

## P R E F A C E . .

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In any future history of the Anglican Church, no unimportant chapter will be that in which its rise and progress in the Colonies of England is described ; and as the chief agent in promoting this good work, "the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel" will merit special acknowledgment and commendation. The earliest labours of that Society were connected with this Continent ; and though interrupted in the United States by the political revolution which separated them from the mother country, yet some of the good seed sown there, before that event took place, has produced fruit ; while in these Provinces, for the greater part of a century, down to the present time, the Society has never failed to act as the careful and beneficent nursing-mother of the Church and all her institutions. For a long period, the Clergy who officiated in Canada were, in the strictest sense, Missionaries of that Society : they were selected and sent out from England, reported all their proceedings directly to the Secretary, and drew their stipends from the Treasurer in London. And even after the appointment of one or more Bishops, the actual position of the Church here was for many years practically but little altered, though its administration was in some respects more regular and effective. Presided over by a Bishop, resident within the Colony, who could confirm the baptized, ordain the Clergy, and consecrate the Churches,—still the Clergy were only so many isolated individual missionaries, and continued to be largely dependent for their stipends on the grants of money made by the Society in London. There