

Your committee do not desire that the changes they propose should take effect until after the General Annual Meeting in June, or until the 1st July next. After this period the salary of your esteemed Secretary, according to the intended new arrangements, would be £160 per annum less than the stipend he had hitherto enjoyed; and it is strongly recommended by your committee that to diminish the hardship of his position and to relieve him as far as possible from the serious inconvenience to which in consequence of this reduction, he would be exposed, there be allowed, in his special case, the sum of £75 per annum additional,—or one half the amount of his annual loss,—during the time in which he may hold the office of secretary.

*Article XI.—Quarterly instead of Monthly General Meetings.*

From a belief that a more general attendance, especially of country members, would be secured at general meetings of the Society, if such meetings were of less frequent occurrence, your committee recommend that, in future, these should be held quarterly instead of monthly; and that the second Wednesdays in February, May, August, and November be the times fixed for such general meetings. This alteration, however, is not meant to affect the time of holding the Public Annual meeting in June, as heretofore.

*Article XIV.—Standing Committee.*

Your committee recommend that the following should be substituted for Article XIV. of the constitution: "That there shall be a standing committee (five of whom shall be a quorum) to prepare the business for the quarterly meetings of the Society.

"That the President, Archdeacons, Rural Deans and Secretary be *ex officio* members of the standing committee; and that the committee shall further consist of ten members, to be elected by the society at its annual meeting from its incorporated members; and also of a clerical and lay member from each of the several district associations in connexion with the Parent Society, to be elected annually by each of such district associations.

"That the standing committee shall meet at 11 o'clock on the days immediately preceding the quarterly or special meetings of the society, and at such other times as the said committee may deem expedient."

In suggesting this alteration, your committee have had in view first, the hope that the standing committee would thus be rendered a more compact and therefore a more interested body, and secondly that better opportunity would be given for the services of country members in its behalf. It would, they think, be wisely left to the discretion of the society to make their selection from the whole body of incorporated members, and not restrict their choice to the neighbourhood of this city. This, with the existing provision that the district associations may annually elect two members, would be calculated to throw a fitting share of its administrative work into the hands of the supporters of the society at large.

To include the whole of the Vice-Presidents as members of the standing committee, would be, they thought, to render it too cumbersome, or to assign as matter of compliment what should only be delegated in expectation of actual discharge of the required duties.

The change from monthly to quarterly meetings, is likely to ensure a larger attendance of members; and the appointing the meetings of the standing committee for the days just previous to the quarterly general meetings, would be to afford a double inducement for the attendance of members at those periods.

*Article XVII.—Preparing Annual Report.*

Your committee recommend a slight change in

Article XVII of the constitution; suggesting that after the words in the second and third lines, "prepare the annual report of the Society, the following be added, "in connexion with the standing committee." This is designed to ensure the co-operation and sanction of this body in so important a document as the annual report, and not leave the whole responsibility to the secretary.—They also suggest the omission of all that follows in this article,—as the appointment of deputations is a contingency which would be better left in the hands of the president, and not embodied in a special rule; while the detail of duties devolving on the secretary might better emanate from time to time, as circumstances should dictate, from the president and standing committee.

*Article XVIII.—District Associations.*

Much discussion was had upon that portion of the 18th article of the constitution of the Society, which refers to the expenditure of three fourths of the funds, raised in parishes or districts, to local objects within the same. Your committee are of opinion that it would be unwise to make any alteration in this rule, which would have the effect of compelling district associations to transmit the whole of their collections to the funds of the parent society. While such an enactment would, in all probability, materially diminish the annual amount of local contributions, it might be found to destroy the opportunity of carrying out many objects in strict connexion with the purposes of the society which the parent institution itself might be unable to reach. It would be well, they conceive, to leave to district associations the incentive to local missionary exertions, and other objects in connexion with the general interests of the church, which the privilege of using their own funds for such purpose would be so likely to create.

