

contribute to its support out of your scanty means, impossible as it would be, without your ready zeal, to collect such funds at all, I am confident that there is not one present who does not see the wisdom and feel the advantage of that Rule of its original Constitution, which provides, in the annual distribution of its funds, that two thirds of the distributors shall be lay-members, or who would wish that the Rule should be altered.\*

But if the year has come with blessings on its wings, there are also some causes for anxiety and fear. If we are exempted from many privations and dangers to which our predecessors were exposed, if we have full liberty to preach and expound the Scriptures, and set forth the doctrines of our Church, if the laity cheerfully co-operate with us in works of love: we must also observe, that the liberty granted to all has degenerated into a kind of general license, that there is in the minds of a considerable number, and of that number some not unintelligent, nor uneducated, a fixed aversion to definite standards of faith and practice. the effects of which are felt in the loosening of the bonds of society, in the diminution of respect and attachment to parents, in the ease with which men slide from one communion to another, in the determined opposition to discipline and correction (though repeatedly enjoined by Scripture), in places of public education, in a morbid sympathy with criminals, if not with crime, in a fatal habit of measuring weighty and solemn duties by pecuniary interest, in a remarkable want of honesty in bargains, and in the fulfilment of promises, and in a heady opposition to every thing which does not bear the stamp of present expediency.

These evils are not peculiar to our own times: but that they are now peculiarly rife, no thoughtful christian will deny. Our business, as good soldiers of the Cross, is to withstand them, successfully or not, for duty, not success, is our part; not to aim to raise ourselves on the shoulders of license to places of profit or authority.

But I shall not dwell longer upon these general topics, but proceed to offer such advice as I hope may prove not unserviceable to you, especially to my younger brethren. The work which Churchmen, whether they be clerks or lay-brethren, have before them, is either

\* There was granted this year—

For Missionary purposes,	£710	0	0
For New Churches,	175	0	0
For Widows and Orphans Fund.	100	0	0
For Books,	100	0	0
For Parsonage House,	20	2	6
Total,	£1105	2	6