

Paper
written by the
Bishop

12

PASTORAL LETTER

TO THE

CLERGY AND LAITY

OF THE

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

PASTORAL LETTER

CLERGY AND LAITY

DIOCESE OF TORONTO

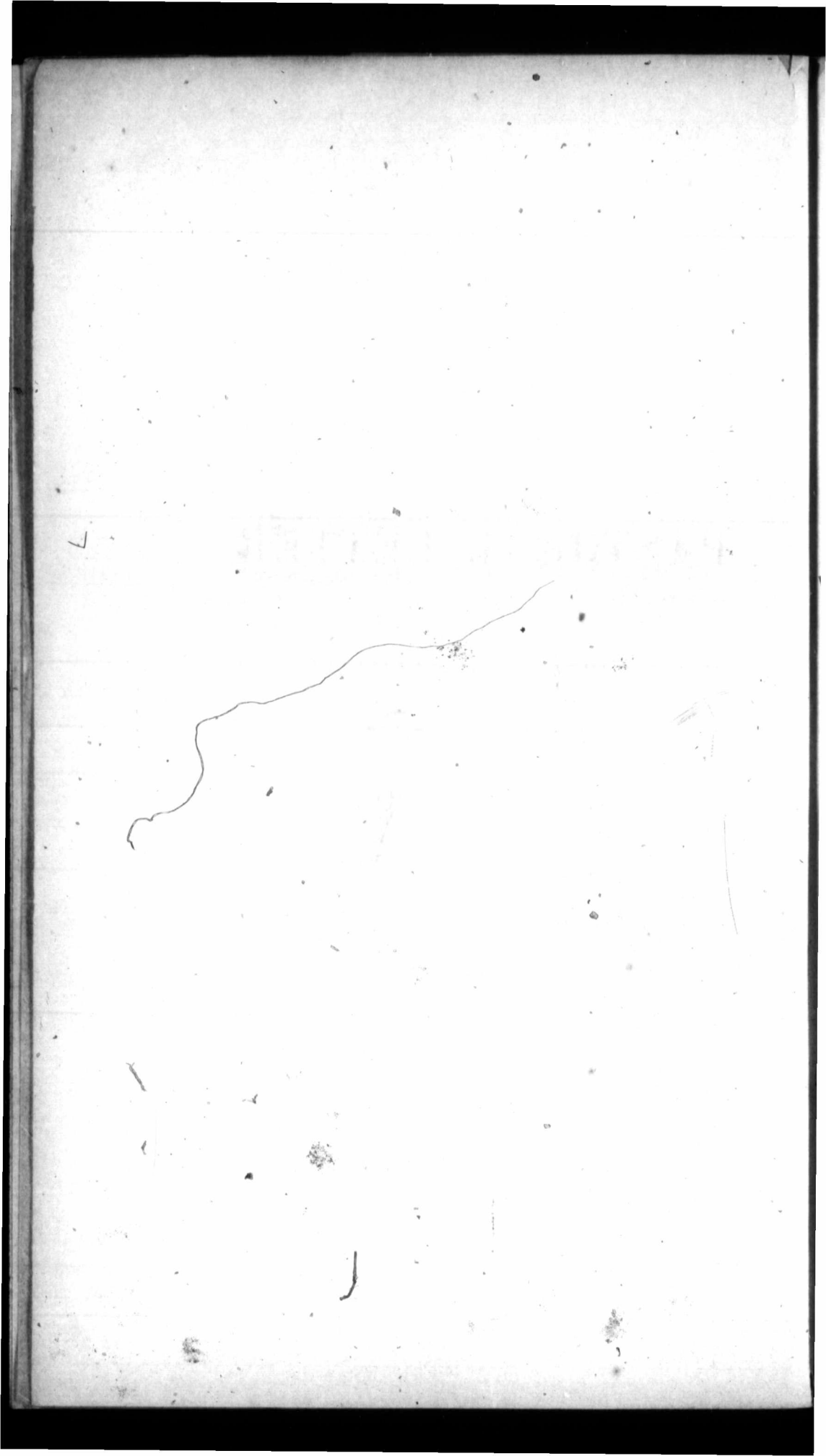
PASTORAL LETTER

TO THE

CLERGY AND LAITY

OF THE

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.



PASTORAL LETTER

TO THE CLERGY AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE OF
TORONTO.

MY DEAR BRETHREN,

Among the proceedings of the Synod, held in October last, I find the following resolutions, upon which special action will be required, in order that they may be fully carried out throughout the Diocese.

1st. "That the Rev. T. B. Fuller, Rural Dean, the Rev. H. Patton, Rural Dean, John W. Gamble, Esq., and John Arnold, Esq., be a Deputation, representing this Synod, to present the following resolution to the Church in the United States, at the present moment in General Convocation assembled; and that the Deputation be furnished with two copies of the resolution, properly authenticated, to be presented one to the Bishops and the other to the House of Clerical and Lay Deputies.

RESOLUTION.

