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Ecclesiastical Intelligence.

ENGLAND.

SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

67, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Tuesday, Jan. 2nd, 1855.

The Rev. W. Short in the chair.

The undermentioned members of the society were proposed by the Standing Committee for election on the 6th of February, as the Committee of General Literature and Education for the year ensuing.

Very Rev. the Dean of Chichester.	Rev. George Currey.
John Leicester Adolphus, Esq.	Rev. Thomas Dale.
Ven. Archdeacon Allen.	Rev. T. G. Hall.
Thomas Bell, Esq.	Rev. Dr. Hesse.
Rev. R. W. Browne.	Rev. W. G. Humphry
Rev. F. C. Cook	Rev. J. G. Lonsdale.
	John Dixon Powles Esq.
	Dr. Thomas Watson.

The following statement, in the form of an appeal for additional subscriptions and benefactions in aid of the society's funds, was laid, by direction of the standing committee, before the meeting:

"30th December, 1854.

"The treasurers think it their duty to lay before the standing committee, for the information of the society at large, the present state of the finances of the society.

"The very great demands made on the resources of the society, by the increase of the home population and the progress of education, as well as by the extension, during the last twenty years, of the Colonial Church, have induced the society to make very liberal grants, which have greatly reduced the funds which had been placed at the disposal of the society by the bequests and donations of former benefactors. After providing for the grants already made, less than £2000 now remain available for this purpose.

"During the twenty years subsequent to the audit of 1834, when these funds amounted to £131,482, the society has expended the following sums:

"By loss on publications	£228,812
In building churches in the colonies.....	89,339
Ditto, colleges, ditto	40,220
In aid of founding colonial bishoprics.....	27,000
In educational purposes at home.....	31,980
In grants of books, chiefly for home purposes.....	62,231
	<u>£479,585</u>

"After expending the whole of the annual revenue from subscriptions, donations, and legacies, in the manner mentioned above, and in the increase of the number and value of the publications, the reserve fund has been reduced

"The loss on the publications of the society now amounting to about £10,000 per annum, arises almost entirely from the sale of Bibles and Prayer Books at members' prices. No loss accrues to the society from the publication of illustrated works or from the sale of books upon the Supplemental Catalogue."

to the sum of £17,302 7s. 6d., 3½ per cent. Stock, which is chargeable with liabilities amounting to nearly £16,000, leaving less than £2000 available for the purposes of the society. It is therefore manifest, that unless the resources of the society can be largely increased, a great diminution must be made in the grants annually voted by the board, and the usefulness of the society proportionally reduced.

"WILLIAM COTTON,
"EDWARD HAWKINS, } Treasurers."
"WILLIAM SHORT,
"EDWARD WIGRAM, }

"The standing committee beg leave to call the attention of the members of the society, and of all who are desirous of promoting the spiritual interests of our vast home population, of the heathen, and of the colonies, to the foregoing report of the treasurers, confidently hoping that, when the real state of the society's funds is made known, extensive and effectual aid will be forthcoming.

"The attention and the exertions of the society for many years past have been especially directed, not only to the dissemination of Bibles and Common Prayer Books in English and in foreign languages, and the publication of cheap religious books and tracts for parochial and educational purposes, but also to the giving of assistance towards the erection of churches, colleges, and schools, and the endowment of bishoprics in our extensive colonies.

"In the prosecution of these urgent and most important objects, the funds of the society have been, as it will be seen, nearly exhausted. An appeal is now earnestly made for increased assistance; and while it is not wished to diminish the contributions to other Church institutions, the standing committee would remind their friends, that the increased exertions of these institutions tend to multiply the demands made upon the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, the most ancient of all the societies in connexion with the Church.

"By direction of the committee,

"T. B. MURRAY,
"JOHN EVANS, } Secretaries."
"J. D. GLENNIE, }

It was moved by the Rev. S. Smith, "That the treasurers and finance committee be requested to take such steps as may seem to them most desirable for a systematic visitation of the district committees and depositories of this society, and for the organization of new district committees and parochial associations."

This was seconded by the Rev. H. Clissold, and carried unanimously.

The Lord Bishop of Cape Town, in a letter dated Bishop's Court, October 10, 1854, thanked the society for its grant towards the formation of a parish library, and also for the intimation that the society would contribute towards the expense of the publication of tracts in Dutch for use amongst the Hottentots.

The Bishop further expressed his obligation for the committee's assurance that the lapsed grants would be re-voted. "At present," the Bishop said, "I would apply for the renewal of the King William's Town and Uitenhage grants

(£100 each), and for that portion of my grant of 1847 which has been cancelled, amounting to £367 Gs. I am expecting to be drawn upon every day for the King William's Town grant, as the church is roofed in, and I have promised that they shall have it immediately. The Uitenhage Church will, I believe, be begun immediately, as the archdeacon has been appointed to reside there.

"The whole of the society's general grant to me has been pledged, but I have omitted to draw for it, because the conditions upon which I promised it have not been complied with. I think that not less than £200 of this will be called for during the next few months.

"The Bishop of Graham's Town arrived on the 29th of September, with a party of sixteen. They sailed for Port Elizabeth on Saturday, after spending a week with me. He is much better than when he left England, though still far from well. Most of his men are for the Kafir Mission. Constant anxiety and uncertainty about funds for the support of the work add greatly to the burden of his work."

It was agreed that the lapsed grants, amounting to £200, be renewed.

A letter was read from Archdeacon Abraham, dated St. John's College, Auckland, New Zealand, July 13, 1854, thanking the society for several grants of books which had been made on his application; and also for the society's liberal contribution towards the stone church at St. Matthew's, Auckland. The archdeacon said:

"I shall soon hope to forward you a small additional sum for the Maori Prayer Books, and with it the money for the 250 small English Prayer Books I ordered. I hope that it will appear on the society's accounts that the £100 I have sent for the Maori Prayer Books was actually received from the natives themselves. Most of the English Prayer Books that you kindly sent me will, as a grant, go to the half-castes and school-children that cannot afford to buy them. The sale of the rest will pay all expenses of freight, and enable us to sell the rest at the cost price."

The Lord Bishop of Victoria, in a letter dated Hongkong, September 8 1854, said:

"I add a few lines to explain the Chinese book sent to you by this mail. It is the Church 'Morning and Evening Prayer,' just published in connexion with, and with the funds, of our St. Paul's College Mission at Hong Kong. I am printing 5000 copies. Yesterday I despatched 100 copies to Lou-choo; and to-day I send a few hundred copies, probably 500, to Melbourne, at the bishop's request. I believe it is the best version into Chinese of our Liturgy ever printed; being the work of Dr. Medhurst, of Shanghai, the most eminent living Chinese scholar."

A letter was read from the Lord Bishop of Melbourne, dated Bishopscourt, Melbourne, September 28, 1854. The following are extracts:—

"Your society will have been anxious to hear the result of my proceedings in iron churches, but I have had nothing satisfactory to report upon them. Now, however, I am happy to say, the church and parsonage, for the purchase of