

humiliating character. It is this, that notwithstanding the wealth of the Church in this District, its respectability and intelligence, a very large proportion of the membership of the Church is in a state of spiritual destitution, without churches, without the Services of the Church, without clergymen, in fine, except when brought to them by other denominations, without religious instruction. In the wilderness, amidst the struggles and trials incident to new settlers, when religion would have been to them a blessed consolation, they have been left in almost utter destitution.— Their children in too many instances are growing up without christian baptism; their young people enter in to that “estate which is honorable in all,” without the blessing of their church; their old people die, without the ministrations of religion, and are buried without the voice of prayer.

This destitution exists in the very vicinity of this City. Wolfe Island has a church population of 972 souls, a good Church erected, and a fund of upwards of £200 for building a Parsonage, and yet it remains in a state of spiritual deprivation. The Township of Kingston with 1274 adherents of the Church, with the exception of a few families in and around the Village of Portsmouth, is in the same state of destitution. The thriving Township of Storrington, having within its bounds, 612 members of the Church, suffers the same affliction. Four other Townships in this county, containing upwards of 1000 members, experience the same distressing destitution, while the remaining six Townships in Frontenac, the population of which is unknown, have never yet been visited by a Clergyman at all. Camden with 1187 members, and Sheffield with 384, are now also destitute. In short there is more than one half of the members of the Church of England in the Midland District and fifteen whole Townships especially, almost totally deprived of the services of their professed religion, and indebted for what religious instruction they may occasionally receive, to other Societies than their own. It is not therefore surprising, that from year to year, family after family leaves the church of their fathers, and that a great proportion of those now in some other denominations, were once members—but it must be added—NEGLECTED members of our own Communion. It is a source of deep humiliation before Almighty God, that the Church of England is thus yearly losing ground in this District, and that too while the country is rapidly rising in prosperity, and other denominations are growing stronger and stronger. But this painful condition of things which should lead to sincere repentance for the past, and greater activity for the future must not be wholly ascribed to mere neglect. It has arisen in part from unavoidable circumstances. Death has called away some of our Clergymen and vacancies thus created, remain unfilled. Notwithstanding the strenuous exertions of the Bishop no Clergymen could be sent to these destitute localities, and within a few years five Clergymen have removed to other parts of the Diocese; and although a considerable sum has been annually transmitted from this Branch to the Parent Society, yet this Branch has been left to support its own Missionaries, while the funds of the Diocesan Society, and that portion of it raised in this District in particular, have been generally expended in other parts of the Province.