

ation suggested itself as a project combining, with the supply of the means necessary for the above purpose, other important advantages. The ministers of St. Andrew's parish entered heartily into the scheme; and, after conferring with some of the chief members of the community who take an interest in our Church, a meeting for the above purpose was announced to be held in St. Andrew's Church on the 21st December. The Governor kindly consented to preside. The meeting turned out highly successful, the sum of \$1,095 in donations, and of about \$1,350 in annual contributions having been subscribed at the close of the meeting; and these sums have been largely added to since the meeting was held. (A dollar is of the value of 4s 2d.) We think, however, that so important an object ought not to be left, for the many years that have to elapse before the next clergy ordinance falls to be adjusted, on the footing on which it has been in the meantime necessary to place it, and it is for the Colonial Committee to consider, whether they should apply to her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies to recommend to the Governor to propose to the Combined Court such an additional endowment to the Church of Scotland in the colony, as is necessary for her efficiency. We have reason, however, to think that, if suitable assistant ministers are sent out, salaries will be provided for them out of the colonial chest year by year, until the next clergy endowment ordinance shall be passed. Such additional aid will be but the restoration of what was, in some cases, formerly enjoyed, though of late years lost, by the Church of Scotland in the colony. There is an ample field for the Christian liberality of the people connected with our Church in Demerara, irrespective altogether of the supply of additional staff of ministers.

The Commissioners, in illustration of the great labours of the ministers, say.—

The parish of St. Mark extends along the western bank of the Demerara river, about 190 miles; and there is a station at Christianburgh on the river, seventy-five miles distant from the residence of the minister. This station is visited by him once every three months, where he dispenses the communion and administers baptism. The journey up and down is performed by water, and occupies the greater part of two days each way. The people have provided a tent-boat for the use of the minister, in which he passes the night when going and returning. A salary of 2,000 dollars, formerly allowed for this district, has been withdrawn in consequence of no minister having been appointed to it.

Besides this station, there is a large population much nearer the parish church, but too distant to attend it regularly. To these the minister does his best to afford instruction, assembling them in such places as he is able to obtain; and this in addition to the duties

devolving upon him as minister of the congregation of St. Mark's Church. The superintending of schools, Sabbath and week-day, looking after the repairs, and providing the necessary funds for that purpose, and taking his share besides in supplying any parish that may happen to be vacant along with his co-presbyters, are among the duties devolving on him; and they will serve to give some idea of the amount of labour he has to undergo, and to illustrate the necessity of an additional number of ministers to supply the spiritual wants of this and other parishes in the Presbytery of Demerara.

Another illustration may be given from the parish of All Saints' Berbice. Mr. Duff officiates in the jail and hospital alternately every Sabbath morning, at eight o'clock; conducts public worship in the parish church at 11 A. M. and 7 P. M.; superintends the Sabbath school, which meets at 2.30 P. M.; visits once a fortnight four week-day schools in the parish, and officiates at the preaching station of Baracara, which he visits every third month, and where the communion is dispensed twice a-year. There, as well as at Philadelphia, eight miles from New Amsterdam, and at Sandwood, religious instruction is given by the teachers every Sabbath. Mr. Duff testifies to the great advantage derived in these stations, from the Book of Prayer recently issued by the Committee of the General Assembly. The parish of St. Catherine affords a similar, and in some respects a still more striking illustration.

We beg to direct the attention of the Colonial Committee to the great anxiety and trouble devolving on all the ministers, more especially on those of the country parishes in providing funds for the repair and rebuilding of churches and school-houses. One half of the cost is only provided by the colony; the other moiety must be raised by voluntary contributions.

The large annual importation into British Guiana of Coolies and Chinese required for the cultivation of its soil, demands the special interest of all who take an interest in its religious and social well-being. These poor people are treated with a considerate kindness which they have never known in the land of their birth. Nor is it their physical welfare alone for which due provision is made by the legislature of the colony, but, as already observed, means are provided for the remuneration of men competent to instruct them in religious truth, whenever the Church shall, in the discharge of her duty, send them. It is not for us to foretell what measure of success may attend their labours among the adult portion of these people. It is impossible to be blind to the serious difficulties that stand in the way of much good being done as regards them. But it is a fact to which we think to much importance cannot be attached, that, heathen as they are, they offer no objection to their children attending the schools near which