

they reside, there to receive the same kind and amount of religious as well as secular instruction as the children of Christian parents. Thus, in the progress of time, thousands upon thousands of these children will grow up to man's estate, weaned from the errors of their fathers' creed, and instructed in the knowledge of the truths and precepts of the gospel. It cannot be doubted that they will return in great numbers to their fatherland, notwithstanding the inducements they have to remain in Guiana, and there convey to their benighted countrymen the inestimable benefits of civilisation and true religion. For this as well as other reasons, we beg to direct the earnest attention of the Colonial Committee, and of the Church at large, to these schools, that they may be rendered more adequate in number and efficiency.

As to the re-organisation of the Church in British Guiana, with the view of the more effectual exercise of discipline over its ministers, it seems to us desirable that a Clergy Discipline Ordinance should in the first place be applied for. It is desirable that this ordinance should provide—(1), for the compulsory attendance of witnesses in cases of libel against ministers; (2), for the right of complaint, reference, and appeal direct to the General Assembly or its Commission; (3), for the stoppage of the salary of any minister suspended or deposed, from the date of a sentence of deposition or suspension pronounced against him by the local court, or of its being confirmed by the General Assembly, or Commission thereof.

Should it prove impossible to obtain such powers, an ordinance favour of the Presbyteries of Demarara and Essiquibo, and Berbice (if the latter shall be reconstituted) similar to that recently passed in our favor, would greatly facilitate the exercise of discipline.

By far the most important recommendations however, we have to urge on the attention of the Colonial Committee and the Church, is the careful selection of the future ministers of British Guiana. There never was a greater mistake than to suppose that men who, from whatever cause, have no prospect of preferment at home, are good enough for that colony. The European portion of the congregations of Georgetown and New Amsterdam is composed of such persons as attend our city churches in Scotland; and their ministers ought to be not only men of piety and ability, but fitted to associate with and command the respect of persons of education, intelligence, and social position. To the country parishes, where men of equal mental endowments are not indispensable however desirable, no one should be sent, but such as have, in respect of their habits and conduct, stood the most rigorous investigation. They ought to be, and we must be permitted to say, they must be, if the Church is to retain even her present standing in the colony—men of energy, of zeal, and much prudence and circumspection. The field of usefulness is

vast and increasing, and none are capable of cultivating it, save such as are devoted the services of their Divine Master. We know of no portion of the vineyard where men of such a spirit are likely to labour with more eminent acceptance and success. We hope many such will offer themselves for employment in a sphere where they may so largely benefit their fellowmen, and so greatly promote the interests of their Master's kingdom. To these young men we will be at all times ready to afford every information in our power. They need not fear the climate, if not constitutionally predisposed to its prevailing forms of disease, and if habitually temperate, and careful to avoid imprudent exposure to the elements.

We would beg to suggest to the Colonial Committee with respect to the physical fitness of candidates for appointments in Guiana, that no one should be selected except such as are certified by competent medical testimony to be not unsuited to the climate; that ordinarily no one should be appointed whose age much exceeds thirty; and it is essential to health as well usefulness that those sent out should be men of active habits, capable of a considerable amount of bodily exertion, and willing to make it. One other recommendation we would beg to make, because it has been frequently urged upon us by residents in the colony, that the ministers, if not married when they go out, should not remain long unmarried after they arrive.

With another consideration we have been very strongly impressed, that once in every period of five years, leave of absence for nine or twelve months should be granted to the ministers who may choose to avail themselves of it. In this country, occasional change of air and scene are considered indispensable. Such a change, if found necessary at home to preserve vigour of mind and body, is still more necessary for those exposed to the influence of a tropical climate. To provide an income to the assistants, would form a burden that would be little felt, and we are persuaded would not be at all grudged by the Presbyterian residents. The benefits accruing to the interests of our Church from such a reinforcement of her clerical staff would be of the very highest importance. Not only would the ordinary labours of our parochial clergy be lightened, and the duties of their cures be more adequately performed, but the disastrous consequences of prolonged vacancies would be altogether escaped. Beside, men would be on the spot to fill up parishes as they became vacant, inured to the climate, trained to their duties, and fully acquainted with the habits of the people. For we presume that in all ordinary cases such assistants as had proved themselves worthy would be preferred to vacant parochial charges.