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EDITORIAL.

The Financial Problems of our Home Missions.

"Church Bells" of June 16th had for its leading article, "The Financial Position of the Clergy." In this, church life from the high and dry Georgian era down to the present was reviewed, and the onward progress of the church since the day of John Wesley, traced along its different channels. But while advances have been made almost all along the line, at one point a retrograde movement is noted. It is the maintenance of the clergy. With the extension of the Episcopate, the multiplication of missions, the increased interest in every department of church work, the incomes of the clergy have not simply stood still but have actually diminished in the case of holders of benefices by nearly forty per cent. To the seriousness of this fact the majority of churchmen in England are not yet awake.

In this Western Diocese we have our own version of the same problem. With the gradual decrease of the S. P. G. grant, we are brought face to face with the question, "How are we to meet the shortage?" The different Missions are endeavoring to answer it by appealing to their churchfolk, each in its own way. But something more is needed, if we are to be more than a mere collection of congregations, if we would realize the idea of a Diocese. Plans of raising the sustenance of the clergy are numerous; they are mostly unsuitable to the circumstances of the West. We must have something practicable and simple, and which meets with the approval of churchmen generally. The discussion of this subject should find a large place in the business of Easter meetings and vestries, while at the Rural Deanery gatherings the clergy might learn much for the information and guidance of their vestries. As the ultimate action lies with the Bishop and the Synod acting through the Executive Committee, it would be well to have the Lay delegates able to express the views of the parishes they represent.

The support of the clergy is of the utmost importance to the church. With small or uncertain incomes they cannot but be crippled in their endeavors to be useful to their flocks. If their mental energies are being sapped by financial anxieties, there can be neither that zeal for their work nor that ability to accomplish it which there might otherwise be. Something