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The Canadian Ecclesiastical Gazette;

OR

MONTHLY CHURCH REGISTER FOR THE DIOCESES OF QUEBEC, TORONTO, AND MONTREAL.

VOLUME IV.

TORONTO, OCTOBER, 1857.

No. 10.

CHURCH SOCIETY REPORTS.

The Annual Report of the Church Society is now published, those of the Clergy who have not bespoken any number, are requested to do so forthwith, and at the same time state how they would desire to have them directed and forwarded. They cost, 10d. each, can be repaid out of the next year's collections.

As we intend publishing a list of the Three Dioceses, with the Post Office address in the December number of the Gazette, we shall be thankful for any hints which will ensure correctness, both as regards the academical degree, and the address.

The Rev. John Kennedy requests that letters and papers intended for him be addressed Norwich, C. W.

Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

DIOCESE OF TORONTO.

WIDOW AND ORPHANS' FUND. OF THE CHURCH SOCIETY.

As the Annual Sermon, in behalf of this Fund, is to be preached this month (October), the Secretary has requested us to publish the following statement, in order that the Clergy may understand the position of this Trust:—

The present liabilities are £350 per annum to 7 widows, and £80 to orphans.

The proceeds of the last collection and the Annual Subscriptions of the Clergy amounted last year to £637 1s. 10d.; dividends, and interest on investments, to £436 7s. 2d. The amount invested at the close of the financial year, according to the Auditors' Report, appears to be £7,762 16s. 5d., besides 900 acres of land held on account of this Trust—400 under lease, rented at £20 per annum. Two items in the statement of invested accounts, published in the Annual Report, having been objected to. British America Insurance Stock—£123 15s.—For the last few years no dividends have been paid by this Company, but when the stock was taken (a portion of it was

given as a donation), the Company declared large dividends. The Report of the Company this year shows a great improvement in its affairs, and it is presumed that in two years at the farthest, they will be able again to pay dividends: under these circumstances it would not be judicious to dispose of the stock at a great sacrifice. The other item is "Grand Trunk Debentures," (the words, "with guarantee," ought to have been added, but have been again accidentally omitted in the statement this year, though the nature of the investment is explained in another page of the Report.) Two debentures—one for £1,000, and the other for £500—having 4 and 5 years to run, each debenture guaranteed by four gentlemen of the highest respectability in the Province. On the strength of their names the purchase was made, and up to the present time the interest has been paid. It has been determined, however, not to invest in future in any personal securities or in stock of companies, but to confine the investments to Provincial Government Debentures, Consolidated Municipal Loan Fund Debentures, Municipal Debentures, and Mortgages of Corporations, except under peculiar circumstances. £500 will be added to the capital invested immediately.

COLLECTIONS UP TO OCTOBER 14TH.

Collections appointed to be taken up in the several churches, chapels, and missionary stations in the Diocese, towards the augmentation of the Widows and Orphans' Fund of the Society in the month of October, 1857.

Eastwood, per Rev. C. C. Johnson.....	£ 1 2 6
St. Paul's Newmarket.....	1 12 1
Christ Church, Holland Land- ing	0 12 1
Trinity Church, Aurora.....	0 9 4
Rev. S. Ramsay	2 13 6
Blubrooke.....	0 6 3
Stoney Creek.....	0 7 6
Ontario	0 12 6
Rev. J. L. Alexander	1 6 3
St. John's, Oakridges, Rev. Dr. Beaven	1 13 9
St. John's, York Mills.....	2 9 0
Christ Church.....	0 10 6
Rev. R. Mitchele.....	2 19 6
Christ Church, Mohawk.....	0 13 4
Trinity Church, Shannonville	0 11 9
Rev. G. A. Anderson.....	1 5 1

Fort Erie, Churchwarden	1 5 0
St. James', Paris, Churchwarden.....	2 12 4
14 Collections, amounting to.....	£14 17 11

MISSION FUND.

Previously announced.....	£227 9 10
St. Paul's Adolphustown.....	0 15 0
—Fredericksburg.....	1 0 0
Per Rev. J. Murtock	1 16 0
Rawdon	0 5 8
Cookes Settlement	0 1 3
Nesbit Reids	0 2 1
Hungerford	0 9 10
Rev. F. J. S. Groves	0 18 10
Gananoque	1 10 0
South Lake	0 15 0
Lansdown	6 15 0
Rev. J. Carroll	3 0 0
Fitzroy Harbour.....	1 0 0
St. Mark's, Pakenham.....	0 15 0
9th Line, Fitzroy.....	0 5 1
Rev. J. Morris	2 0 1
Ascension Church, Hamilton, Church- wardens	4 10 0
Holy Trinity, Toronto, Churchwardens	8 4 2
Wilmot	1 2 6
New Hamburg	0 7 6
Rev. W. B. Bally.....	1 10 0
121 Collections, amounting to.....	£249 7 11

STUDENTS FUND XV. YEAR.

Previously announced	£230 18 5
School house, Clairville	0 11 3
Chapel Morpeth.....	0 3 9

Per Rev. C. C. Johnson	0 15 0
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151 Collections, amounting to.....	£231 18 5
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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION XV. YEAR.

Rev. Dr. McNab	1 5 0
" Dr. Lauder.....	1 5 0
" Dr. O'Meara.....	1 5 0
" J. A. Muloch	1 5 0
" J. Ambry	1 5 0
" E. Kendall.....	1 5 0
T. J. Preston, Esq	1 5 0
Rev. Adamson Dr.	2 10 0
W. P. Reynolds, Esq., (16th year) ...	1 5 0

DIOCESE OF MONTREAL.

MONTREAL CHURCH SOCIETY'S OFFICE.

7th October, 1857.

A meeting of the Central Board of the Church Society was held this day; the Dean of Montreal in the chair.

The Treasurer reported that the following sums had been received since the last report:

Rev. J. Braithwaite's subscription.....	£ 1 17 6
Rev. J. P. White	1 17 6
Subscriptions from Chambly	21 0 0
Rev. A. C. Scarth.....	0 18 9
Miss Day.....	0 2 6
Rev. J. Griffin	1 17 6
Subscriptions at Coteau du Lac	5 2 6
Collections at Chambly.....	5 18 0
At North Gore	0 18 1
From Montreal Parochial Association, viz., proceeds of Boxes.....	31 2 6
Subscriptions.....	28 5 0

FOR WIDOWS & ORPHANS' FUND.

Collection at Milton	0 9 10
Norham.....	0 7 8
Hemmingford.....	1 16 0
Norham	0 13 9
Aylmer	2 15 0
Dunham	3 1 5
Longueuil	1 15 4
Laprarie	0 10 7
Clarendon	3 8 8
St. George's	0 17 9
St. Thomas } Clarenceville	0 11 0
Henryville }	0 16 3
Gore	0 18 11
Edwardstown	0 4 2
St. Renie	0 14 4
Williamstown.....	0 2 8
Hemmingford	0 2 9
Coteau du Lac	1 3 5

DIocese OF QUEBEC.

QUEBEC CHURCH SOCIETY.

The stated meeting of the Central Board was held at the National School House, on Wednesday, Sept. 9th, 1857.

Present:—The Lord Bishop in the Chair, Hon. W. Walker, Revs. W. King, J. Carry, S. Jones, A. J. Woolrich, R. G. Plees, A. W. Mountain, J. H. Jenkins, E. W. Sewell, H. Roe; Lieut. Asher, R. N., Doctor Boswell, Lt.-Col. Fitzgerald, W. Andrew, C. N. Montzumbert, J. Jameson, W. G. Wurtele, Esq., and the Secretary.

After prayers, the minutes of the last stated meeting were read.

The Treasurer's statement was laid on the table.

A letter from the Secretary, S. P. G., was read by the Lord Bishop, having reference to a memorial agreed upon at meeting of Central Board, held May 13th, 1857, upon the subject of the contemplated withdrawal by the Society of all pecuniary aid to the church in this Diocese.

