

THE CANADIAN CHURCHMAN.

"Stand ye in the ways and see, and ask for the Old Paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls."

NEW SERIES, Vol. I, No. 28.]

TORONTO, CANADA, FEBRUARY 10, 1853.

[OLD SERIES, Vol. XVI

THE COMMON-PLACE BOOK.

WHO ARE THE BEST CHRISTIANS.

Generally speaking the best Christians are those who know not when they became such: who are much inclined to think and fear, and doubt whether they really be such, and therefore take mighty good care to behave themselves. Such thoughts, and fears and doubts are wholesome in themselves, besides being an essential part of that self distrust which ever goes hand in hand with a true confidence in God. He who can say sincerely "Lord, I believe," will naturally add "Help Thou mine unbelief," for the living possession of grace, must needs manifest itself in a desire to gain more, and a fear of losing what we have. On the other hand one of the most troublesome persons, we have ever known in the Church was a man who used to be often saying, that he built all his hopes on the fact of his conversion. As his piety came by a sort of a "right about face," not by growth and the process of secret instruction, his eyes could of course be spared from the office of constant self scrutiny, to the work of spying out faults in his brethren, and of discovering how the Church might be reformed.—*Churchman.*

A SONG IN THE NIGHT.

Just I watch o'er us!
Night walks before us,
The weary world with gloom o'ershadowing;
Sins us enumber!
We dare not slumber
Till we are safe beneath Thy guardian wing.
Each day, its sorrow
Ere dawns the morrow
Like driving foam will all have passed away;
Save the dark lines of evil
That flesh the world the Devil
Have drawn athwart our spirit-travelled way
The hour is dreary!
And I am weary!
But, if in Thee, how sweet will be my rest:
In sleep reclining
My all resigning
I know full well I shall be surely blest.
Oh Jesu hear me!
That angels near me
Their silent vigil all night long may keep;
Tossed on night's billow,
With me Thy pillow
Make, Lord! and calm will be the stormy deep
Evening and morning,
Watching and dawning
Of the great day, may I till death be found:
Let no sin-slumber
My soul encumber,
Lest in dismay I hear Thy trumpet sound.
To the Father glorious,
And Son victorious
O'er all the powers of darkness, glory be;
And to the Spirit,
Who doth inherit
The realms of light, one God, eternally.
—*Churchman.*

A TENDER CONSCIENCE.

The least difficulties and scruples of a tender conscience should not be roughly encountered; they are as a knot in a silken thread, and require a gentle and wary hand to loose them.

LET NOT THY MOUTH CAUSE THEE TO SIN

One light word on religion, one light joke which ridicules the things and persons belonging to it, leaves a scar upon the mind which time hardens. One cannot laugh outwardly and feel deep respect inwardly.

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

DIocese OF TORONTO.

THE CHURCH SOCIETY OF THE DIocese OF TORONTO.

THEOLOGICAL STUDENTS FUND.

Collections made in the several Churches, Chapels and Missionary Stations in behalf of this Fund, appointed for the Second Sunday in January.

Previously announced in *Canadian Churchman*, Vol. 1, No. 27.....£ 55 16 9
St. John's Ch. York Mills £0 17 3
Moore's Station..... 0 9 3
—per Rev. Mr. Mitchell..... £ 1 8 6
Penetanguishine, per Ch.-Warden... 0 15 0
Christ's Ch. Huntingford, £0 12 6
Station, Lot 28, 12th Con.
Zorra..... 0 7 4
—per Rev. F. D. Farquier..... 1 19 11
Rice Lake, per Rev. J. W. Beck..... 0 12 6
St. Peter's, Brockville, per
Rev. E. Desroche..... 8 13 8
St. Paul's Church, Dunnville
per Church-Warden..... 1 5 0

44 Collections, amounting to£70 11 4
Additions for Widows and Orphan's Fund, collections appointed for the 16th Sunday after Trinity, June, 1852.
Previously announced.....£296 10 9
St. Paul's Church, Dunnville,
per Church Warden.....£1 10 0

163 Collections amounting to£298 0 9

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Rev. W. Stennett, 11th year.....£1 5 0
Rev. F. D. Farquier, 11th year..... 1 5 0

THOMAS S. KENNEDY,
Sec. C. S. D. T.

MEETING OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY OF THE DIocese OF TORONTO, HELD ON THE 2ND FEBRUARY.

PRESENT—The Lord Bishop in the Chair. The Hon. the Chief Justice, Hon. B. P. DeBlaquiere, Hon. G. S. Boulton, Hon. H. J. Boulton, Reverends James Beaven, D.D., D.E. Blake B.A., J. G. D. McKenzie, B.A., S. Lett, L.L.D., G. Nugent, W. S. Darling; Sheriff Ruitan, E. G. O'Brien, H. Mortimer, Alexander Dixon, and Henry Rowsell, Esquires.

