

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1854.

In consequence of the alteration which took place last year, in the period at which the Church Society usually held its Annual Meeting, the Report which was presented by the Central Board on the 11th January 1854, embraced a term of six months only. To-day the Board appears before your Society to account for its Stewardship during the past year, and would commence this pleasing duty by recording its humble but hearty thanks for the encouraging measure of success with which it has pleased Almighty God to bless its labors.

In the spring of the past year, when the prices of provisions and fuel had risen to such a height as to cause distress and alarm amongst those who had to subsist upon small fixed incomes, your Board came to a resolution that all Clergymen in the Diocese, who receive £125 per annum or less, should be paid a gratuity of £12 10s. each for the purpose of assisting them to that extent, in bearing the additional expense to which they had been subjected during the year, in consequence of the advanced prices of the necessaries of life.

This small grant, your Board has reason to know, afforded seasonable relief to many a self-denying sufferer, and it would indeed be matter of much gratification, could your Board entertain the hope that the Revenue of the Society would enable it permanently to augment the incomes of the poorer Clergy, instead of only relieving them by a casual gift.

That some great effort must at once be made by the Laity for the maintenance of the Clergy is evident to every one who considers the altered circumstances in which the Church in this Province is now placed.

The votaries of the voluntary system have been victorious in the Legislature. The Reserves of Land which the piety of a religious King and Parliament, had set aside for the maintenance of a Protestant Clergy, having