The Lord Bishop submitted to the Board the instrument for the transfer of the Bishopric Endowment Fund from the S. P. G. to the Church Society of this Diocese, which, in pursuance of a resolution adopted at meeting of Central Board, held May 13th, his Lordship had signed and sealed.

Moved by Rev. A. J. Woolrich, seconded by W. Andrew, Esq., and

Resolved,—That T. B. Anderson, Esq., be requested to make over to W. G. Wurtele, Esq., Treasurer of Clergy Trust Fund, all moneys, securities, and other documents belonging to Quebec Bishopric Endowment Fund.

Moved by Rev. H. Roe, seconded by Rev. A. J. Woolrich, and

Resolved,—That the Secretary be directed to have the necessary deeds prepared for the transfer of Glebe Lot at upper Ireland, from the

Church Society to the Incumbent and Churchwardens of that mission, in conformity with resolution of Central Board, adopted at meeting held May 13th, 1857.

The Report of the Depository Committee having been presented, was received and adopted.

The Report of the Finance Committee having been presented, it was,

Moved by Rev. H. Roe, seconded by Rev. R. G. Plees, and

Resolved,—That the Report be received, and taken into consideration, clause by clause.

Clause No. 1.—Application of Rev. F. De la Mare, of Gaspé Basin, praying the Society to transfer to him the amount of commuted allowance, formerly received by the late Missionary at Sandy Beach.

Resolved,—That there is no necessity for taking any action now on Mr. De la Mare's application, the Lord Bishop having informed the Board that his case has been provided for, for the present, from another source, and that he is now on the same footing upon which he stood before the death of Rev. W. Arnold.

Clause No. 2.—Application of W. G. Wurtele, Esq., praying the Society to make a grant of a certain amount in aid of the Frampton Mission Fund.

Resolved,—That a grant of £100 be made, in case the Mission of Frampton shall, within the space of one year from this date, raise the sum of £40 for the purpose specified.

Clause No. 3.—Application of Rev. Mr. Parkin, of Valcartier, praying for aid towards erection of a new fence round the grave-yard in his mission.

Resolved,—That, the materials being on the spot, it is the opinion of the Board, that the necessary labour ought to be furnished by the people.

Clause No. 4.—Application of Rev. J. Torrance, Missionary at Grose Isle, with reference to articles of furniture necessary for the Clergyman's residence at that station.

Resolved,—That a grant of £5 5s. 7d. be made for said purpose.

A letter from the Rev. C. P. Emery, Missionary at New Ireland, with reference to the gratuity for 1856, having been read, the prayer of his petition was acceded to.

The Lord Bishop announced the arrival of a gentleman from England, Mr. M. M. Fothergill intended to be employed hereafter as a Travelling Missionary; and stated that, as two months must necessarily elapse before the period of his admission to Holy Orders, he had appointed him, in the meantime, to discharge the duties of a lay reader in the Eastern Townships. It was then agreed, upon recommendation of the Bishop, that the salary to be assigned to Mr. Fothergill as Travelling Missionary, be allowed to him in full from date of his License as Lay Reader.

His Lordship further informed the Board of the temporary appointment of Mr. Magill, Student of Bishop's College, Lenoxxville, as Lay Reader. The sphere of this gentleman's labour is upon the St. Francis River, under the direction of the Rev. Dr. Falloon, of Melborne.

Moved by the Rev. H. Roe, seconded by Rev. A. W. Mountain:

That the resolution of the informal meeting of Central Board, held June 19th, 1856, with reference to the amount of salary to be granted to Travelling Missionaries, be now confirmed.

Moved in amendment by Doctor Boswell, seconded by Rev. R. G. Plees:

That the subject be referred to the consideration of the Finance Committee.

Amendment carried.

The Lord Bishop having submitted a letter

from Rev. T. DeMouilpied, of Sorol, on the subject of Sundry Services performed by him at River David, it was

Resolved,—That the salary hitherto paid to Rev. Mr. Williams be transferred to Rev. Mr. DeMouilpied.

The meeting was closed with the Benediction.

GILBERT PERCY.

Secretary.

We learn with satisfaction that the high Degrees of LL.B. and LL.D. have been conferred, by the University of Dublin, upon our fellow citizen, the Rev. Gilbert Percy, an alumnus of that distinguished seat of learning. We beg to offer our congratulations to Doctor Percy on his advancement in academic status.—*Quebec Morning Chronicle.*

DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

NINETEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

The Executive Committee, before entering upon a Report of their proceedings, during the year 1856, invite all the members of the Society to unite in ascribing thanks and praise to Almighty God for his past blessings, "Except the Lord build the house, their labour is but lost that build it." Whatever success has attended our efforts is to be imputed solely to the aid and protection of Divine Providence. Our duty is to be thankful that we are allowed to be the instruments for continuing upon earth the work of Christ's Church, and to use our privilege with all diligence.

Our Holy Exemplar, while among men, went about doing good to their bodies and souls. He has left us a pattern of self-denying love, as well as of purity and holiness, to be imitated by all his followers. It is one of the primary objects of this Society to unite all members of the Church in love and Christian charity. Let us then revert as nearly as possible to that blessed time when "Believers were of one heart and of one soul," inspired with a common ardour in one great enterprise, and with common cordiality and zeal contributing to its promotion.

The experience of the past year tends still more forcibly to impress the Executive Committee with the great importance of this Society, with regard to the future existence of the Church in this Diocese, and they wish to convey the same impression to the mind of each of its members.

Although the Society has grown and increased, although it has spread and taken root in all parts of the Province, yet it must be considered but in its infancy. It still needs for its welfare the warmest support and most cordial co-operation of all its members. It requires now, perhaps, more than at any other period of its existence, the prudence and wisdom of its directors. For the many demands for assistance which will be made as the S. P. G. withdraws its aid, will render it no easy task to distribute our limited income to the best advantage.

It is to be hoped that a feeling of selfishness will not be manifested, but that each parish will now do all in its power for the general good of our Church, although deriving no immediate return. The Society, on its part, will, as its funds permit, gladly assist those who are willing but unable to support their own burden.

The Executive Committee has been able to sustain the usual engagements of the Society, and somewhat to extend its operations; and they submit the following account of their proceedings:—

The total receipts of this Society, during 1856, amounted to £2201 10s. 6d., Viz:

Widows & Orphans' Fund.....	£341	13	3
Bishopric Endowment	109	9	1
Endowment of Parishes.....	649	6	11
Superannuation Fund	45	6	4
Colporteur Account	121	11	2
Donations to be funded	20	4	0
General purposes	913	19	9

The amounts received for the *Widows and Orphans' Fund*, and for the *Endowment of Parishes*, have been intrusted to the respective Committees appointed for those objects. Their Reports (printed in the Appendix) will give the necessary information.

The Bishopric Endowment Fund, amounting in all to about £1700, is held in trust by this Society, the annual interest to be paid to the incumbent of the Bishopric.

The small amount to the credit of the superannuation fund has been contributed by a few who think that some provision should be made for Clergymen who may, either by age or infirmity, be incapacitated for further labour. A benevolent lady in Halifax had the honor of contributing the first five pounds to the fund. It is to be hoped that the Society may be enabled to adopt it as one of its objects, in the same way as it did the Widows and Orphans' fund. Meantime the amount is held in trust by the Society, under a Resolution permitting it so to hold any money given for Church purposes, and to apply the interest in accordance with the wish of the donor. The Colporteur account was created by a grant of £70 from the N. S. Foreign Dist. Com. of S. P. C. K., and the sum of £40 stg. set apart by this Society for that purpose.

Agreeably to a Resolution passed at a General Meeting of this Society, in October, 1855, all donations of £10 and over are funded, and the interest only applied to general purposes. From this source has arisen the £20 4s above mentioned.

