

are at least five or six townships and districts in Van Diemen's Land without clergymen, where the appointment of ministers of the Church of Scotland is very desirable; and from the great number of Presbyterian Emigrants, that there is a loud call upon the Church of Scotland to make arrangements to provide ministers for their spiritual welfare; and in support of this statement, this Committee begs respectfully to call the attention of the Assembly to the following extract, from a minute of His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Van Diemen's Land to the Legislative Council, 10th September, 1835.

'The Ecclesiastical and School establishments are estimated at L.14,185 : 16 : 10, independent of grants in aid of the erection of Churches and School-houses.

'These establishments are altogether inadequate to the wants of the country; more clergymen, and a large number of schools, are exceedingly required. It may be observed that the charges under this head are, in other countries, provided for by local rates, or by ceding a proportion of the produce of the soil; and it is obviously very desirable that some permanent arrangements should be made for the support of a department on which so much depends, and to the importance and usefulness of which, I am glad to perceive that there appears to be but one opinion throughout the colony.'

That this sum of L. 14,185 : 16 : 10 was increased by the Council to L. 14,455 : 16 : 10, of which L. 450 is appropriated to the support of four Presbyterian Ministers; L. 5953 : 14 is employed for purposes connected with an Episcopal establishment of ten clergymen, and a few Lecturers and Catechists; and L. 7656 : 10 : 4 to support Orphan and Government Schools in the colony, exclusively under Episcopalian management and instruction; and the remaining L. 395 : 12 : 6 is afforded to the Roman Catholic community.

That this Committee would humbly suggest, that the General Assembly would materially benefit the cause of Religion and of the Presbyterian Church, by using its influence with the British Parliament to prevent a Monopoly of any permanent provision which may be made for the support of Religion in Van Diemen's Land from being enjoyed by the Episcopal Church, which would be altogether subversive of the principle of the equal status of the Churches, and highly injurious to the cause of the Presbyterian Church.

That heretofore the Episcopal Ministers in Van Diemen's Land have been wholly supported by the local Government, under the direction of the Secretary for the colonies; and that the principle of the fourth article of the Union points out the propriety of a similar provision being made for the support of Ministers of the Church of Scotland; more especially as in Van Diemen's Land so great a portion of the revenue is supplied by the Scottish Presbyterian inhabitants.

That, should the General Assembly, in consideration of the number of Presbyterian inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land, determine to use the necessary measures to establish Presbyterian Churches in the Colony, it will be necessary, in order to insure the due instruction of the rising generation, and to secure their attachment to the religion of their fathers, that there should also be established a school, on the parochial school system of Scotland, in connection with each Presbyterian Church, as the Government schools now existing in Van Diemen's Land are all under the management of the Episcopal Clergymen, and are, in many respects, inadequate to serve the purposes of education, from the imperfect and limited plan of instruction pursued in them.

That the Committee, in coming before the General Assembly, has only fulfilled the duty it owes to the Presbyterian Congregation of Hobart Town;