

plied with. In no one of these cases is the clergyman in possession of a well endowed parish; in every one of them he has laboured for more than thirty years on a small income; and in no single instance are his private means sufficient to support him. If the block sum now granted to us were continued till the death of these clergy, there would be no difficulty in our complying with the same conditions; but if it be reduced, I see a great difficulty and a manifest injustice in the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel throwing upon our shoulders the support of clergymen, and of the widows of deceased clergymen, who were sent out to North America long before the Diocese of Fredericton existed, and with whom a precise and definite compact was made at the time of their ordination, the terms of which, on the part of the clergymen, have been diligently observed. Against this I have strenuously protested, and shall continue to do so at every fitting opportunity.

3. The third class of clergy is more numerous, and consists of those who have neither retiring pension nor pension for a widow secured to them by the terms of their agreement with the Society, but to whom it was never intimated, when they received holy orders, that the engagement with the Society was only for a limited period. Some of these clergy have been connected with the Society for nearly thirty years, and were ordained by the then Bishop of Nova Scotia. I regard their case as a hard one. They have no prospective advantage from pensions to themselves or their widows; they are labouring, many of them, in very poor missions; they have committed no offence for which they ought to be deprived of their salaries; and the Church Society, with its present amount of income, is unable to make up so large a deficiency.

4. The fourth class consists of clergy to whom it has been intimated by the Society, that the engagement made with them was only for a limited period. There is no injustice in the Society adhering to its expressed determination in their case. But it is no doubt an equal hardship to deprive them of their means of subsistence, and it would be a vast injury to the Church to abandon the missions which they serve.

The most practical method of meeting the difficulty before us appears to me to be this. The sum promised to us for the next three years is £2,860 stg. This leaves a deficiency of £37 10s. stg., withdrawn during the half year ending June 30, 1865, to January 1, 1866; and £400 sterling to be withdrawn in the year 1866, minus the sum of £150, being Dr. Thomson's salary, which is included in the sum of £2,860. We have therefore £287, 10s. stg. altogether to provide for annually, or about £345 currency. This must be raised before the end of the next year, or such portion of it as will enable us to pay the missionaries from January 1, 1866, to July 1866, when the Church Society meets; and I think it not at all beyond our means to raise this sum by supplementary subscriptions, or augmented subscriptions to the Church Society for the next three years. We must remember that if this is