The Executive Committee submit the following account of the expenditure for the various objects of the Society:—

MISSIONARIES.

During the year 1856 the sum of £587 10s. has been paid towards the support of Missionaries in the following places:—

Bridgewater, a Travelling Missionary on the Western Coast, Newport, Annapolis, Albion Mines, Pugwash, Chester, Westport, Milford, Musquodobit; also to the Rev. J. Breeding on the Eastern shore, and to the Rev. W. G. Jarvis at Guysboro.

The Executive Committee has also made grants of £40 to Maitland and £20 to Rawdon, to assist them in maintaining their Missionaries, whose incomes were quite inadequate to their necessity.

The question must soon be considered by the Society, whether we are able to assist the poorer parishes, in proportion to the withdrawal of aid from the S. P. G.

The following extracts from the Reports of the Missionaries, made through the Bishop to the S. P. G., will show the variety and extent of their labours.

The Missionary at Maitland, to which place this Society grants £40 per annum, attends at seven stations for the regular performance of Divine Service, viz., Kenneteook, Five Mile River Church, Maitland, Rockville, Upper Shubenacadie, and the Goro. At these places, some of which are distant from his home, he has performed 103 services during the past year, among attentive and increasing congregations, and paid 190 pastoral visits. The people in this mission, which has but lately been set apart from Rawdon, are doing the best they can to support their Church.

The number of Church Members is about 600, of whom 25 are communicants. They have raised during the past year £167 10s. for church purposes, and have undertaken to build a parsonage, which will make the position of their clergyman much more comfortable.

In the district of Sherbrooke, to which the Society has for several years contributed £50, the people are very poor, so much so, indeed, that the Executive Committee consented to forgo temporarily the sum required to be made up by people to their minister.

The services of the Missionary are very affectionately received by the people, among whom he has paid 217 pastoral visits, and held regular services at the following stations,—Sherbrooke, Annapolis Road, Kentville Road, and Dalhousie, and occasional services at several other places.

The Missionary at Pugwash reports that in the discharge of his duty he had travelled 2162 miles, and paid 596 pastoral visits and visits to the sick. The 500 Church people under his care are scattered over an area of 250 square miles. He has four regular stations for Divine service, viz., Wallace, where a new church is building, Pugwash, River Philip, and Victoria Settlement. The people have raised £71 18s. 3d. for Church purposes.

The Missionary at Westport, who is in part supported by this Society, has paid a thousand pastoral visits, travelling across the stormy straits, from the islands to the main land under his care. He reports that the Church in his district is increasing, the number now amounting to 400, of whom 38 are communicants. The following extract from his letter will show the spirit with which he labours:—

“But one thing is very observable, which gives the Missionary courage to go on in the midst of all dangers and difficulties which he has to encounter in this Mission, viz.: that the people set such a value on the ordinances of our Church, their attendance in Church on the Sabbath day, and the desire they have for the Missionary to visit them, and when visited, the solemn manner observed when the reading of and meditation on the Scriptures is carried out, and in the time of prayer.”

“The infant baptisms are double the number this year to last year, and I take all this to be a good proof and cause of thankfulness that the good work is progressing in my Mission.”

In the Mission of Bridgewater, which extends over 300 square miles, the Missionary reports that there are between five and six hundred Church Members, of whom 33 are communicants. He has regular service at 10 different stations within his mission.

The people there have made great exertions to support their Missionary and erect their Church. The following letter from the Rev. H. DeBlois, will not be uninteresting:—

“Thus far hath the Lord prospered us, may well be our grateful exclamation in viewing the events which have transpired in the Mission during the year that is now drawing to a close. At its commencement all was gloom and uncertainty, the downfall of our Church, on which so many praiseworthy exertions had been expended, had well nigh caused even the most sanguine to despair; but feeling at last that the cause was God's, and not our own, in His strength we pressed on, and have now the satisfaction of beholding our Sanctuary almost finished, humble indeed it is true, but consecrated by the affections of many, to whom but a few short months ago such an event had been deemed almost miraculous. There will still be existing upon it a debt of about two hundred pound currency, which we are using every exertion to liquidate, so that we may have a free Church of the living God. My people would have borne a large share in paying

off this sum had it not been a season of more than usual commercial depression among us. Through the kind permission of the Bishop, I spent a portion of the summer in collecting subscriptions, which resulted favourably, in the different Country Parishes.”

Extract from a Letter written by the travelling Missionary on the Western Shore to the Bishop of the Diocese:—

Tusket, Nova Scotia, Decr. 31st. 1856.

“MY LORD,

“I herewith send you the annual return for this Mission. During the past year I have travelled 2,840 miles, viz.: walked 1440, and rode 1400 miles; Baptized 15 persons, Married 1, and Buried 1; distributed 26 Bibles and Testaments; 24 Prayer Books and 500 Religious Books and Tracts, and made 800 pastoral visits. I have constantly visited the settlements along the coast between this and Port Latour, which is over 60 miles in extent, where I have preached 212 times during the year.

“Owing to there being no wardens or vestry in either of the Churches where I officiate, the whole burden of every thing falls on myself. Under such multitudinous labour, I sometimes feel my physical energies giving way. I have no desire to complain, but would cheerfully submit to any toil so that I may be instrumental in bringing souls to Christ. I bless God I never feel so happy as when making known Jesus Christ and him crucified, Jesus and the resurrection. But notwithstanding all my exertions, I feel that it is absolutely necessary that an additional Clergyman be employed if the Mission is to be successfully sustained.

“A Clergyman ought to be stationed at Barrington, from whence he could visit the settlements of Wood's Harbour, 10 miles on the west, and Port Latour, 10 miles on the east. At Port Latour nearly two acres of land have been secured for a burial ground and site of a Church, and the people last Spring voluntarily procured the timber, and on a fixed day assembled and fenced it. There are now on the ground the frame, lumber, shingles, nails, glass, &c. &c. ready to commence the erection of a Church in the Spring.

“Recently the Ladies held a bazaar there, from which the sum of £21 was raised in aid of the erection of the Church. At Wood's Harbour an acre of land has been given for the site of a building to answer the purpose of a Church and School House. At Tusket we have commenced the erection of a Parsonage House. Mr. Hatfield very generously gave an acre of land for the site. The House is now rough boarded and shingled. I succeeded in collecting from abroad £120 in aid of the building. During the autumn a Seraphine was added to the Choir of the Tusket Church at a cost of over £30, which the Ladies of the Church succeeded in raising, partly by contributions and partly from the proceeds of a bazaar.

“I have commenced preaching a series of Missionary Sermons at the various settlements, in order to indoctrinate the people with what the Church of England is doing at home and abroad. I hope to raise the subscriptions to the D. C. S. more than the amount of last year. I have endeavoured to observe all the Fasts and Festivals of the Church, and explain them to the people”

CHURCHES.

The following Amounts have been paid for this object:

Second moiety of grant to Church at Ship Harbour	£10	0	0
Amount of grant to Church at the Forks, near Windsor.....	7	10	0
First moiety of grant to Church at Cox Heath, C. B.....	5	0	0
Do do Tracadie	5	0	0

A grant of £10 has been made toward completing a new Church at Conquerall, and grants of £20 and £10 respectively to Bridgewater and Wallace, which had lapsed, were continued for six months more from Oct. 19, 1856.

The Committee have much pleasure in observing that in the new Churches which have lately been built, more attention has been paid to architectural beauty and general adaptation to their sacred purpose.

BOOKS.

The Executive Committee has paid £18 15 3 for Books from the Depository of the S. P. C. K., to be returned to several of the Parishes for the one-fourth of their contributions.

The Colporteur, during the short time the Committee was able to retain his services, sold 116 Bibles, principally of large size, 174 Testaments, and 64 Prayer Books, besides other Books on the list of the S. P. C. K., amounting in all to about £116.

