

will amount to 2,004; leaving only 617 as the increase for the whole of the rest of the Diocese. When we look at the number of new churches which have been built, and the additional clergymen employed, and increased activity manifested, I think we cannot be wrong in supposing that there must have been some miscalculation made. During the last twelve months, I have been holding confirmations in various parts of the Diocese, and expected to have nearly completed the triennial course by this time, but have been unable to carry through my programme as I had proposed. I may, however, state that, at the places already visited, I have confirmed up to the present time 1144; and if there is no increase in numbers over the last confirmations at the few places yet remaining, independent of some fresh congregations now formed which did not exist three years ago, the total will be 1491; giving at least an increase of 208 over the numbers at the last triennial course. The numbers at the four separate confirmations held by me since 1850, then will stand as follows:—1851-2, 1124; 1854-5, 1174; 1858-9, 1286; 1861-62, 1494. It is no doubt an encouragement to us to feel that we are making some progress in our endeavors to secure a permanence to our work in the Diocese, and that it is by God's help growing under our hands. But there is ample room and need for a much greater extension of the ministrations of our clergy, and much greater zeal in the prosecution of our work, when we see the rapid growth of the population in many portions of the diocese, and the small provision made for their spiritual oversight. How to meet the urgent necessities of the case, and make our little band do the duty of a full complement of Christian warriors, is the difficult problem we have to solve. And it is to consider and consult respecting it, that I so thankfully look to the members of the Synod to give their attention and their help. From the reports of the Rural Deaneries I expect we shall be able to derive much important and well digested information; and shall at least, in a short time, have the business of the diocese reduced to some more regular and systematic order, and see what is our present state, and what our wants—and set to work upon some matured plan of action, however unequal our success may be, as compared with what we propose to ourselves, as the end to be attained. It will be our wisdom to try and enlist in the ranks of our spiritual laborers, as great a number as we can of those who shall be willing, and in any sufficient measure are prepared, in any capacity, to give themselves to the work; and to make use of every agency that can be brought wisely to co-operate with us in extending the ministrations of the Church and bringing her influence to bear upon those to whom we are sent. It is with this end in view that many persons have recently been warmly advocating schemes respecting the work of the Diaconate, as a more distinct and permanent order. I have myself