

The only available source, then, from which to procure the means to pay the salaries of the Clergy is an increase in the assessments.

2.—Reduction of men.

If the money cannot be procured, it cannot be paid; and as a reduction of the rates of stipend is not to be entertained, it follows that there must be a reduction in the number of the missionaries.

Under these circumstances, it is desired that the Clergy of the several Deaneries should advise with the Board, and point out, (1) How, in their judgment, the funds may be so increased as to render a diminution of the number of the clergy needless; or, failing this, (2) How the missions can be so consolidated as to enable the reduced body of the clergy to cover the ground.

And, as the arrangements with the different congregations must be made at once, it will be necessary that the Board should be in possession of the views of the clergy not later than Dec. 15th.

I am, faithfully yours,

J. W. QUEBEC.

To the Revd. Rural Dean.

Your Board is of opinion that under ordinary circumstances of prosperity, many missions in the Diocese would be found able and ready to make a considerable increase in their assessments—sufficient in the aggregate to make up for the reduction of the S. P. G. grant—and negotiations are in progress with a view to effect this object.

In the case of the District of Gaspé, the general ill success which has attended the fisheries during the past year, besides the depression of trade in other respects, has necessitated a continuance of the same assessments for another year.

In the Districts of Quebec and St. Francis, the possible alternative of reducing the number of the missions, unless