The Committee have now ready a good selection of Books for this purpose, and much regret that they cannot obtain a person both able and willing to undertake the important duty of Colporteur. For this duty they offer at the rate of £5 per month, and a commission of ten per cent. upon the amount sold.

English Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

CONVOCATION.

Reports of Committees, presented to the Upper and Lower Houses of Convocation at their respective meetings, on Friday, 10th July, 1857.

RIGHT OF STIPENDIARY CURATES TO VOTE.

The Committee of *Gravamina* have taken into their consideration certain petitions referred to them by the House in regard to the non-admission of licensed curates in priests' orders to vote for the election of Proctors in Convocation. Of these petitions, one is from clergy of the archdeaconry of Salop, in the diocese of Litchfield; another, from Rev. John Harding, proctor for the clergy of the diocese of Llandaff; and a third, from the Rev. Wm. Fraser, stipendiary curate of Alverton, otherwise Alton, in the diocese of Litchfield. These several petitioners pray that the subject be taken into consideration, with a view to such measures as to the House may seem fit in regard thereto.

Your Committee have not before them sufficient information to enable them to give an opinion as to the legal right of stipendiary curates to votes, which question the Committee think ought to be clearly decided before any consideration can be had of the prayer of the petitions. The Committee think it essential that they should know whether these, or any similar petitions, have been under the consideration of the Upper House, and whether any, and what, determination has been arrived at concerning them; and especially whether any steps have been taken, by authority of his Grace the President, to discover from the record of the several dioceses in this province what has been the practice as regards the qualification of electors for Proctors in Convocation.

And your Committee recommend that the Prolocutor be instructed to request his Grace the President to communicate to the Lower House such information as his Grace may think proper on this subject; after which the House may be pleased to refer the matter again to this Committee.

MISSIONARY OPERATIONS OF THE CHURCH.

The Committee of the Upper House of Convocation, appointed "to consider and report on the most

desirable modes of making fresh exertions for sustaining and extending the missionary efforts of the Church, both at home and abroad," have agreed to the following report:—

We would in the first place, refer to the report already laid before Convocation, "on the services of the Church," as containing many valuable suggestions on our present subject; and would add, that our sense of the extreme importance of increasing the missionary operations of the Church has in no degree diminished since that report was framed.

In respect to foreign missions, so extensive is the field of work which the providence of God has committed to the church of England, that it is impossible to overstate the amount of our responsibilities.

Fully appreciating these urgent claims, we propose at this time to limit ourselves to the suggestion of such practical measures as concern the collection by a more regular machinery of large funds for the support of missions. But we defer this subject to the close of our report, because our recommendations concerning it apply to the domestic as well as to the foreign needs of the Church.

Turning, then, to the subject of home missions, we would remark that the wisdom and piety of our ancestors devised, and to a great degree carried out, a scheme by which, through the parochial system, every inhabitant of this land might find a place in his parish church, and a pastor in his parish priest.

We need not now advert to the various circumstances which, together with the vast increase of population, have largely interfered with this system. It is enough to state that there are now, in every part of this land, but especially in its mining and manufacturing districts, multitudes who, in spite of the theory of our parochial system, have had practically from their birth, no place in any church, and no ordained pastor to care for their souls. Now, whilst we unfeignedly rejoice whenever the message of Christ's salvation has reached any of these neglected masses, from the labours of those who are not of our own communion, yet we cannot find in this any excuse for indolence or indifference on our part, to showing them what we conscientiously believe to be the more excellent way; nor must we forget that there are millions amongst us who, neither from the mouths of others nor from our own, have ever heard the blessed tidings of salvation through Christ.

The continued existence of such evils cannot fail to produce the growth of a fearfully demoralized population, and to lead to the wide-spread diffusion of absolute and, too often, impious unbelief.

With such a state of things we have to deal, and looking for remedies we desire to seek them in that maintenance and extension of our parochial system, and not in any novelties which may supersede its usefulness. These remedies it is comparatively easy to suggest for those cases where large parishes can be divided into small ones; or where, as would sometimes be the better course, they can be furnished with new churches and multiplied clergymen, whilst they maintain their parochial unity.

But these cases, though numerous, are by no means all for which we have to provide. We have to deal with the tens of thousands who have been gathered round some new centre of industry, or who fill the suburbs of our old and narrow cities; we have to provide for the gatherings of population which suddenly arise and as suddenly disappear where a rich vein of mineral wealth is discovered or exhausted, on our distant hill-sides and up our remote valleys; and all of

these forms of spiritual want require separate treatment for their relief.

We would suggest the following measures amongst those which it appears to us might, under God's blessing, be beneficially adopted:—

1. First, that Home Missionary Associations be organised in the different dioceses, under the bishop, the archdecons, and such clergy and laity as may be brought to consult with them concerning the spiritual wants of the diocese, and the best mode of relieving them.

2. That clergymen be sought out who may possess special gifts for influencing those who are now unhappily estranged from all religious ordinances; and that such clergy, under due ecclesiastical authority, should minister in temporary buildings till, under God's blessing, they have gathered a flock which may be collected in a church.

3. That when the parish church does not afford sufficient accommodation at the ordinary services, additional services should be added, at which the whole church should be open to the poor. For the conduct of these services the parochial clergyman may, if he desire it, call on the assistance of the before-mentioned missionary clergyman.

4. That the deans and canons of the different cathedrals should take into their consideration what facilities they possess for assembling in their cathedrals the labouring population of their respective cities, for short services, with congregational singing, psalmody, and sermons from preachers who may be peculiarly qualified to address such congregations, without limiting the choice to their own body.

5. That the clergy be urged to substitute for their more formal addresses from the pulpit plain expositions of God's word and direct addresses to the conscience, which may be easily understood by the least instructed members of their congregations.

6. That the parochial clergy be advised to bring before their congregations, in addition to all local claims, the duty of promoting the interests of our holy religion, both abroad and at home, in two sermons, at least, with collections every year, one for the general wants of the church in the diocese, and the other for its still wider operations both at home and abroad; the selection of the special instruments of the Church's work to which those funds should be appropriated being left to the choice of the clergyman and his parishioners.

7. That in new churches generally, and in existing churches where the adoption of such a practice would not excite jealousy or opposition, weekly collections should be made for these purposes, so that the poorest members of the Church may have the opportunity of contributing.

8. That accurate accounts be kept in every parish of all sums so raised, and of their appropriation, such accounts to be duly audited, and transmitted annually by the clergyman to the bishop of the diocese.

9. Further, we believe that no slight amount of increased zeal and generally diffused exertion might be spread throughout our Church by the adoption of a system of recognised resignation of their benefices by incumbents who are no longer able to give their full energies to the work of the ministry, and to whom pensions should be assigned from the benefices for their natural lives. To effect this, a careful and thorough revision of the various enactments relating to simony would be needed.

And lastly, if the services of our Church, and the celebrations of the Holy Communion were multiplied more generally throughout the country, and if both clergy and laity would oftener meet for friendly consultation, with prayer for God's blessing on their labours, we should confidently

hope for an increase in the number of the labourers, and for a larger outpouring of the grace of God upon their work.

HOME AND FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Report of the Committee of the Lower House of Convocation on Home and Foreign Missions.

The Committee of the Lower House of Convocation* appointed "to consider separately the most desirable mode of making fresh exertions for sustaining and extending the missionary efforts of the Church, both at home and in foreign parts," report as follows:—

We have carefully considered the subject committed to us, and we beg to present the result of our deliberations under the three following heads:—

- I. Home Missions.
- II. Foreign Missions.
- III. Finance.