"Whereas, during the last year, the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, by and with the advice and concurrence of Trinity College, Toronto, was pleased to appeal to the churchmen of the United States, in behalf of that institution, and to depute the Rev. William McMurray, D. D., Rector of Ancaster and Dundas, to present this appeal; and whereas that gentleman was cordially and affectionately received by the churchmen in all parts of the union which he was enabled to visit, and his application for aid answered by the most munificent donations, amounting, in money, lands and books, to the large sum of ten thousand dollars.

"Resolved unanimously, by this Synod, consisting of the Lord Bishop, the Clergy and Laity, representing the several parishes and missions of the United Church of England and Ireland in the Diocese of Toronto, that their warmest thanks are due and are hereby most cordially tendered to their brethren in the United States, for their fraternal, timely and munificent contribution, to that most important institution."

2nd. "That a Deputation be appointed by this Synod, to proceed to Quebec on the assembling of the Legislature, to

watch the progress of any measure that may be introduced in reference to the Clergy Reserves; and in the event of their failing to prevent the passage of the same, to endeavour so to have its provisions modified as to render it as little as possible injurious to the Church."

3rd. "That it is expedient that an episcopal fund be forthwith commenced, and that the amount contributed for that purpose within the limits of the proposed Dioceses respectively, together with a moiety of whatever may be contributed by the then remaining Diocese of Toronto, be reserved for the maintenance of the Bishops of the new Sees respectively: that one of the four annual special collections be made for that purpose throughout the Diocese, and that the Lord Bishop of Toronto be requested, by pastoral letter or otherwise, to invite contributions from the members of the Church generally towards carrying out this important object."

The two first of these resolutions prove that Diocesan Synods cannot be held without incurring certain necessary expenses, permanent as well as contingent. Among the former, stationery, printing, &c., may be mentioned, because to some extent always required, though fluctuating in amount. Contingent expenses also must from time to time arise, and ought, for the credit of the Church, to be promptly met.

Thus the Deputation to New York cannot in fairness be expected to defray its own expenses, much less the proposed deputation to Quebec.

To make provision for all such matters, I would respectfully recommend that the Clergymen and Lay Deputies, or Church Wardens, of every parish, mission or station, request of their respective members a trifling donation, and forward the same, when collected, to the Rev. Thomas S. Kennedy, one of the Secretaries of the Synod.

I think the Church would prefer some such mode of providing for these unavoidable requirements, to a formal collection. - If each of the feebler missions or stations were to send one pound, or even half that sum, and the more wealthy parishes two or three pounds, the object would be fully answered. As the proceeds will be carefully husbanded, a similar demand may not be required for some years. Allow me to hope that this suggestion, which appears so simple, reasonable and effective, may be speedily carried out.

The third Resolution of the Synod, recommending the commencement of an Episcopal Fund for the proposed new

Dioceses, is of the greatest importance and deserves our best consideration. Let it, however, be borne in mind that the few hints I venture to offer to the different Committees which may be employed in carrying it out, are merely in the way of suggestion, which they can alter and modify as may seem best calculated to attain the object in view.

In the printed Minutes of the Synod, I find that the Resolution as adopted overlooks an amendment which I mentioned at the time; namely, that each of the Sees should collect separately for itself, and this, because Toronto must soon become vacant, and in the face of such a contingency, the mode of appropriating the contributions pointed out would neither be just nor satisfactory to the donors. This I have already discovered to be the fact; the Church members in the portion likely to be left to form the new Diocese of Toronto do not think it right to deprive themselves of the means of filling up the vacancy as soon as possible after it may happen.

To avoid any difficulty, it seems more equitable that each of the three proposed Dioceses should have its own separate Episcopal Fund; and this mode of proceeding I recommend with the more readiness, because I feel a strong assurance that a moderate provision may be obtained for them respectively without any great sacrifice on the part of our people.

To provide a reasonable endowment for these three Bishopsrics will require about fifty thousand pounds currency, or forty thousand pounds sterling, a sum that may be raised without any great difficulty by the members of the Church in Upper Canada, if we can make them fully alive to the vast importance of the measure, and satisfactorily prove that it will lay a sure foundation for the Church of God in Canada West for all future time, and also provide for her rapid increase.

Assuming that we are one-fourth of the population of the Province or Diocese of Toronto—an assumption fully sustained by the last census—we number 250,000, and allowing five for each family, we have fully 50,000 families; so that if each family on an average were to contribute only £1, we should have £50,000, or the sum required. Some families may not be able to bestow £1, small as the gift is, but any such deficiency would be more than made up by the numbers who are willing and able to give more.

Again, from the most accurate information that can be obtained, the assessed property of the Province of Upper Canada exceeds £36,000,000, of which, from their wealth and numbers, the members of the Church enjoy one-third,

twelve millions (£12,000,000), and were they to contribute a donation of one penny in the pound, it would likewise produce the necessary sum.

