

The process by which the Diocese of Adelaide has reached this desirable consummation is described in the following letter from the Bishop, to which we would only add that, in the year 1815, before the foundation of his bishopric (at which date the Bishop's narrative commences) the Society contributed towards the support of three missionaries in South Australia :—

"The Diocese of ADELAIDE having ceased, at the close of 1865 to require the annual grant from the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel*, 500*l.* which, from the establishment of the see in 1817, had been liberally made towards the support of the clergy, I proceed, in compliance with the wish of the committee, to state the steps and circumstances by which the diocese has been rendered self-supporting.

In 1850 all State aid to religious ordinances was withdrawn, and the ministers of the Church of England were thrown for support upon the liberality of their several congregations, aided by contributions from a general Church Fund, which the South Australian Church Society annually collected, as well as the above-mentioned grant of the S. P. G. It was soon, however, felt that the Bishop, clergy, and laity of the diocese must be brought into closer fellowship and sympathy, if the body of the Church was to make increase of itself by the co-operation of all its members, rather than by the single-handed energy of the Bishop, or of zealous individuals among the clergy and laity. A Conference accordingly was invited, which at length happily resulted in the Synodal compact which binds the Bishop, clergy, and laity to unity with each other, and with the mother Church. Before however, this had been accomplished, a steady and liberal benefactor (Mr. William Allen, to whom we mainly owe the noble building and institution of the Collegiate School of St. Peter's, Adelaide), had left to the Bishop a bequest of 5,000*l.* the interest of which was to be applied in aid of the clergy stipends. Meanwhile, the general finances of the Church had been carefully administered by the Standing Committee of Synod, consisting of clergy and laymen. The Bishop, therefore left to the disposal of this body, not only the Society's annual grant of 500*l.* but the interest of the Allen Bequest, in addition to the general Church Fund raised by annual contributions from the various churches. The result shows the value of the Synodal organization, and the advantage of lay co-operation.

The principle kept steadily in view by the Standing Committee was to give the fullest development to the *voluntary* system; believing it to be a religious duty in every Christian to give of his means for the support of religious ordinances. To this end they adopted a classification of parishes, and by apportioning aid to the number of sittings let and *paid for*, made it the interest of the several congregations to support their minister more liberally by taking additional sittings. With such increase the Synodal Grant increased. Experience had shown that where a *fixed* sum was given little effort was made to increase the minister's stipend. If the minister was paid out of the offertory, every pound so received was supplemented proportionably. This system worked well, but in 1859 a further step was taken, viz, to *endow* the churches. Many of the leading members of our communion agreed to subscribe various amounts for seven years. The proceeds were invested, and the sum total of principal and interest at the close of this period is to be applied by the Synod to the object contemplated. To the fund in 1865 the *Society for the Propagation of the Gospel* gave a handsome donation of 1,000*l.* At the close of the present year the sum total will amount to 10,000*l.*

Another like scheme had for some time been in operation, by assisting parishes to endow their cures to the extent, in the first instance, of 40*l.* per annum. A capital sum 500*l.* is placed in the hands of trustees, to be invested in land for the benefit of each parish which subscribes its quota of 200*l.*, the rest being made up from the annual donation of 100*l.* to the Diocese of Adelaide by the Bishop of St. Asaph, the general Church Fund, and property in Adelaide managed by the attorneys of the S. P. G.* In this manner about 6,000*l.* have been invested in parochial endowments. Every year two parishes in turn are invited to avail

* Two town acres, given by individuals at the foundation of the colony, have in the course of thirty years become of considerable value.