1. *Home Missions.*—We consider this portion of our subject to be of most pressing importance. The rapid increase of population of this country—its progressive accumulation in some parts, and its shifting character in others—the apathy and indifference to religion which still prevail—the great neglect of the means of grace—the spread of vice and immorality—the forgetfulness of God, as shown in the lowered standard of integrity in the ordinary transactions of life—and the systematic dissemination of infidel opinions throughout the land, seem to us to call for a large extension of spiritual agency, and likewise for the employment of special agencies adapted to these circumstances.

We would respectively suggest that a large extent of some of our dioceses†, both in population and area, precluding the possibility of sufficient personal intercourse between the bishop and the clergy and laity of his diocese, together with the want of more concentrated action, furnishes strong reasons for some increase of the Episcopate, which we think would be best obtained without any interference with the number of Episcopal seats in the House of Lords, on the principle already introduced at the creation of the see of Manchester. By this extension of the principle

of rotation, each bishop would have better opportunity than at present of making himself well acquainted with the diocese before he would be called to succeed to his legislative duties. We would suggest the expediency of a general enabling act‡ (similar to the 31st Henry VIII., c. 9) to which resort might be had as often as circumstances require, or opportunity offers, for the erection of new sees. We would further suggest that provision should be made in the case of any bishop becoming, through age or infirmity, or any other cause, incapacitated for the active discharge of his duties. Two modes of meeting this requirement have been proposed. It has been suggested that the difficulty might be met by some well-considered system of retiring pensions. The other mode is to be found in the recommendation of the Cathedral Commissioners§ with regard to coadjutor bishops. Such an office has existed from the earliest ages—it was strongly recommended by the authors of the *Reformatio Legum*—it still exists in many parts of Christendom, and has recently been revived in our own Colonial Church, in the case of the Bishop of Jamaica.

We are anxious to express our high sense of the value of that parochial organization which we have received from our forefathers, whereby it was designed that the ordinances of religion should be offered to every individual throughout the land, we believe that these ancient parochial limits are highly regarded by great numbers amongst our people, and that they should not be lightly disturbed. We therefore think that, though in certain cases beyond what has been thus far effected, it may still be necessary to subdivide some of the old parishes, on account of their vast extent or overwhelming population; in others, and probably the greater number, the interests of religion would be more efficiently provided for by retaining the ancient boundaries, and multiplying the agencies within these limits, in subordination to the incumbent.

Subject to this general principle, we consider that a large addition is needed to the numbers of priests and deacons; and we do not believe that the people will have the full benefit of pastoral superintendence until the number of the clergy, whether priests or deacons, is in the proportion of one to every thousand souls.

With regard to deacons, it appears to us that an order of men selected for the ministry with more regard to their moral and religious character, to their intellectual qualifications, and their power of influencing others, than to scholastic advantages or requirements, might be of eminent service in the Church. We would therefore particularly suggest whether the diaconate might not be restored and extended in such a manner as to mark more distinctly the difference between that order and the priesthood, and thus to give increased efficiency to both, by a better adjustment of their several duties, as defined in the ordinal of the Book of Common Prayer. But the subject

is of such grave importance that we recommend the appointment of a special committee to consider and report thereon to the House.

In connexion with this subject we would particularly direct attention to the existing want of more specific and systematic training for the pastoral office.

Our attention has been given to the means of rendering occasional help of a special kind to the parochial clergy, not only in the metropolis and other populous districts, but likewise wherever the occasion seems to require. We would recommend that in each diocese provision should be made for the appointment of a body of preachers, licensed by the bishop, an institution not unknown at the Reformation, who might, on the application of the incumbent, visit his parish for a fixed period, assist in delivering courses of sermons on appointed subjects, in house-to-house visitation, or in attendance upon schools, according to their various gifts and abilities. Such labourers might, we think, render essential service, and greatly strengthen the hands of the incumbents of large parishes, in awakening the indifferent, and warning the profligate; in healing divisions, and in conciliating those who are estranged from the Church.

The Committee consider that our cathedral establishments might be made more available for the spiritual needs of the people; and we would respectfully suggest that the deans and chapters might advantageously throw open the naves or choirs of their cathedrals, wherever practicable, for the purpose of suitable additional services. The agency of the preachers (already recommended) or other clergy of the diocese, might perhaps be employed for this purpose, in addition to the members of the cathedral body.

We are also of opinion that special sermons, with courses of sermons delivered on a week day at particular seasons as Advent or Lent, would be attended with great benefit; and we think it desirable that this practice should be extended as widely as possible beyond the cathedrals, to the churches of all our most populous parishes.

We cannot conclude this branch of our subject without alluding to the importance generally of a more frequent celebration of Holy Communion.

Recognising the value of lay agency, when it acts, in harmony with the parochial system, we believe that it might be more extensively encouraged. Much of the zeal which is now lost to the Church might thus be secured to its uses; and many persons of piety and zeal, who are now promoting, or are desirous to promote, the temporal and spiritual welfare of their fellow-creatures, would labour with more satisfaction to themselves, and with greater acceptance to the people, if they were definitely authorised and appointed to their work.

We would also suggest the wider and more definite use of the services of devoted Christian women in every rank of life, as in the office of district visitors; and we would particularly recommend the employment of nurses, trained for attendance upon the sick, who might, we conceive, render important services to the cause of religion.

Much attention has of late years been drawn to the subject of church building; and we have now numerous examples on every side of churches, built at great cost, of good ecclesiastical types, and of substantial character. But we are of opinion that in our large centres of population, and in the remote hamlets of many of our wide-spread parishes in rural districts, there is a demand for buildings of a much more simple and inexpensive kind. To meet the spiritual wants of the shifting masses of population in some parts of our mining and manufacturing districts temporary or mission chapels are greatly needed, which ought not to exceed in cost one pound per

* Names of the Committee:—Deans—Norwich (Dr. Petre); Westminster (Dr. Trevel); Worcester (Dr. Peel). Archdeacons—Buckingham (Mr. Bickersteth, Chairman); Coventry (Mr. Sanford); Hereford (Mr. Freer); Middlesex (Mr. Sinclair); St. Alban's (Dr. Grant); Worcester (Mr. Hone). Doctors—Jelf, Wordsworth. Reverends—Hon. S. Beat. C. Lloyd. H. Mackenzie, A. Oxenden, R. Seymour, Sir. H. Thompson.

† Size of some of the dioceses in England: population in 1851, and area:—

	Population.	Area in acres.
London	2,143,740	246,157
Manchester	1,395,494	845,904
Chester	1,066,124	1,620,988
Winchester	1,080,412	1,508,668
Ripon	1,083,457	1,867,793
Litchfield	1,022,080	1,740,607
Exeter	922,656	2,530,780
York	794,538	2,261,493
Worcester	752,376	1,037,451
Durham	701,341	1,906,835
Lincoln	677,649	2,362,514
Norwich	671,583	1,924,525
Rochester	577,298	1,535,450
Gloucester and Bristol	538,109	1,000,503
Oxford	505,012	1,385,779
Ely	482,412	1,357,765
Peterborough	465,671	1,240,327
Bath and Wells	424,492	1,043,659
Canterbury	417,699	914,170
Salisbury	379,296	1,399,617
Chichester	326,844	934,851
Hereford	216,143	996,244
Carlisle	372,306	901,052
Rodor and Man	52,387	180,000
St. David's	407,758	2,272,790
Llandaf	347,526	797,804
St. Asaph	226,293	1,067,583
Bangor	192,964	985,946

The average population of the dioceses in England and Wales in March, 1851, was about 645,000; and may now be estimated at more than 660,000.—*Third Report of the Cathedral Commission*, p. xi.

‡ Recommendation of the Cathedral Commission, *Third Report*, p. xxv.—"1. We recommend, that a permissive bill should be framed and introduced into Parliament (similar to the Act 31 Henry VIII. c. 9, empowering your Majesty, and your Majesty's successors, to divide any diocese, under certain conditions of territory and population, and with the consent of the bishop, where it is proposed to effect the division before the avoidance of the see. 2. That in no case should a new see be erected, unless a sufficient income with a suitable residence be provided. 3. That the funds for these purposes might be provided partly by local contributions, or out of Episcopal property now in the hands of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners."

