

sons which it observes in the administration of this department of its trust, very considerably enhances the claim which the service itself, most essential to the best interests of a Christian community, establishes, in its behalf, to general respect and protection.

The same advantages which it offers to the nobles of the land for an adequate pecuniary recompence, it offers, either gratuitously, or at a comparatively trifling charge, to those who are without these means of requital. Fitness and ability discovering their sure prognostics under the worst circumstances of birth and fortune, never appeal to it in vain for succour and encouragement. It stretches out the same hand to the meanest of its children that it extended to welcome within its cloisters those of higher estate; it provides for both, the same intellectual and spiritual food; administers it to them both with equal assiduity; distributes amongst them its literary honors with reference only to their respective attainments; supplies its Priesthood from amongst them with complete indiscriminatio; and if, in the apportionment of its emoluments and dignities, it does not reach that standard of impartiality which perfection would require, the numbers that have risen, and are continually rising, from total obscurity to the highest offices which it has to bestow, may be confidently referred to for incontestible proof that indigent merit is very far indeed from being left wholly out of account, nay, is, perhaps, allowed to the full as much weight in the scale of pretention, as, in a world like ours, it is reasonable to look for.

DR. BRAY'S ASSOCIATES.

The first want which a Clergyman experiences upon entering upon the active duties of his profession, is that of a library. His lot is cast in a country village, at a distance from those seats of learning where he has laid the first foundations of Theology, and he wants the means of prosecuting

his sacred studies, and adding to his spiritual treasures of things new and old, so necessary to the efficient performance of the work of an Evangelist—the rightly dividing the word of truth, and the rightly distributing it amongst the people committed to his care.

The pious and indefatigable Dr. Bray, so renowned for his many excellent designs and great personal exertions for advancing the interests of Christianity, both at home and in our American colonies, had his attention arrested to this, amongst other deficiencies in our ecclesiastical provisions, which he earnestly strove to supply. It appears, that before his time, Sir Roger Twisden had projected the formation of libraries for all the smaller vicarages of the kingdom, one-third of which being under 50l. per annum, left the incumbents without the means of purchasing books for themselves. The magnitude of this project having defeated its success, Dr. Bray, in 1697, re-produced it in a more practicable form, as limited to the several deaneries into which each archdeaconry is subdivided; and though he could not accomplish even this modification of the plan, yet, in conjunction with several noblemen, and the memorable Mr. Nelson, he laid the foundation for its gradual completion; procured, through the intervention of Sir Peter King, in the VIIth year of Queen Anne, an Act of Parliament providing for its permanence; and before his death, which happened in 1730, left behind him upwards of sixty parochial libraries established by his munificence and exertions. The distinguished persons whom he had interested in this undertaking, far from abandoning it, now assumed a corporate form under the title of THE ASSOCIATES OF DR. BRAY, and though they have never engaged a large share of public attention or patronage, they have been joined at different periods, by the most highly respectable characters in Church and State. *(To be continued.)*