After the usual Prayer and the Minutes of the last Meeting were read and approved by the President, the accounts audited and recommended to be paid by the Standing Committee, were ordered to be paid.

On the recommendation of the standing Committee, Books and Tracts to the amount of £2 10s. were voted to the Rev. J. W. Beck, for distribution in his mission.

A grant of books to the amount of £2 10s. was voted to the Rev. F. Tremayne Ju. for distribution in his mission, but his application for assistance towards building a plank church, in the Township of Peel was refused, as the Society, as a general rule, decline granting aid toward the erection of churches or parsonages, built of more perishable materials than brick or stone.

A set of rough calf service books were voted to the Rev. E. Grasett, for St. John's Church Bertie, on his returning an *Svo.* sett, sent to him, it is supposed, by mistake.

The Society ordered the Secretary to enquire from the Rev. E. Dewar, whether, if the sum applied for by him towards the teacher's salary, be granted by the Society, the Church Catechism and the Bible will be permitted to be taught in the school.

The Rev. W. S. Darling then read the Report of the Committee, appointed at the last meeting, to take into consideration the return called for by the Rev. S. Lett L.L.D.—which report will be found below.

Moved by Rev. S. Lett, L.L.D., seconded by Rev. James Beaven, D.D.,

Resolved.—That the Report now read be received.

Moved by E. G. O'Brien, Esq., seconded by Rev. J. G. D. McKenzie, B.A.,

Resolved.—That the Report now received be printed in sufficient numbers for circulation amongst the members of the Society, and that it be brought up for consideration on Wednesday, the 6th April.

Moved by the Hon. P. B. DeBlaquiere, seconded by the Rev. W. S. Darling,

Resolved.—That the Schedules marked A, B, and C, which accompanied the Report of the Committee on Widows and Orphan's Fund, presented to the Society this day, be referred to the Finance Committee, with a request that they will report to the Society as early as possible, the actual state of the fund invested for the account of Widows and Orphan's of the Clergy up to the close of 1852; and if any, and what interest is due upon such investments.

And also as to the state of the balance of account of sums collected for this fund, and the steps recommended to be taken in order to the immediate investment of such balance, and gen-

erally as to any recommendation for the future investment and security of collections for this object, as to them may seem desirable.

The following resolution was then moved by the Hon. G. S. Boulton, seconded by the Rev. D. Blake, B. A.,

Resolved.—That a Committee of three members of the Society be appointed to ascertain the income of each Clergyman in the Diocese, from whatsoever source derived, except from his own private property, and to report the same to a meeting of this Society in the month of May next, and that the Rev. D. E. Blake, the Secretary, and the mover, be such a Committee, in order that an appeal may be made to the Church at large, for further support, and that the Committee be authorized to apply to the Bishop for any information he can afford, to aid the Committee in their inquiry.

To which the following amendment was moved by the Hon. P. B. DeBlaquiere, seconded by E. G. O'Brien, Esq.,

Amendment.—That the Lord Bishop be requested to furnish the Society with a tabular statement of the clerical incomes of the Clergy of the Diocese, setting forth the sources from whence derived, for the necessary information of the Society.

The amendment being first put to the vote was lost.

The original motion was then put and likewise lost.

The Report and the Schedules above referred to, will be published in pamphlet form and forwarded to all the members of the Society, as soon as possible.

THOMAS S. KENNEDY.

REPORT.

The Committee to whom was referred a return setting forth the various amounts which have been contributed by the several Parishes in the Diocese, to the Church Society, both through the Parochial Committee, or by means of Special Collections, during the last three years, and how many of the Clergy had regularly paid the amount of their Annual Subscription, with a request to report thereon, and to prepare a Resolution or Resolutions the principle of which shall be "that all who desire to benefit by the Society must conform to its rules"; and also to examine the By-law for the due administration of the Widows and Orphan's Fund, and whether under the provisions of such By-law adequate means have been provided for the purposes therein contemplated—beg leave in this Report to call the attention of the members of this Society, and of the Church generally, to some striking and important facts of which they have become cognizant in the course of their duties.

I. There appears (from such information as your Committee possess) to be in the Diocese about 138 Parochial Clergymen, having charge of 129 Rectories, Incumbencies or Missions. In these 129 Missions there appears to be 81 Parochial Committees, but on further examination of the return, it is found that 23 of these Parochial Committees are in operation within the limits of ten Missions. Thus seeming to prove conclusively that there are 61 Missions, or nearly one half of the whole number within the Diocese wholly destitute of any "Parochial Committee".

