

renders them incapable of long and continuous exertion. They might well suppose, that the small pittance granted to them, (and it is small in every instance,) would be gratefully continued, rather than parsimoniously cut down, and that the sharp edge of reduction would not be turned on the weakness of their few declining years.

Much of this is no doubt owing to the persevering efforts of a few zealous members of the Committee, bent on withdrawing all aid to the North American Colonies, at all hazards, and aided in this resolve by the profound ignorance which everywhere prevails among educated Englishmen of our place, our usefulness, our feelings, and our interests; and by the conviction entertained by many at home that it is necessary, as they more pithily than compassionately express it, to turn the screw on, and to screw us hard, or we shall do nothing for ourselves.

Considering that during the time I have presided over you, the number of clergy has increased twofold, the contributions to the Church Society sixfold, and the contributions of the laity to the support of the clergy and other Church objects have also largely increased, whilst in almost every town the Society at home has withdrawn its assistance, and the provincial laity have taken the burden on themselves, it cannot be said with justice that we have done nothing to help ourselves. That we have done all that it is our duty to do, or that there are no supine and inactive members among us, I am very far from affirming. But this I may without fear of contradiction assert, that in the endowed Church of England, there are few parishes which so much require the assistance either of an endowment, or of benevolent Christians not residing in the parish, as the scattered country missions in New Brunswick.

The great question, however, now before us, as it is before all men in daily life, is, what is to be done? And how shall we best prepare ourselves to meet the difficulty? The clergy may be divided into four classes.

1. Those who receive no support whatever from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, or who receive it in the parishes which might exert themselves to relieve the Society at once from the contribution. In some of these parishes the laity have as great a burden laid upon them as they can discharge for the maintenance of their own clergy, and we cannot reasonably look to them to help us. In a very few, where the endowments are considerable, we naturally and reasonably hope both for assistance and advice in the present emergency.

2. The second class of clergy consists of six only, who were ordained and taken into the Society's list before the year 1833. These clergy, according to the terms now offered by the Society, are entitled to a salary of £150 stg. per annum, to a retiring pension of £100 stg. for life, on their obtaining a certificate of approval from the Bishop, and to a pension of £50 stg. per annum for their widows, should they leave widows surviving. They were, with few exceptions, ordained upon the Society's title, in which these terms were distinctly set out.

It would be a shameful breach of faith if these terms were not com-