

*Letter from the BISHOP of CHRISTCHURCH.*

THE Diocese of Christchurch founded by the Canterbury Association and formed out of the diocese of New Zealand (by patent, in 1856), originally comprised the southern portion of the Middle Island, and the Southern Island, and is now limited to the Province of Canterbury, and to part of the Province of Westland and the Chatham Islands.

The endowments of the diocese were created out of a fund arising from the sale of lands in the Canterbury settlement previous to 1850, and appropriated by the Association to ecclesiastical and educational purposes within the Province of Canterbury.

The whole amount thus appropriated was about £25,000, and, including a grant of £1,000 from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts in aid of the Bishopric Endowment, was invested in land in 1851, and it is chiefly from the estate thus acquired that endowments have been secured for the Bishopric, the Cathedral, Christ's College, and for general Church purposes.

In 1856, when the Bishopric of Christchurch was constituted, the annual income from the Bishopric Endowment was £600, and is now £1,000. The annual income from the Cathedral Endowment, set apart for a Dean and four Canons, is £1,000: the income of Christ College £1,200, and that from the General Endowment for Church purposes £4,000—such purposes including supplementary grants to clerical stipends, grants and loans for the building of churches, schools, and parsonages.

It is obvious that the augmentation of the Bishopric Endowment by the grant of the Society was of great assistance in enabling the Canterbury Association in carrying out the design which had been contemplated from the first, viz., of planting the Church in their settlement in its entirety; and though this was not fully accomplished until the appointment of a Bishop in 1856, yet but for the assistance of the Society the appointment might have been indefinitely postponed.

The diocese since then has been indebted to the Society for a small annual grant, first made in 1864. It was made at a time when the resources of the diocese were being strained to the utmost to supply the spiritual wants of a large and sudden accession to the population, attracted in many instances to the diocese by the discovery of a goldfield on the western side, and when, too, the endowments for general Church purposes, being comparatively unproductive, the Church was chiefly dependent