

tion of the people of Melbourne to maintain their clergyman in future without extraneous aid.

The whole sum for which the missions—then 25 in number—were assessed in 1868, was \$4,106. The total assessment for the year 1872, levied upon the same missions, is \$6,412,—an increase of \$2,326, or 54 per cent in four years. It is, however, to be regretted that an accumulation of arrears, amounting to \$1,576, are now chargeable against the various missions of the Diocese.

That under the peculiar circumstances of this Diocese, so large an increase in the local contributions has been made within that period, is matter for congratulation, and should be interpreted as a most favorable augury for the future.

When we know, too, that one mission, (Compton,) has raised its assessment at once from \$200 to \$500, that we have one mission contributing \$550, another \$450, and another \$400, whilst there are many others who, within a few years, have more than doubled their assessments, we may reasonably expect the time to be approaching when each year will diminish the list of old missions now receiving aid from the Board.

It is also a subject of satisfaction that within the last four years seven missions, not previously in connection with the Board, have been indebted to it for the ministrations of the Church. There were nine in all, but the missions of Stanstead and Hereford—two of those most recently placed on the list—not being able to see their way for the present to accept the terms upon which your Board could consent to continue its assistance, are not now of the number.

It will be readily believed that the strongest desire of the Diocesan Board, as the agents of a missionary society, is to extend the ministrations of the Gospel into new and promising fields, and that it is with the utmost reluctance that any applications for aid are weighed in the cold balance of prudence. But notwithstanding the increased assessments for 1872, and the undiminished grant of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the financial position of your Board is such,—as will be seen from the estimate appended,—that the very greatest care must, for the future, be exercised before increasing its obligations.

The Society for the Propagation of the Gospel makes no grant to this Diocese (which is the general rule) for more than one year at a time, and that grant we are explicitly told, depends upon its resources received, not during the year in which the grant is paid, not even in the year in which the grant is voted, but on its resources received the year