§ *Third Report*, p. xxvii.—"We recommend, that a general statute be framed, enabling your Majesty, after due inquiry, by a commission specially appointed for that purpose to recommend a person to be elected coadjutor, cum jure successione, to a bishop, in case of such bishop requiring such aid and relief by reason of advanced age or protracted infirmity, and being ready to surrender a portion of his Episcopal income in favour of such coadjutor."

sitting, and which might nevertheless be distinguished by a certain ecclesiastical character. These buildings might eventually be superseded by larger edifices designed for permanence. But before the means can be provided for the greater undertaking it is of the utmost importance to have ready for a population, however accumulated, whether rapidly or otherwise, a building into which it might at once be gathered; and where, under the direction of the incumbent, and through agencies selected by him, there might be offered to it the ministry of Christ's Word and Sacraments.*

We feel that fresh exertions are needed in order to bring the youthful part of our population more generally under pastoral influence. We would recommend the employment of special services with sermons adapted to children, and of public catechising, wherever practicable. More frequent Confirmations, especially in the large towns and populous districts, would, we believe, be thankfully accepted by the clergy, as furnishing them with the opportunity of presenting a larger number to the bishop, and that number more carefully selected and prepared, so as to ensure their immediate and habitual attendance at Holy Communion.

While we thankfully acknowledge the liberal aid afforded in the cause of national education, we feel that it is of the utmost importance to remember that the increase of schoolmasters, however important, will by no means compensate for the want of increased spiritual agency. The early age at which the children are removed from school creates the necessity for the employment of other means, in order to retain a pastoral influence over them. Among these we would specify the retention of the young in Sunday classes; the general establishment of evening schools, where practicable; classes for mutual improvement; with lectures, under the personal direction of the clergy.

But we have reason to lament that large numbers of our population are even unbaptized; and we believe that still larger numbers are unconfirmed. For the remedy of these evils we can only trust, under the Divine blessing, to the results of an increased spiritual agency, acting directly upon the parents, and awakening them to a sense of their responsibilities.

We cannot conclude this portion of our report without alluding to the very painful subject of the poverty of a large number of the benefices of the Church of England. And it is worthy of remark, that this evil is often most apparent in the districts from whence the wealth of this

country in great measure is derived; and that clergymen who have to bear the burden and the heat of the day, amidst the thickly congregated masses of the people, in addition to the overwhelming demands and anxieties of their spiritual charge, are often scarcely provided with the means of subsistence. It is a matter for deep thankfulness that the men are to be found who, notwithstanding such discouragements, will labour in these districts for the love of God and of the souls of men; but, if a supply is to be maintained of clergymen fitted by spiritual and intellectual endowments for these trying posts of labour, there must be such a provision made as shall at least relieve them from undue anxiety about the things of this life.

We thankfully acknowledge the improvement which has taken place in the exercise of patronage. But the distribution of the clergy, with reference to their several qualifications, has so direct a bearing upon the highest interests of religion, that we feel that our report would be imperfect, if we were to fail to call the attention of patrons to this important subject; and we would add that more care is needed with reference to the signing of testimonials.

II. Foreign Missions.—Upon the subject of Foreign Missions we feel that the prominent position which England holds among the nations—her vast resources and widely extended commerce—her long enjoyment of temporal blessings—and, above all, her possession, through the Divine mercy, of the Gospel in its purity, are privileges which carry with them the gravest responsibility. Possessing, as we humbly trust we do, the blessing of evangelical truth and apostolical order, and ample means for the fulfilment of the command, "Go ye into all the world," &c., we are solemnly accountable for the recommending of that blessing throughout Christendom, and for the extending of it throughout the world.

The emigration from this country at one time during the last few years was averaging nearly 1000 persons a day. It must be remembered, too, that our emigrants are, for the most part, in humble circumstance, and that they are, therefore, least able or willing to make an effort to supply themselves with spiritual ordinances. Our colonial possessions cover about one-seventh part of the earth's surface; and they comprehend a population of more than 3,000,000 of colonists, and nearly 200,000,000 of heathens and Mahometans. All these have a national claim upon us for a participation in our spiritual privileges; and to them must be added the untold millions, beyond our own limits, still lying in darkness. While we desire to express our thankfulness to Almighty God for what has already been done through the agency of various societies, in the sending forth of devoted men into these wide fields of labour, and of late years in the rapid development of the Colonial Episcopate, and the consequent rapid increase, both in number and efficiency, of our missionary clergy—we feel how very far our efforts fall short of our opportunities, and how very small a number, comparatively, of the professing Christians of this land are taking any part in the fulfilment of their Lord's command.

We have had occasion already to allude to the value of the parochial system; and it is to this organization that we must look, under God's blessing, as the only effectual means of bringing this acknowledged duty home to the hearts and consciences of the people. No parish in the land ought to be without its missionary association. It is possible that under present circumstances, our missionary efforts are best promoted through the agency of different societies. But we are of opinion that while the choice of the instrumentality is left with each several parish, efforts ought to be used systematically and vigorously to bring

home to each individual member of Christ's Church the sense of his own responsibility in this matter.

The experience of the last few years has abundantly shown the importance of combined effort and harmonious action, under a superintending head. We therefore earnestly recommend the further extension of the Episcopate abroad, with a view to strengthen and increase the foreign missions of the English Church, and to afford increased facilities for admitting native converts to the pastoral office. Bearing in mind that a supply of missionaries is at present painfully inadequate to the daily increasing demands in foreign lands, we would suggest that this matter be commended to the serious consideration of our Universities; in order to the affording of increased facilities and encouragements to those who may be willing to give themselves to this laborious and self-denying service.

We would also suggest whether some assistance might not be given to our missionary efforts, by employing some of the funds of the various diocesan and archidiaconal and other charities for the sons and orphans of the clergy, in providing exhibitions for our missionary colleges, both at home and abroad. The families of the English clergy might thus not only derive benefit from these charities, but they might also, in their turn require the benefit by sending out some missionaries to our colonies, and amongst the heathen.

III. Finance.—In touching the financial part of this inquiry, we consider that our principal dependence, under God's blessing, must be upon the free-will offerings of the faithful throughout the land. There can be no question as to the duty which is laid upon each individual Christian to devote systematically a portion of his goods to the service of God, according as the Lord has prospered him.

We are of opinion that for the calling forth of these a better organization is needed, by means of Diocesan and Parochial Associations throughout the country*. This is a work in which lay co-operation would be of the greatest value.

We have had under our consideration the subject of the revival of the Weekly Offertory. While we would deprecate any hasty or inconsiderate return to this practice, we would suggest the desirableness, wherever practicable, of using the Offertory Sentences whenever collections are made in our churches.

We are further of opinion, that it would be desirable that there should be at least two collections in each year, under episcopal authority, in every church or chapel—one for Home Missions and the other for Foreign Missions; and that, in making these collections, the principle already laid down be observed, of keeping the object in view rather than the society through which the object is carried out.

We think that, in order to the greater efficiency of the Church, a larger and more detailed body of statistics is greatly needed. It is hardly necessary to dwell upon the importance of this, as bearing upon the present and future well-being of the Church of England. Such information, if fully and systematically supplied, would be of the greatest service, as pointing out both our strength and our weakness; and would enable us to employ our resources to greater advantage. We would therefore suggest, whether there might not be added to the bishop's annual questions, inquiries as to the general state of each parish; the num-

* At the present time there are about 3000 Parochial Associations in connexion with the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel. The Church Missionary Society has about 1000 Branch Associations, each branch comprehending generally several parishes. But it would be too much to assume that more than half of the parishes in England have as yet in a district organization for promoting Church Missions.