II. The number of Souls belonging to our Communion is now estimated at considerably above 200,000. In 1847 the average number of attendants upon the several Services of the Church in this Diocese was somewhat upwards of 32,000. Since then about 23 new Missions have been opened, and many Churches built and endowed. Your Committee have, therefore, no fear of exaggerating when they place the present average of attendance at 40,000. Yet the whole number of Subscribers to the Church Society—as nearly as your Committee can approximate to it—does not greatly exceed, if indeed it reaches the aggregate of 4000 persons out of the 200,000 who belong to us, and the 40,000 who steadily attend our Services.

III. They would also mention the fact that there are in the Diocese upwards of 200 Churches sufficiently complete to admit of Divine Service being regularly celebrated within them. There are also more than an equal number of Stations where the Offices of the Church are performed at stated periods. Yet from these (nearly) 500 places of worship, the whole number of Collections on behalf of the Church Society made during the last year was for the Widows and Orphan's Fund, 345; for the Bishops Students' Fund 228; for the Jubilee of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 377. Among the Collections thus made are many taken up at Stations, thus proving two facts: first, that at many of the Churches no Collections have been made; and secondly, that it is possible to make Collections at Stations. Looking back beyond the last year and considering what has been done in this particular, during the three years embraced by the Return, your Committee regret to find that the whole number of Missions where all the Collections appointed by

the Society have been regularly made, is 44 out of the 129.

IV. It is (as your Committee believe) generally known, that the Society stands pledged to transfer from the General Purposes Fund to the Fund for the support of the Widows and Orphan's, (if its resources will permit) the sum of £1 5s. 0d., per annum for each Clergyman in the Diocese, on the understanding that he shall not only make the prescribed Collection for that object, but further, that he shall himself contribute a like sum to the General Purposes of the Parent Society. Notwithstanding this circumstance, your Committee regret to find, from the Return submitted to them, that out of the 138 Parochial Clergymen within the Diocese only 71 have paid the sum specified, into the hands of the Society. They would also call attention to the important fact in connection with this subject, that of the £1 5s. 0d. thus paid, one fourth is all which, as a general rule, reaches the treasury of the Parent Society—the remaining three fourths being applied to local objects by the Parochial Committee, to whom it is usually paid.

V. Your Committee would further state as another result of their examination that out of 81 Parochial Committees at present in existence, only 44 have regularly remitted the one fourth of their Annual contributions to the parent Society, during the three years last past.

VI. Finally, they would call attention to the striking fact, proved by the Return submitted to their investigation, that out of the 138 clergymen holding parochial care within this Diocese only eleven have in every particular complied with the requirements of the Society.

Your Committee are sanguine that all who will duly weigh these facts will agree with them in their opinion, that they have made out a very strong case, calling urgently for the adoption of remedial measures.

In suggesting such measures, they would most carefully guard against the possibility of its being supposed that they for a moment overlook the fact that the Church Society is a purely voluntary association, and that it has no power of authoritatively requiring the clergy or laity to comply with its regulations.

Omitting the obligations to support this Society which may arise from the sanction and exhortations of the ecclesiastical authorities and, for the present, laying aside the consideration of the spiritual wants of the country which constitute so strong a necessity for General co-operation, your Committee would remind the Members of the Church at large that this Society possesses the right, inherent in every such Institution, of restricting the benefits which it is calculated to confer, to those alone who comply with the conditions which it shall deem necessary to enact.

The justice and equity of calling this right into exercise can surely admit of no controversy. The necessity for doing so must be abundantly apparent to all who will only consider the facts already enumerated.

On this principle, therefore, your Committee are prepared to advise, that no application from any Mission, praying for aid in carrying out any Parochial object, shall be entertained by the Society, unless the mission so applying shall have complied with all the requirements enumerated in the Constitution and By-laws of this Corporation.

They are further prepared to recommend the adoption of the same equitable principle in case of applications for relief from the Widows and Orphan's Fund. They would advise that no such application be entertained by this Society, unless the deceased Clerk shall, during his lifetime have faithfully complied with all the requirements named by the Society.

These recommendations are of course subject to certain exceptions to be hereinafter specified.

Your Committee have some further suggestions to offer for the consideration of the Society, but they will be more fitly adverted to in the course of some remarks which they would very respectfully bring before the attention of the Board.

It appears to your Committee that in such an Institution as the Church Society, it is a great misfortune to have the Central Government in a weak and uninfluential state; and, since in Missionary, as in other objects, money is one great source of power, the very limited amount of Funds placed at the disposal of the Parent Society impairs, to a great degree, the efficiency of the Institution at large, and almost destroys its really Missionary character.

The present organization converts each District Branch, and indeed each Parochial Committee, into a separate and almost independent Society for raising money, not to be employed in Missionary objects but to be expended on local wants. One fourth of all annual subscriptions which is all that is transmitted to the Parent Society, is not much more than sufficient to meet the necessary and unavoidable expenses of its machinery, and preventing the possibility of its entering with vigor and effect upon any really missionary enterprise.