

definite principle with reference to State Aid to Religion ; so that the position of that portion of the Diocese, which has passed over to that of Brisbane, must be somewhat anxious.

From certain passages in the letter of the Bishop of Newcastle to the Secretaries of the Church Society, we should judge that in that Diocese the difficulty of securing lay co-operation is even more strongly felt than amongst ourselves. On this subject we quote the following passage from his Lordship's letter :—" Who should be chief agents in carrying on the work of our Society ? In a previous letter I said—' The services of the Clergyman in carrying on his District Association are invaluable : he should be the very heart and soul of the Association.' This is most true ; and I would entreat my reverend brethren not to shrink from this duty. They should be the very *heart* and *soul* of the Association ; but it should not be necessary for them also to be the *hands* and *feet* and *tongue*. No : in providing for the future, let me affectionately exhort the laity to remember that they are *the body of Christ*—in fact, *the Church*—that the ministrations of the Church are for their spiritual good—that the Clergy are appointed to their Cures 'for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the Body of Christ—for the Clergy are the servants of the laity for Jesus' sake'—that the Clergy are to give themselves wholly to the work of their ministry ; while it is also provided that ' they who preach the Gospel should live of the Gospel.' "

The Bishop anticipates a considerable decrease in the annual subscriptions to the funds of that Diocese, in consequence of the closing of the Bishopric Endowment Subscription, as well as the withdrawal of a certain proportion of the ordinary sources of revenue by the inclusion of a portion of the Diocese in that of Brisbane. Churchmen there are still looking forward to the completion of the legislation necessary for the establishment of their Diocesan Synod.

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#### BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A letter from the Bishop to Miss Burdett Coutts has been published, giving some descriptions of his travels during June and July on foot to Cayoosh, the continental part of his diocese, far up in the mountains, some 300 miles from Victoria.

The whole way (says Bishop Hills) has been the scene of gold-mining operations. The river appears to have carried down and deposited gold all along its banks. In former times it flowed at a higher level, and upon flats or terraces now dry, as well as by its immediate bed, the gold is found. I have conversed on the spot with many miners and with all descriptions of persons, and there is now but one sentiment as to the inexhaustible resources of this country.

Owing to the extreme difficulty of communication, many who first came from California went back disheartened, but all who remained are doing well, and there will be a steady increase in the population. Roads are being made, and access to the mines will every day become easier.