

A. & E. Orthodox Churches Union.

COUNCIL FOR THE PROVIDING AND TRAINING OF
ORTHODOX CLERGY FOR THE COLONIES.

The following DRAFT OF A PUBLIC APPEAL will be submitted for discussion and adoption at the first meeting of the Council, on September 28th, at 3 p.m., in St. Margaret's Church Room, Ironmonger Lane, E.C., when Archdeacon Potter will speak on the scheme.

As member of the Council, you are invited to make every endeavour to be present, and if unable, to send any suggestions or criticisms, which will be welcomed. We should be glad also to know whether we may include your name in the list of donors or of those who kindly promise donations to the Fund. It is hoped that an immediate start will be made if sufficient means be forthcoming to maintain even one student.

THE EASTERN-ORTHODOX AND ANGLICAN CHURCHES.

DEAR

We feel confident that we may hope for your sympathy in a scheme which has now been launched whereby, if successful, succour will be brought to fellow subjects in serious spiritual need, and these two Churches will be brought inevitably into a close co-operation in pastoral care.

It became widely known, at the recent Pan-Anglican Congress, that in English Colonies and the United States of America, a serious want exists of Eastern Clergy to minister to the large numbers of unshepherded Eastern-Orthodox congregations. As an instance of the acute need, the Archbishop of Rupertsland writes that he has been approached during many years by 65 congregations, containing twelve to fifteen thousand souls, with request to take them over, and provide ministrations for them. He adds, "My wish would be to see their own Church sending out properly qualified Priests and Bishops Unless something is done for them, they are liable to become a menace to the country. What we do must be done quickly." Thousands in various parts of the Empire are in danger of lapsing into sectarianism or infidelity.

A scheme is now on foot and has received preliminary approval from the Patriarch of Constantinople, the Archbishop of Corfu, and the Metropolitan of Athens, who has special charge of Colonial Church questions.

It is proposed that a few specially qualified Eastern Clergy should be chosen by their own authorities to receive a University training in England. This would be probably at King's College, London, and their religious studies would remain under the supervision of their own superiors. After such a period of study and contact with Western social and ecclesiastical life, they would, we feel convinced, be the better fitted for dealing with the special problems that would meet them among the Eastern populations who so rapidly become westernized in thought and manner of life.

The true policy in dealing with these people when, owing to distance or poverty they are unable to get adequate tending from their own pastors, has been felt by those who have the practical question in their dioceses and parishes, to be not to absorb and proselytize, but to encourage them in every way to remain faithful to their own Communion.

These priests, after serving in our Colonies for a period of years, would on their return to their native land, we hope, become a power for good in their Church at home also.

The Archbishop of Canterbury kindly writes that he is entirely in favour of the plan, and that the movement has his approval and commendation.

The total cost of the training and the supplementing, if necessary, of the income when at work, would be shared in fixed proportions by this Council and the Orthodox authorities. The cost for one priest would probably amount to about £400.

May we ask for your practical sympathy in the form of a donation or a promise?

Believe me, yours faithfully,

On behalf of the Council,

(Signed)

Hon. Secretary.

Members are asked to note that the Anniversary of the A. and E. Orthodox Churches Union will be held on October 20th, when Archdeacon Potter will speak on the above matter at the Public Meeting, at 7 p.m., Sion College.

Faithfully yours,

H. J. FYNES-CLINTON,

Hon. Gen. Sec. A. & E.O.C.U.

77, Pavement, Lewisham, S.E.

Sept. 20th, 1909.