

## THE SUPPLY OF CHURCH BOOKS.

**W**HEN a young couple first set up housekeeping they have many things to learn. Duties spring from circumstances; and a state of independence, whilst it has its pleasures, has also its responsibilities, not, perhaps anticipated under the parental roof.

As it is with a family, so it is with a Church. Our Church is now emerging from her tutelage and assuming the responsibilities proper to her age and station,—and year by year, nay, we trust, day by day, we shall more and more perceive the various Christian duties which, until very recently, were performed for us by others, and by God's grace undertake them for ourselves. We shall thus find our attention called to various matters which in this country have long been undertaken by the Dissenting bodies around us, but which hitherto we have left to be performed for us by our more thoughtful brethren in the mother country.

And yet, of some of these matters Churchmen in the colonies have not been entirely neglectful. The love of God will not be hidden. It invariably arouses its happy possessor to a sense of duty and exertion. He may mistake as to the most desirable method of performing these duties, but he will not willingly neglect them.

Thus, for example, it is the earnest desire of all sincere and enlightened Christians that the knowledge of God should be extended. "That the soul be without knowledge, it is not good." Some by a mistaken care for the ignorant, may limit the circulation of God's Word, contradict it by their own traditions. Others may set it at naught and contradict it by the opposition of false deductions from infant sciences. But our Church has never shunned to declare to the world the whole counsel of God, and not only furnished the present English translation of His Word to others as well as her own children, but, by the means of her great societies in the mother country, scatters about in a vast variety of languages the word of life, and with it the living voice of her ministers for its proper explanation.

The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge is the Bible Society of the Church of England,—and no one hav-

ing looked into the constitution of this old Society straightway desireth new, for he saith the old is better. It was established A. D. 1698,—long before any other Bible Society now in operation was thought of. Its care for correct printing and durable binding of the Bible and Prayer-book is most scrupulous, as by one of its rules all bibles or prayer-books of its issue can be returned if found defective in binding,—and the correctness of its typography has never been surpassed. None of its stereotype plates have ever been tampered with and afterwards withdrawn on account of the consequent clamour, which is more than can be said of one Bible Society on this side of the Atlantic. Never, as in the case of another in the old country, has Unitarian influence been able to repress the voice of prayer in the meetings of this old Society, for from the first it has upheld the Name of Jesus as that Name by which alone we can be saved. Its seal exhibits the Cross of Christ in the band of Faith, and of this Cross it has never been ashamed. No book or tract bearing the impress of this old and well known seal will unsettle the faith or disturb the peace of the humble and teachable parishioner, or shake his love for the Church of England.

The publications of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge, including Bibles, Prayer-books, religious tracts and other works of sound instruction, as well as educational works, now exceed the number of seven millions annually. These reach the eye of Christians of every name, and by means of accurate and expensive translations are perused by Christians and heathen in all lands. Nothing but the final great spiritual harvest will show the fruit of all this sowing.

Thus it is, however, that the Holy Scriptures as well as other religious books are supplied to us at prices so moderate as to show that although we may not be assisting in so good a work, others by their subscriptions are making up our lack of service and paying the deficiency between the selling price and actual cost of our bibles and books of devotion. This ought not to be so. "Owe no man anything but to love one another" saith the Scripture,—from which we may venture to infer that