

*RURAL DEANERY MEETING, NO. IV.*

[The brethren having heard the minutes of the last meeting read, and agreed that the report of it, as published in the Oct. No. of CHURCH WORK was in the main correct, and likely to do good even beyond Nova Scotia, decided that a similar report of the present gathering should be sent to that "valuable little periodical."]

*Rural Dean*,—As the question of Ways and Means is a very important one in all but wealthy parishes, I hope brother Baker's paper on that subject is at hand,—though I am sorry he has been unavoidably prevented from attending our meeting.

*The Secretary*,—Here is his paper which he has requested me to read for him. [Reads.]

*Bro. A*,—I am pleased with the exordium, in the first place. The writer very truly observes that our parishes being no longer mainly supported by eleemosynary assistance from the mother Church in England, as in days gone by, should as soon as possible in the exceptional cases, learn not only the duty but the blessedness of self support and missionary exertion. Our Dissenting neighbors, not being pap-fed, have been learning self-support in religious matters from the first settlement of the British colonies. If our people do not similarly exert themselves, not only will some of our weaker parishes be closed, but even the

stronger ones will find the truth of the proverb,—“There is that withholdeth more than is meet, and it tendeth to poverty.”

Our brother's phrase, “pap-fed,” is a homely but suggestive one. In Georgeville, when the garrison was removed to Halifax and the parishioners were called upon to eke out the S. P. G. allowance to their Rector's salary, now no longer to be assisted by the Government grant to him as garrison chaplain, a retired militia colonel being called upon for a subscription indignantly refused, with the exclamation, “We might as well be Dissenters at once!” Even at this time Dissent was obliged to be self supporting, as it has been ever since, with the comfort of the other proverb, “There is that scattereth and yet increaseth.”

It was well that all Churchmen were not like the gallant militia colonel. It is well that the Church of England inherits her share of our Lord's promise,—“The gates of hell shall not prevail against her,” for notwithstanding the parsimony of too many of her children amidst the abundant natural resources of their young country, there were others who stood by with their contributions to maintain the ministrations of their Church, with the help of the Societies for the Propagation of the Gospel, and the Promotion of Christian Knowledge. Thus were our parishes kept alive, and our colleges and schools partially endowed, so that