* It has been suggested that Church Building Societies might promote the objects here recommended, by loans as well as by liberal gifts. The former might bear interest, and be secured by a mortgage on the property. The latter also might be made conditionally, so that if from any cause within twenty years the buildings should no longer be wanted for their original purpose, a certain fixed proportion of the grants should be recoverable by the Society. It is obvious that the desirableness of a relaxation of that rule of most of our Church Building Societies, by which they are precluded from giving aid to unconsecrated buildings.

† It appears from a return presented to the House of Commons in June, 1855, of the number of baptisms solemnized in the Church of England in the year 1851, that the total number of baptisms returned was 328,182. Four dioceses sent no returns. If for these are added 50,000 we should have 378,182 as the total number of baptisms in the Church of England in that year. Reckoning the births at 3.2 per cent, the births in that year would be 645,392.

‡ The following facts will prove the very inadequate endowments of many of our livings, and the slender provision made for many of the clergy. There are in England and Wales 377 livings under £50 per annum; 1463 under £100; and 1789 under £150, making a total of 3629 livings under £150. Two thousand benefices have been created within the last twenty years, with incomes varying in value, with very few exceptions, from the interest of £100 to £150 per annum. Besides this there are more than 4000 curates, with stipends of from £50 to £150 per annum.—See *preface to Sermon by Rev. R. Seymour, on the Divine Mode and Measure of Good Works.* Livingston, 1854.

ber of baptisms; the number of persons confirmed, of the congregation, and of the communicants; the attendance at the schools; the amount of the alms, and of the collections, &c.: in fact, full annual statistical returns from each parish as to all matters affecting the interests of the Church. These statistics are regularly obtained in the American Episcopal Church, and in some congregations of that Church are prepared with remarkable care and accuracy.

We cannot conclude our report without a deep sense of the importance of the subject which has been committed to our consideration; and, feeling most anxious for the Divine blessing upon our consultations, we would respectfully, but earnestly, implore the special prayers of all the members of this House, and of the faithful at large, for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, to make effectual any measures which may be set on foot, to the glory of God, in the extension of His kingdom, both in our own country and throughout the world.

(Signed)

EDWARD BICKERSTETH, Chairman.

OCCASIONAL SERVICES

Report of the Committee on Occasional Services.

The Committee are desired "to examine by what authority the services for November 5, January 30, and May 29 were drawn up, and are appointed to be read, and the legal force which they severally possess; to report thereupon to the House, and to make such recommendations relating to those services as they shall think desirable."

If by this resolution of the House be meant that the Committee should state whether the services can be enforced by law and on what particular statute or ordinance that enforcement can be grounded, it must decline to frame an answer.

It may possibly be that the use of the services, as now existing, is legally obligatory, and that it may be so on one or more of several grounds, but it would be to intrude on the provinces of the courts at law, and premature in the Committee, to give a positive opinion on a subject of so much difficulty and intricacy. They must likewise decline to express any judgment on the obligation of the clergy, as a question of conscience, to observe the days and to read the services. The general result of the investigation appears to be that the Legislature has enacted the observance of the days for which the services are appointed, and has fully acquiesced in the power exercised by the Crown to appoint specific services for those days.

Though in one or more of the three cases Convocation appears to have been consulted, and gave its sanction to certain services; yet the Crown, in adding those services, makes no reference to any co-ordinate authority, in this respect, of Convocation. The services, as they stand at present, with alterations, not unimportant, made from time to time, were certainly not submitted either to Convocation or to Parliament, but so far rest on the sole power of the Crown. Yet this constant compliance of the Church, for a considerable period, with the Royal proclamation, the interest of Convocation, as well as the concurrence of both branches of the Legislature, by their frequent attendance in the most formal way on such services, seem like a recognition of that authority.

The service for the Royal accession, it may be added, though this service may not be named in the resolution of the House, appeared to rest on different grounds. It is not commanded or recognised by the Legislative enactments, and certainly has not been observed with the same regularity; yet it seems with exceptions at certain periods, which admit of an easy explanation, from the reign of Elizabeth, to have been commanded by the Crown and acquiesced in by the State,

without doubt or difficulty. The Committee recommended the adoption of the following resolution:—"That measures of great importance affecting not only the property but the discipline of the Church, are proposed and enacted in Parliament without being previously communicated to the clergy in Convocation."

COUNSEL AND CO-OPERATION OF THE LAITY.

Report of the Committee of the Lower House on Lay Co-operation.

(Presented July 10, 1857.)

The Committee* of the Lower House of Convocation of the province of Canterbury appointed to consider "the best means of obtaining the counsel and co-operation of the laity of the Church in annual visitations or diocesan synods, or in other modes that may be deemed expedient," have to report as follows:—

They are unanimously of opinion that the well-being of the Church greatly depends, under Almighty God, on the mutual good will and cordial co-operation of its members, clergy and laity; and it is their earnest desire that the end proposed may be attained.

At the same time, they thankfully acknowledge that a spirit of harmonious action between the clergy and laity had long shown itself with excellent results, in the administration of the affairs of many religious and charitable societies in this country.

The special duty, however, of the present Committee is to suggest means for eliciting, strengthening, and consolidating such co-operation, by regular diocesan organization, particularly of a synodical character.

The Committee are of opinion that the means employed for obtaining such co-operation, should be regarded, in the first instance, as of a tentative and provisional kind.

It may also be anticipated, that no uniform plan can be devised, which, would be equally applicable at once to all dioceses.

I.—PARISH VESTRIES.

The primary elements of lay co-operation may be found in parochial vestries, in which the clergymen and his parishioners meet together for consultation on matters ecclesiastical as well as temporal.

II.—RURIDECANAL CHAPTERS OR MEETINGS.

The Committee would next advert to the ruridecanal chapters or meetings, which are of very ancient date.

They appreciate highly the benefits derived from them, and hope that such chapters or meetings may be generally revived.

The Committee suggest for consideration whether the ruridecanal division of dioceses might not afford facilities for lay co-operation, if churchwardens and sidesmen of parishes of the deanry, and perhaps other laymen of the Church, were, as occasion might require, invited by the rural dean, to confer with the clergy on subjects previously proposed.

Such meetings, it is supposed, would be preceded by common prayer in the church, and it is to be wished that an opportunity might also be offered for partaking of the Holy Communion.

III.—ARCHIDIACONAL VISITATIONS.

The next advance towards a fuller development of lay co-operation may be seen in the visitations held by the several archdeacons; fifty-five in number, in this province.

* Members of the Committee:—*Deans*—Canterbury, Norwich. *Archdeacons*—Berks, Bristol, Hereford, Lewes, Maidstone, Middlesex, Salop, Taunton, Worcester. *Doctors*—Jelf, Jeremie, Wordsworth (Chairman). *Chancellor*—Martin. *Messrs.*—Caswell (D. D. of Trinity College, Hartford, U.S.), Fendall, Mackenzie, Oxenden, Raddolph, Seymour, Thomas, Hon. S. Waldegrave.

The Committee are not unmindful that such visitations were originally of a disciplinarian and judicial character.

In course of time, however, and under the influence of various circumstances, these archidiaconal visitations took the place of the two yearly synods anciently held by the bishops of the several dioceses (Bishop Gibson, *Codex*, p. 968).

They are, in fact, the only constitutional assemblies of the clergy and laity of the archdeaconry, as such, which are at present known to the law.

The Committee do not enter on the question, whether the present organization of these assemblies is the best that could be devised; but they are of opinion that it is capable of improvement in its application.

They do not recommend that any attempts should be made at present to create new agency for lay co-operation in the archdeaconries; but that, in the first instance at least, resort should be had for that purpose to the constitutional organization already existing from time immemorial.

They feel persuaded that these visitations afford valuable opportunities for obtaining the co-operation of the clergy and laity, and for promoting the practical efficiency of the Church.

