

cult to fix the attention of Catholics, who are applied to on all sides, upon necessities that belong not to their localities, except by striking facts, that ought to be repeatedly set before them. Now, it is manifest to any one who reflects upon the statements in the Directory that the income from several of the missions in the Welch District is only about on a par with the wages of the lowest order of labourers. Thus, the missionary of Merthyr Tidvil, after subtracting his rents for his miserable chapel and cottage, and his contribution towards the education of several of the most destitute children of his congregation, retains for his taxes, clothes, food, and other wants, a weekly average of less than 13s! The missionary at Cardiff (if deduction be made for what he owes for ground-rent and interest of money borrowed for the erection of his house from the highest amount of his weekly receipts, viz. 22s.) will be found to have for taxes, clothes, food, &c., no more per week than 12s! Whilst the missionaries at Pontypool, if the lowest conceivable sum for decent lodgings be deducted from his pittance of less than 12s per week, can have for clothes, food, &c., less than a weekly income of 6s! The mission at Haverfordwest, after expences for chapels, education of poor children, and lodging are deducted, produces for the support and clothing of the missionary absolutely nothing!!! At Newtown, in Montgomeryshire, the mission cannot supply more than about £16 per annum! The Rev Dr Balducci, for so many years one of the most laborious missionaries at Lincoln's Inn-fields Chapel, if the expences of house rent, taxes, and other indisputable outgoings necessary at his important mission, be deducted from the £100 set down in the Directory, does not, according to a statement I have received upon very high authority, retain for board of himself and servant, for clothing, for charitable applications, which are frequent and urgent at the mission of Newport, and for other various wants, more than about 23s per week. Such is the pittance of some of our priests, ministers of the Most High God, in the dispensations of his mysteries and mercies to men, in several of the missions of the Welch vicariate. I am assured that there are others not brought so distinctly before the public, whose necessities are almost as great as the preceding. Alas! how many servants of God are wanting almost the necessaries of life, whilst large sums are being squandered for which a severe account must be given. Add to all this that the Bishop was appointed to so wretched a district, without any funds whatever for his own support, or applicable to the relief of any of his distressed clergy; that for these and all other claims upon him; for aiding education of the poor, for building and repairing chapels (which are so grievously wanted), and for the education of missionaries, he is dependent almost entirely upon uncertain charity." It can scarcely be necessary to add anything to this explicit, yet eloquent detail of his lordship—it must surely appeal powerfully and effectually to Catholic hearts, and

induce a contribution not only from the coffers of the rich and wealthy, but also a modicum of pecuniary help from every one in proportion to his abilities. And now to proceed with the statistical account referred to at the commencement of this article. The population of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire, according to the Catholic Directory, is 248,233. Catholics, 3,694; nine chapels; seven mission houses; and two school houses. The percentage of Catholics to the total of population is confessedly small, and the chapels, mission houses, and schools, in a fearful minority. Sufficiently so, indeed, to create feelings of religious alarm in the bosoms of those who are concerned for the spiritual welfare of their neighbour, and who value the inestimable blessings of eternal truth beyond every sublunary consideration. The population of South Wales, according to the same accredited authority, is 515,283. Catholics, 2,473; three chapels; two mission houses; no school house. This, again, is a deplorable picture to contemplate. The Catholic soul, that can appreciate the incalculable advantages resulting from a religious and sound moral education, must deeply lament the gulphs which irreligion has formed in the Principality; and pray without ceasing that the tender mercies of the Lord may be directed to this portion of his sweet inheritance, in which are innumerable souls, precious in his eyes, who are hungering and thirsting for the waters of life; for that celestial aliment which alone can sustain their souls in this their mental pilgrimage.

The following, extracted from the Catholic Directory, 1845, page 65, is especially deserving of notice, as shewing the financial condition of some of our pious missionaries, whose labours to gain souls to Christ, and a knowledge of his truth, are unceasing. "On one occasion the good Bishop of the vicariate, the Right Rev Dr T. J. Brown, arriving at Cardiff on a Monday, found the present incumbent having only eighteen-pence. On this miserable pittance he purposed supporting himself during the current week, providing as much broth and bread as it would procure, and trusting to a share in the potatoes of some of his needy congregation, as the missionaries of the Welch Vicariate are earnestly charged to avoid contracting debts."

Now, what Catholic would not make extraordinary exertions to improve the worldly condition of this poor missionary, whose mental and physical abilities may be said to be in constant operation for the behoof of those whom the Almighty has committed to his spiritual care. Here is a field in which for Catholic sympathy and wealth to exercise themselves in ameliorating the condition of one for whom religion pleads with zeal and earnestness. In North Wales the population is stated to be 396,520. Catholics, 600; four chapels; two mission houses; and one school-house. This assuredly is anything but cheering to those who are anxious to see the blessings of the Catholic faith scattered throughout the lengths