At the same time, to restrict as closely as possible the application of such funds to purposes specially designated by the society in its constitution, they would recommend the strictest adherence to the rule of the society, that all parochial collections should be paid into the hands of the district treasurer, and that no allotment of them for any purpose should be made, except at a regular meeting of the central board of the district association. The further to exclude the possibility of any wrong or inconsistent appropriation of parochial funds, it is recommended that the words "within the parish or," in the 6th line of the fourth clause be struck out. Though this would not exclude the employment of a portion of such reserved funds in individual parishes, it would shew that the appropriation was for a more general purpose, and at all events could not be made by any authorities within the parish.

*Article XIX.—The Four Annual Collections in Churches.*

As some misunderstanding appears to exist in regard to the term "stations" in this Article, and there is consequently a possibility that Clergymen may expose themselves to the penalty expressed in Article xx., in undesignedly failing to comply with all the provisions and requirements of the Society, your Committee would recommend that the words "in the several Churches, Chapels, and Stations" be struck out, and the following substituted,— "in every Church, Chapel or Station, in which an established Sunday Service is performed; provided that, in the case of Stations where Sunday Service cannot be performed more than once in a month, it shall be discretionary with the Clergyman serving such stations to omit the said collections if he shall think proper.

*The Mission Fund.*

In regard to the four collections to be made annually in aid of the funds of the Society, your Committee recommend that the collections now

applied to the General Purpose's Fund, be appropriated as was formerly the case, to the *Mission Fund*: thus causing two of the Annual Collections to be employed for this most important branch of the operations of the Society. It would still be discretionary with the Lord Bishop, to propose any further collection when a special need should arise in connexion with the interests of the Church generally, or of the Society in particular.

*Board of Missions.*

It is to assure to the Society the strongest sympathy and the most liberal support of Churchmen generally, that your Committee are desirous of investing it as much as possible with a missionary aspect. Unless it be observed that the propagation of the Gospel and the ordinances of the Church, on some marked and extensive scale, is the attainment as well as the aim of the Society, it is to be feared that it will rapidly lose favour in the public eye. To behold it as the holder simply of a few trusts, which individuals might be found to manage at little or no cost, is not the position into which the friends of the Society, nor the lovers of the Church, should allow it to sink. To give, therefore, the greatest possible expansion to their department of its work,—to embrace all interests and all energies within the Church in its behalf, to concentrate the resources and the efforts of all Church action in the Diocese upon the missionary cause; your committee venture to recommend the establishment of a special board, to be called the board of missions, for this purpose,—this board to be composed of six clergymen and six laymen; one half of each to be chosen by the church society at their annual meeting in June, and the other half to be appointed annually, or for a longer period if they may desire it, by the Synod. Your committee, in making this proposition, have had a special reference to the fact that already the Synod have undertaken a separate, and it may be termed an independent action in respect to missionary work. They have inaugurated a sustentation fund, which is strictly missionary in its purposes; and the administration of this fund is separate from any control or participation of the society. It would, in the judgment of your committee, be prudent and advantageous, if the synod and the society could unite in their action in advancing the missionary cause, and not risk the collisions or the jealousies as well as the practical inconveniences and injuries of a divided labour; and to effect this good purpose, they have proposed a means by which the widest action is left open to the members of the church, and yet the concentration of this action under one administration. If it has been thought expedient to establish a land committee, for a special work of the church society, there will be nothing at variance with the organization or purposes of the society in the proposition for the establishment of a board of missions, to be composed in the manner suggested, for the administration of all funds for missionary purposes received under the authority of the society and of the synod.

*Exhibitions in Trinity College.*

Your committee strongly recommend the addition of the following By-Law to the article of the constitution referring to the four annual collections:

"That the funds annually raised in aid of Theological students be converted into *Exhibitions* for the same in the University of Trinity College: that it shall be permitted to the several district associations of the church society, through their central board, to nominate annually, or at such intervals as they may be able, one or more persons to be holders of such exhibitions: Provided that they remit annually to the society, during the prescribed college course, a sum which, including the amount of collections in churches, chapels, and stations for this object within the said