The churchwardens are legally the lay representatives of the several parishes of the archdeaconry, and are cited as such to the visitations. They are the guardians of the fabrics and goods of the parish churches; and are the trustees and dispensers of a large annual revenue, amounting to not less than £300,000, for the maintenance of the parish churches and of their religious services.

The sidesmen (or synodsmen) also are by the 90th canon recognized officers of the Church, whose duty it is to assist the churchwardens in the execution of their office, and are as such to be cited to the visitations.

Every thing, therefore, ought to be done to increase the efficiency of these officers, and to strengthen the bonds of union which connect the clergy with them.

It may be hoped that if the importance of these offices were more generally understood, and if the holders of them were fully recognized as persons charged from ancient times with solemn duties, and if, as occasion might require, they were called into consultation with the clergy at these visitations, they would be stimulated in their efforts to do their duty; and the office of churchwarden would be raised in public esteem, and would be sought by earnest and zealous laymen, to the benefit of religion and to the promotion of charity and unity.

The Committee take for granted that the conferences at these synodical visitations would be limited to questions concerning the practical efficiency of the Church, especially within the archdeaconry; and that no question of a purely doctrinal character would be submitted for discussion at them; and that the archdeacon, as president, would give previous notice to those who would be summoned, what the subject would be, on which he would request the opinions of those convened, and that sufficient time would be allowed for deliberation.

For the more intimate and hearty union of those who are convened to these visitations, and for the blessing of Almighty God on their joint deliberations, it is to be wished that an opportunity should be offered to all who are summoned to them of joining together in the participation of the Holy Communion.

IV.—EPISCOPAL VISITATIONS.

The Committee next proceed to consider the case of the visitations held by the bishops of the

several dioceses, of which there are twenty-one in this province.

The average number of the clergy in each of these dioceses is not less than 650, and the churchwardens probably amount to more than 900, on an average, in each diocese.

In most dioceses, the bishop's visitation takes place only once in three years, the archidiaconal visitation being held in the two intermediate years.

The bishop of a diocese has no regular opportunities of meeting his clergy in any one place; or of collecting the general opinion of the clergy and laity of his diocese; or of communicating his own judgment to them in any one diocesan assembly.

Formerly, as has been already observed, diocesan synods were held by each bishop of the province twice in every year.

The English Reformers recommended in the *Reformatio Legum (de Synodis, v. 109, ed. Cardwell)* that a diocesan Synod should be held by each bishop annually, to which all the clergy of the diocese should be convened, by means of the rural deans, and that such synods should be opened with the Litany and the Holy Communion, and an address from the bishop or archdeacon; and that the synod should consist of the clergy and such of the laity as the bishop might request to remain; and that its deliberations should if, requisite, be continued for several successive days.

Your Committee gratefully recognise the benefits at present arising from the meetings of the churchwardens, together with the clergy, at the visitations of the bishops; and they see in those visitations the basis of arrangements which might, if strengthened and amplified, be made available for the consultation and co-operation of the laity with the clergy of the diocese, under the presidency of the bishop, according to the principles and arrangements already stated in the case of archidiaconal visitations.

But they would further express their earnest desire that, by a subdivision of dioceses, the clergy and laity of every diocese might be enabled to meet under the presidency of their bishop, and be associated with one another, under his paternal authority, in the cathedral church of the diocese, for mutual counsel and edification, and for Christian fellowship in the offices of religion.

Your Committee are aware that many persons, whose motives they respect, are desirous of a more rapid and larger development of lay co-operation than has been recommended in this report.

They do not profess to determine whether such an expansion may not hereafter be necessary. Time and experience will show. If any organic changes are requisite in the present system of lay representation, they are of opinion that suggestions for such changes should come from the laity rather than from the clergy. But they earnestly hope that a fair trial may be made of our existing organization.

They respectfully commend the present subject to the consideration of the archdeacons and rural deans of the province of Canterbury; and they would invite reports stating to the House the results of experiments made by them for the purpose of obtaining lay co-operations of a synodical character.

Your Committee would also recommend that a dutiful representation should be made upon this subject by the Lower House to his Grace the President and their lordships in the Upper House.

In conclusion, they unite in fervent prayer to Almighty God, "by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified, that every member of the same, in his vocation and

ministry, may truly and godly serve Him, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Signed, in behalf of the Committee,

CHR. WORDSWORTH, Chairman

CHURCHES & CHAPELS IN IRELAND.—There are 1,397 Established churches in Ireland, 534 Presbyterian, and 132 registered buildings—total 2,062. Compared with the similar table given last year, the above shows an addition of 2 churches, 3 registered Presbyterian meeting-houses, and 6 registered buildings. The registered buildings may be classified thus:—Belonging to Wesleyan Methodists, 66; Reformed Presbyterians, 22; Baptists, 9; Independents, 14; Moravians or United Brethren, 5; not stated, 16.

MARRIAGES IN IRELAND.—From the Seventh Report of the Registrar-General, it appears that, in the year 1856, the total number of marriages in Ireland (exclusive of those solemnised by the Romish clergy, which are not registered) amounted to 9,517 against 8,765 in 1855, 9,426 in 1854, 10,197 in 1853, 9,487 in 1852, and 9,339 in 1851. 5,310 marriages were solemnised according to the rites of the Established Church, and 4,228 were not. The marriages of 1856 were 782, or 8.92 per cent. over the number registered in 1855. Of those married, 5.10 per cent. of the men and 18.18 of the women were minors, 12.26 per cent. were widowers, and 6.97 per cent. widows, 2,589 men and 4,199 women signed with marks, being too illiterate to write their own name on the registers.

STAINED GLASS.—We had the pleasure of visiting Mr. Spence's Glass-Staining establishment, in Notre Dame Street East, yesterday, and were much gratified with a very fine specimen of his beautiful art. It consists of a memorial window about to be placed in the church at Hawkesbury, on the Ottawa. The window is painted, in three divisions, and is adorned with finely-executed scenes from the life of our Saviour, representing His Birth, Baptism, His Agony in the Garden, and the final Sacrifice on the Cross. At the foot of the window is a scroll stating that the window has been erected in memory of the late George Hamilton, Esq., of Hawkesbury Mills, by his three sons. It does infinite credit not only to the skill of Mr. Spence but to the advanced state of the higher branches of the Decorative Arts in Canada.—*Montreal Herald.*

The Bishop of Down and Connor has requested the clergy of the united diocese to make special collections in behalf of the Indian sufferers on Sunday, the 27th instant. Why should not such an appeal be made in every church in the land? No matter how trifling the collection, the aggregate amount would be considerable.

On the Feast day of the Annunciation, March 25, the Cathedral Church of St. Peter, Pieter Maritzburg, was opened by the Bishop of Natal, and the Chapter was founded. The Bishop announced that he should be ready, with Divine permission, to consecrate the Church on St. Peter's day, June 29th. The Rev. James Green, M.A., was appointed Dean of the Cathedral, and the Venerable Archdeacon Mackenzie, M.A., the Rev. John David Jenkins, M.A., and the Rev. Henry Callaway, M.A., were appointed Canons. The Bishop then delivered a very striking charge. The east window of the Cathedral is filled with ancient stained glass, the gift of the Rev. W. Sewell, and of Radley College. The building of the Church has been assisted by grants to the amount of £650 from the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge. The whole cost has been about £4500.

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THE REV. J. TRAVERS LEWIS, L.L.D., Classical and Mathematical Prizeman, the Primate's Hebrew Prizeman, Senior Moderator in Ethics and Logic, and Gold Medalist of the University of Trinity College, Dublin, will, D. V., after the Christmas Holidays, receive a limited number of pupils, whom he will prepare for the Universities. Terms made known on application. *Parsonage, Brockville, September 21st, 1857.*

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