

still continued to do whenever he had an opportunity. In this diocese a great deal had been done for church building and church enlargement. Their own society had been established with a liberality certainly not surpassed in any other diocese, and it was still prospering and doing its work. They had great cause to be thankful, but it was important that they should not forget the parent society—the society, in fact, to which their diocesan and other similar associations owed their existence. This was indeed the mother church building society, and those associations which he believed were now established in every diocese of England were its fair daughters. They must not, therefore, forget that parent, and the substantial benefit they had received from her. It was true they had raised in this diocese, by the great liberality of the nobility and the laity generally, several thousand pounds, and they had made munificent grants to their churches—he said munificent because they had repeatedly given a thousand pounds to a single church. Still, however, they could not have done their work without the aid of this the parent society. He might mention, not in the way of vanity, but of thankfulness, that he had been permitted to consecrate 124 churches in the diocese, while a great number of others had been rebuilt and enlarged; and in almost every one of these cases, except where some munificent individual had said, “I will do the work myself,” they had had a large amount of help from this society. Now, many of those diocesan societies of which he had spoken, as they would see if they referred to the report, contributed a part of their annual collection to the parent society. In this diocese, however, nothing of the kind was done. He did not say they had done wrong in expending their own funds upon their own wants, for, according to that very true but much abused proverb, “Charity begins at home;” but now this society, which had given them such large assistance, required help, and if they did not send them a portion of their collections, they were bound to do what they could individually to help them in another way, not only on their own account, but for the general advancement of the Church throughout the kingdom. It appeared to him that they had the highest possible claim upon them—a claim which he almost felt ashamed of not having brought before the diocese earlier. His excuse must be that they had been so much engaged with their own work, among the large and daily-increasing population of the diocese. Now, however, the society came to them and said, “We have helped you largely—we ask you to help us.” He wished, with all his heart, that meeting had been as large again as it was; but when he looked around, and saw the persons of whom it was composed, it might not be large, but, unless he was greatly mistaken, it was an influential meeting. This society had done great service to the country, not only in the actual money it had expended for the purpose of the building of churches, but by being the first institution which had awakened that noble spirit of church-building which now prevailed throughout the land. The population had been increasing, but year after year nothing was done, until it had pleased God to put it into the heart of Mr. Bowdler to raise up this society, and to re-animate throughout the country that noble