary work, and to bring under the influence of religion those masses for whom Christianity existed only in name. Mr. Gladstone contrasted the comparatively lighter work of the clergymen in rural districts with that to be discharged in metropolitan parishes and said:—In a district like that, inhabited by an immense number of persons, the clergyman is required to be the universal father of the people. He has not the landlord or the squire to share his responsibilities and burthens. He has not simply to preach to the people and to recover them to the knowledge of Christ by a direct agency, but he must have a concern for everything that regards the social improvement and intellectual training of the young and old, and the whole of this charge—the office and interchange of sympathy and kindness, added to the training and guiding of his people in religious truth—the whole of this charge, in the absence of the upper classes of society, falls almost undivided, on the shoulders of the clergy (hear). It was a fine and noble saying, although it was a heathen sentiment, that to see a brave man struggling with adversity was a noble spectacle; and so I say it is a noble spectacle scarcely to be matched in the 19th century, when we see a brave clergyman struggling in adversity; for they are all in adversity who labour in these districts. They may be blessed with health and sufficiency; they may, under the blessing of Divine Providence, be blessed with a domestic circle, and reap its joys, but the condition of those pastors who have to face an appalling amount of social misery and ignorance is, and ever must be, a condition of adversity. The state of those who, when they look around, see nothing but a gulf of darkness and despair, is a perpetual affliction. Here is a man of no common energy, and yet he does not scruple to tell you that there are times, and times not rare, when the exhaustion and discouragement entailed by his labour drive him almost to despair (hear). It is hard, but I will not say too hard—for there is another side to every spectacle of trial and suffering. This is the law by which the highest results are worked out; this is the way by which the loftiest stages of Christian heroism are attained; and I will not say that those who achieve them are to be pitied, but I will say that they are to be sympathised with and assisted. I trust the time has come when it has pleased God to multiply the class of pastors to which Mr Rowsell belongs (hear).

The Rev. F. D. MAURICE seconded the resolution. The Rev. gentleman observed that, although he belonged neither to the east nor to the west, he could not help feeling there was a burden placed on the west which it could not shake off. He believed the rich would receive a blessing, the extent of which they could scarcely estimate, if they were to come and mix with the working classes, for he considered they needed the contact far more than the poor. The west would derive as great a blessing from the east as the east could desire from the west, for it needed to be refreshed with the manly strength of the strong and brave classes who formed the working millions of the land. The most distinguished men the country ever produced were born in the east of London, and in the east would still be found the best elements out of which a great nation could be formed.

The resolution was put and carried unanimously. Mr. W. CORROX moved the next resolution:—"The vitality of church membership should be expressed by active brotherhood; and the labouring classes, while they so largely contribute to the strength and happiness of the country, need the sympathies and the efforts of those who have received a higher education than themselves."

The Rev. Canon CHAMPEYNS seconded the resolution, which met with the cordial support of the meeting.

The Rev. Dr. HESSEY, master of the Merchant Taylors' School, moved,—“That the efforts which are being made in this district, consisting of 13,600 persons, mostly of the poorer classes, deserve confidence and help.”

Mr. LILLY seconded the resolution, which was carried, and, after a vote of thanks to the right Rev. prelate for presiding, the meeting separated.

#### SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

67, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.

Tuesday, 2 January 6th, 1857.

The Lord Bishop of LONDON in the Chair.

A letter which had been printed in the Report for December from the Lord Bishop of Rupert's Land, respecting his proposed cathedral, was again laid before the Meeting.

The Standing Committee, in pursuance of notice, recommended that a grant of £600 be made towards a cathedral at Rupert's Land.

This grant was then made.

A letter from the Lord Bishop of Toronto, dated Toronto, Canada, Nov. 29, 1856, supplying the information required by the Society on the subject of the subdivision of this diocese, was laid before the Meeting.

It appeared that the whole sum collected, with some small additions since obtained, amounted to ten thousand five hundred currency (£10,500), or eight thousand four hundred sterling (£8100), and that the sum originally contemplated, as the minimum endowment for the Bishopric, was ten thousand pounds sterling, or twelve thousand five hundred pounds currency. The deficiency, therefore, amounted to £1600 sterling, or £2000 currency. A paper of statistics on the proposed Division of the Bishopric of Toronto into three dioceses was laid before the Meeting. This statement showed that in the diocese of London there are 13 counties; in Toronto (according to the proposed division), 14 counties in Kingston 15 counties.

Besides the clergymen who are at present in full employment, there are 10 employed in education and partially in missionary work, and 6 retired, from age or infirmity, making a total of 170 clergymen in the whole diocese as at present constituted.

A memorial from the Bishop, the clergy, and the Lay Representatives of the diocese of Toronto in synod assembled, requesting the Society's aid towards the extension of the Episcopate in Canada West, was brought before the meeting.

A Map of Canada West, exhibiting the several areas of the three proposed Bishoprics, was also brought under the attention of the Society.

The Standing Committee gave notice that they should propose at the February Meeting a vote of £500 towards the diocese of Kingston; the amount to be paid as soon as the rest of the sum required shall have been raised.

The Lord Bishop of Toronto forwarded a letter thanking the venerable Society for their donation towards erecting the churches in the townships of Russell and Osgoode. “It will be to them (said the Bishop) a seasonable help, and I shall take care that sufficient progress be made in the buildings to insure their completion before payment is made.”

His Lordship inclosed a petition, from the Rev. James L. Alexander, in behalf of a few families in Saltfleet on the Mountain, who have begun to build a small brick church, and who require a small grant towards finishing it.

The Board agreed to grant £25 towards this small church.

The Bishop also forwarded a letter from the Rev. Dr. O'Meara, upon the subject of his translations

into the Ojibwa language of the New Testament and Book of Common Prayer.

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