

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twenty-Second Annual General Meeting of this Society was held on Wednesday evening, the 24th January, 1866, in Saint Paul's School-room, and was largely and respectably attended.

The chair was taken by His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor, Patron of the Society, at 7½ o'clock.

The 113th Hymn was then sung, after which the appointed prayers were offered up by the Archdeacon.

His Excellency then addressed the Meeting to the following effect:—

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—I scarcely expected when a year ago I presided at the Annual Meeting of the Diocesan Church Society, that I should again occupy this Chair. But I rejoice that it is so, and that after a short absence I have resumed in the Island those duties which have been entrusted to me for upwards of six years—years during which I am proud to think that I have won at the hands of very many whose friendship I value, a regard and esteem which were so gracefully expressed at my departure, and which, I trust, are continued to me on my return.

The Report of the Society, which the Secretary will shortly read to you, details a very satisfactory narrative of all matters nearly connected with the Association.

With great propriety, the Committee who compiled the Report, invite us to expressions of gratitude for the general prosperity, which has, since we last assembled here, blessed this Island. Each year the steady advance is becoming more apparent, and while the means increase to the people of this Colony of adding to their comforts and their enjoyments, let us hope that none will fail to recognize the Hand which scatters these blessings so bountifully among them.

The activity and energy of our Missionaries in the various parishes of the Island have been rewarded by the completion of several new Churches, these, I understand, in commodious arrangement and in tasteful finish, reflect the utmost credit on those who designed them, and on those whose untiring zeal completed their construction.

I am not unmindful of the difficulty of collecting the funds requisite to build a Church; though, at the same time, I can-