

D. J. M.

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"Ad profectum sacrosanctæ matris ecclesiæ et studii"

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS.

We have received the Report of this active Society for the past year, and shall endeavour briefly to notice some of its most interesting points. First we observe a change for the better in the look of the report itself. The old plan of noting in the margin the contents of each paragraph has been adopted, and by this help it is much easier to refer to any particular part. And then there is the great improvement of not publishing the names of subscribers, a plan which we hope every Society (and amongst them our own Diocesan) will soon follow, for since we profess to be guided by His precepts, who commanded that the left hand should not know what the right doeth, it seems to say the least somewhat inconsistent, that a good deal of expense should be incurred to let all the world know how much we give. The Report is also accompanied by a map, in which all the Colonial Dioceses, and also those of the United States, are clearly defined.

A glance at this map, tells more forcibly perhaps than reading through the Report, how widely extended are the operations of this great Society. Twelve dioceses in the continent of America, (besides thirty-four of the United States) seven in Africa, five in Asia, fourteen in the Australasian group, one in Europe, with six or seven scattered among the Isles of the Ocean, testify to the expansive energy with which the work is being carried on. And as was shewn by the synopsis of progress since 1839, published in our last, much of this ground has been taken up within the last twenty-five years.

The Reports sent in by clergymen whose fields of labour are so different, must of course be very varied. One part of the book tells of labours, difficulties, encouragements and successes familiar enough to us, as familiar as the appearance of the "Canadian Missionary in winter dress" who is represented on page 33, covered up with every possible defence against the cold, a sight which must cause an unsophisticated Englishman to shiver. Still it must not be supposed that the "Canadian Missionaries" draw doleful pictures of the hardships of the terrible winters and rough backwoods, a charge which has sometimes been brought against them. The tone of their reports taken altogether is encouraging, and if there is an occasional complaint of the wide extent of a scattered parish, and its great poverty, those who know best what these difficulties mean, will be the first to forgive their being mentioned. The Dioceses of Toronto and Tasmania receive honourable mention as being now quite independent of all assistance from the Society, and the time is anticipated when all the Missions in which expense is incurred will be in a like position, and leave the Society free to devote its energies to other and other and other fields, going on with the glorious work which it has