It is nevertheless presumed that our people will feel more pleased and gratified in being addressed individually by their friends and neighbours, because they can thus be made more aware of the noble and undying nature of the effort they are called upon to make, and have their hearts and affections stirred up to do it willingly for the glory of God and the health of their immortal souls. This method likewise appears the most effective, and with good arrangement promises a happy result. Thus, taking as before, our families at 50,000, it does not seem burdening them too much by classing them as follows:—

The First Class, one thousand, at	£10	each	£10,000
The Second class, two thousand, at -	5	each	10,000
The Third class, six thousand, at -	2 10	each	15,000
The Fourth class, eight thousand, at	1 10	each	12,000
The Fifth class, ten thousand, at -	1 0	each	10,000
The Sixth class, twenty-three thousand, at	5	each	5,750

Fifty Thousand £62,750

These six classes are indeed all arbitrary, but yet the sums opposite each are so moderate that we have reason to hope that there will be no great falling off. Surely we may expect in the whole of Upper Canada one thousand families ready and able to give ten pounds each to so glorious an object, and so with the other classes. According to this table we have an average of £3 7s. 6d. for each family, and as it is desirable that all should give something, nearly one-half of the whole number of families are placed at five shillings each. But should there be even a considerable deficiency it will be covered by the £12,750, the surplus above the estimate of fifty thousand pounds.

In regard to the Bishopric of St. Mary, though not placed with the other three Sees, it is not to be forgotten, and may be endowed as follows: First, we have the donations or contributions within its bounds, which, though of very small amount, will nevertheless yield something and will increase. Second, we have the hope of some excess over the fifty thousand pounds, a portion of which and such a small percentage on the whole amount as the Synod may see fit to deduct, may both be added to what is collected in the Diocese.

We have reason to look for special gifts to the See of St. Mary from the great Church Societies and other liberal and pious friends in England, because it is different from the other

Sees in this; that it includes the Heathen or Indians, for whose benefit it is more particularly intended.

Should the sums to be derived from these three sources be insufficient, let them be carefully vested and allowed to accumulate till from accruing interest and occasional offerings the endowment shall be secured. In the meantime the See may be placed in charge of the Bishops of Toronto and London as more adjacent, to visit alternately.

In this way the four Bishoprics would be placed on a permanent basis, and the Church of Western Canada would not only find friends on all sides ready to assist and encourage her exertions; but she would become a spectacle of deep interest and example to the Christian World.

It still remains to point out the machinery which it will be necessary to employ, and which must be such as to knock at every man's door and rouse the inhabitants to devote a small portion of what God has bestowed upon them to promote so great a work.

Let the Rural Deans in each of the proposed Dioceses call a meeting of their Clergy and the Laity Delegates of the last Synod, and let them also invite as many of the more intelligent laity to attend as may be found convenient to consult together as to the best methods of raising the required funds; for unless we all act with untiring zeal and perseverance, and with rigid minuteness, so that no grown-up Church member, male or female, shall be passed over, we cannot anticipate a very favorable result.

Let such meeting appoint a committee of General Management, the Rural Dean when present to be Chairman, with as many of the Clergy and Laity as may be deemed sufficient, but with power when necessary, to add to their numbers. This committee to recommend public meetings in all the Townships within their bounds, to each of which they should send an efficient Deputation. At which Township meetings, local committees should be named to visit every family within the same.

A map of each township within the proposed Diocese ought to be procured by the Committee of General Management, and from the Assessors' return the names of all the Church people of the township should be inserted on their respective lots and concessions—their circumstances and ability to assist, in as far as such information can be obtained. Each township to be divided into such a number of sections (in this, perhaps, aid may be derived from adopting the school divisions or sections), so as to make it easy for two active collectors to visit each family in a reasonable time,

and ascertain what they are disposed to contribute, after explaining the great object sought to be attained. I have already said that to some this may appear very troublesome work; but it is wisely ordered that nothing truly valuable can be effected in this world without much and continued exertion.

Such a thorough canvas of every township of the Diocese, if conducted in the spirit of prayer, and in humble dependence on Divine assistance, can scarcely fail of being eminently successful; but, should we come somewhat short of our object, still our progress will be sufficient to encourage us, after a little time, to renewed exertions for its full attainment. It is the work of God, and to try our faith He may permit impediments and causes of delay, but we firmly believe that the issue will in due time be prosperous.

Such is the general outline which I now submit to your consideration, for the division of Western Canada into four Bishoprics. It is surely an enterprise of deep interest and surpassing usefulness, and will be highly creditable to the Diocese of Toronto, so recently established, and yet struggling with many serious difficulties. The boldness of the conception, which has few equals in the history of the church of God, will, I trust, be sustained by the vigor which we shall employ in its realization, nor can it fail to attract the good will and sympathy of the whole of our own communion, for it is indeed worthy of the blessings and prayers of all who desire the extension of our Lord's kingdom.

In conclusion, my brethren, let us remember that this Diocese has spoken through her Synod for the first time, and requires of us certain services, which all admit are essential to the well being and progress of the Church; we are, therefore, on our trial; and on our obedient and vigorous action her rise or decline in a great measure depends. If we labor with hearty good will, then will she flourish and extend on every side, but if we become lukewarm and remiss, and if we remain apathetic instead of being active, our Church will be thrown from the high position which she now occupies. Our responsibility is fearfully great; but make it a labor of love, springing from true faith in our Saviour, and we have nothing to fear.

I remain,

My dear brethren,

Your affectionate Diocesan,

JOHN TORONTO.

Toronto, 16th January, 1854.