

the ministrations which they have enjoyed during a long series of years will be withdrawn. Most reluctant has the Board been to adopt such extreme measures,—no other course however has been open. Should similar cases arise, it is plain that the Board *must* pursue a similar course.

In administering the Annual amount of £2,100, granted to this Diocese by the S. P. G., the Board is bound by the conditions which the Society has a just right to attach to its Grant. Those conditions are set forth in the Secretary's letter which is printed on pages 18, 19 and 20, of last year's Report. No alternative is allowed to the Board, when any Congregation neglects to pay the assessment which has been agreed upon. The allowance to their Clergyman out of the Society's Grant cannot be paid, and therefore his Ministrations must be removed to another region.

The position is undoubtedly a painful one, but the payments from the Congregations, throughout the Diocese, during the past year, with the two exceptions above referred to, have been made with a degree of punctuality, which encourages the Board to hope, that when its position relatively to the Society at home and to the contributions promised by each Congregation, is clearly understood, no case of failure to meet their engagements will arise to involve the Board in action at once distressing to it and disastrous to the particular Congregation.

It is well worthy of enquiry and attention on the part of the faithful Laity in the Diocese, to ascertain whether means might not be successfully employed to direct immigration of members of the Church of England into those localities where our Congregations are weak in numbers. The prospect of rural Congregations becoming self-supporting or even of contributing at all in proportion to the Ministrations afforded to them, is very distant indeed if they are to depend only upon the natural increase of the population for accessions to their numbers, and an increase of their strength. It is evident that the patience of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in aiding the Church in this Diocese, will be exhausted long before our prospects, so far as we can see at present, justify us in expecting to be able to keep open the existing Missions without the full amount of assistance now extended to us. It does not come within the province of the Board to take any such steps, but the suggestion may not unnaturally proceed from it, that circulars containing full information as to the price of land &c., &c., within the borders of our present Missions, and our object in giving such information, if widely distributed amongst the Clergy in England, might attract a few well-to-do families from year to year. The anxious labours of the Board to eke out from the English Grant, the contributions of the Congregations and the Diocesan Mission Fund, the small income of \$600 per annum for the present staff of Clergy, naturally lead its members to cast about in their minds for every possible means of calling forth increased efforts from the several Congregations, and of adding to their numerical strength. If the rural Congregations throughout the Diocese, could receive some small accession of two or three Families from year to year, they would in a comparatively short period be able to assume the chief support of the Ministrations they enjoy.