

to the Society at home be necessary or desirable at this time, that there are advantages which cannot be overlooked in having the whole sum placed at our disposal; because in the case of deaths, the Church here will be better able to decide how the money shall be employed; and should any death occur during the next three years, we shall so far obtain a temporary advantage to the fund from it.

3. At the same time, it is only fair to ourselves that I should publicly state, what you no doubt must all see to be the disadvantages to the missionaries, of such a scheme.

I have no doubt that every missionary in the province paid in whole, or in part, by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, feels his security somewhat impaired by so great, and, as some may think, undesirable a change in the mode of payment. When the older missionaries, thirty or forty years ago, embarked in the service of the Society, the offer which was made to them was, that on their ordination, and after proceeding to the then Diocese of Nova Scotia, they would receive £200 stg. a year from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, and that the people would be called on to pay £50 a year, and to provide a parsonage house. After some years service, without, as far as I can discover, any fault alleged on the part of the missionaries, this income was reduced 25 per cent. This they regarded, very naturally, as a breach of faith; nor am I able to state on what grounds the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel professed to justify it, unless it be that the Parliamentary grant of £16000 a year had been withdrawn from them. The £16,000 fact is undoubted: and the missionaries submitted to the reduction. But they will, no doubt, feel themselves still more hardly used by the present change; because, though there is no reason to doubt, that, for the next three years, their income will be secured without any very serious reduction, yet, should they live beyond that period, and the Society at home should contemplate another still larger reduction, they may be exposed to great embarrassment.

Be this as it may, it would, no doubt, have seemed more like a business transaction, carried out on principles accepted by all men of probity in their dealings with one another, that the Society at home should have continued to fulfil its engagements to all those missionaries who remained in its service until death, to whom at the time when they entered that service, no hint was given that the offer of salary was limited and temporary. No man, after twenty or more years of faithful labour, likes to be turned adrift, and the responsibility he was led to think would never be denied shifted to other men's shoulders; whilst we freely admit, that, in all cases, where the Society's engagements with a man entering the ministry, was only for five or ten years, it is at perfect liberty to free itself from all advances at the end of the definite time proposed and accepted by both parties to the engagement. This determination of the Society will press with special hardship on those, whose failing health, after many years exposure to a severe climate,