

our larger towns these instances are doubtless more numerous; but anything over and above what meets their necessary wants the generality have not; money is so rare that many months pass with many of them without seeing such a thing.

How, then, is such a population to endow the Church? to make up a deficiency of fifty, sixty, seventy-five or a hundred pounds a year in a clergyman's income? The thing is impossible. Their wealthier brethren, in the great centre of our trade and commerce *must*

help them if the thing is to be done at all.

I have been almost insensibly led away from my original purpose into these remarks. But to return, would not the printing of such annals as I purpose corae within the design of our magazine? Might not contributions towards them come from the resident clergy? and in time a body of our early Church history be formed which those who come after us will read with probably greater interest than ourselves. Q.

### CHURCH NEEDLEWORK.

**W**E are sure that it is at all times a great pleasure for our readers to hear of any exertions, however humble, which have for their object the adornment of the House of God. Not that any one supposes religion to consist in this; or that those who give up their time and labour to such works hope by these means to win for themselves a place in heaven (as some slanderously affirm.) Those who devote their time and skill to such works would be the last persons in the world to believe anything so absurd. Indeed, such a foolish notion could never be imputed except by that little narrow puritanism which is now, we are thankful to say, in a fair way to be extinguished.

It is necessary to say these few deprecatory words as we cannot forget the storm of derision and obloquy which burst over the diocese about two years ago, when it was discovered that certain ladies had formed themselves into a society, whose object was to make decent and necessary things for the service of God. Stoles, surplices, cassocks, hoods; altar linen, altar cloths, pede cloths; carpets, alms bags, and embroidery in general. What a sensation the very mention of these things made! Dirt, neglect, slovenliness in the House of God, might go on for years, and not a voice be raised against it. There might be no "decent carpet of silk" to cover the altar, a black bottle might appear near the table; that which ought to have been a "fair linen cloth" might have to be borrowed from the nearest house; nay, (alas! that it should be so!) a common plate and glass might even have to be used in the celebration of

the Holy Mysteries! and no one seemed to care; perhaps no one did care, except the lonely priest in his out-of-the-world mission, whose poverty alone hindered him from supplying that "lack of service" which ought to have been rendered by the rich. Well, it was to remedy this state of things, as far as they could, that a few ladies in Fredericton formed themselves into the Church Needlework Society, determining to devote both money and time and labour to this object.

Of course, it was not to be expected that any attempt in this direction could be made without meeting some opposition. And so correspondents wrote angry letters, the editors of so-called religious newspapers kindly lent their aid to swell the storm of unkindness and misrepresentation, and even the great ecclesiastical Jupiter itself thundered forth its "*ipsissima verba*," causing the echoes of the mighty Atlantic to awake in terror! But after a while the storm subsided; and the result has been that the wicked ladies of the Church Needlework Society have had quite as many calls for their work as they have been able to answer. Clergymen have actually been found so benighted as to prefer decent covers for the altars of their churches, rather than see them old and neglected, nay, they have gone so far as to wish their own ministerial dress to be what the Church orders, and have had the boldness to use surplices, stoles, and hoods which have been made by the hands of the members of the Church Needlework Society. We congratulate the Society upon this result; and especially thank the editors of those religious