

public endowment as would, to a great extent, free the ministers of this Church from dependence on the liberality of the people. Such expectation, now that a settlement has been made, no reasonable man can for a moment entertain. However important, in the meantime, the aid which is now derived from the Reserves, it is manifest that these Reserves will never avail the Church to an extent that is at all worth considering in devising and laying down any general plan of action in respect of the support of ministers. On the contrary, it would be the better and safer course, while doing so, to leave them entirely out of view, and to consider only what must mainly be relied on—the voluntary liberality of the people.

Again, the Committee would observe, that among the many advantages which have resulted from our connexion with the Mother Church in Scotland, this has been one disadvantage, that ministers and congregations have been disposed to look to her for a degree of support which she cannot give, or which at least is not to be expected from her. It is in the highest degree desirable that dependence on this source of support should also be discarded from our minds. The funds of the General Assembly's Colonial Committee are but small: the field of their application is immense; and though it is possible that these funds might be increased by the proper exertion, it is scarcely to be expected that such exertion will be made. The labours of the Colonial Committee devolve mainly on a very few individuals, of eminent excellence and ability undoubtedly,—but who are not enabled by the Church to devote their whole time and talents to the laborious episcopate, so to speak, which is entrusted to them. On the contrary, they are all engrossed with their own profes-