

Now it must be remembered that a primary purpose for which the S.P.G. received its Charter was the maintenance of religious ministrations amongst the people in our own Colonies and Dependencies. And the Society has continually professed that the care of Colonists in the early days of new settlements was its first and in some respects its most important duty. And that it is so missionaries to the heathen even have not infrequently borne emphatic witness. But now such work receives considerably less than one-quarter of the amount entrusted to the S.P.G., and even that amount is being rapidly decreased. No purely Colonial Diocese has, I believe I am right in saying, received any increase of Block Grant, *i.e.*, for general work, for several years. Is it because there is no more need in new growing settlements? Because emigration to new districts has ceased? No one who really knows anything of our Colonies could venture to say this, most certainly it is not the case in North-west Canada. To take the Diocese of Qu'Appelle as an example. The Bishop said last year to the Executive Committee: "Many appeals were being sent in from various places asking me to place a Clergyman, or even a Lay Reader, in charge in order that the Church people might be ministered to, and kept from drifting away, but in no case could the requests be entertained, while on the contrary, as there was a threatened actual deficit of some £100, it was resolved that the Treasurer should make a reduction in all Grants to cover that sum—notwithstanding that the Grants had been estimated on the lowest scale thought possible." Again, the Bishop has said that the Diocese ought to have an income of at least £2,000 for the work that ought to be done in it if the Church was to hold her own and do her duty to the scattered population. (The Bishop wrote in December last year: "If we cannot keep pace with the progress of the country by placing men wherever they are needed the future loss to the Church will be very great." And in a letter written in April this year he says: "What will happen next year it is quite impossible to foresee; but I am very anxious about the financial outlook. We may have to give up some of our work or rather God's work.") Instead of this sum of £2,000 the utmost the Diocese received last year for its general work from all external sources, the S.P.G. Grant, Eastern Canada and our Association, would have been £1,000, and the S.P.G. would seem to think £519 to be sufficient for its needs, for we are constantly told that there ought to be no such things as special funds and Diocesan Associations. Just let us think what that means. There are now twenty-two districts in the Diocese, only four of which are self-supporting, and I do not think that any one who knows the Diocese will venture to say that there ought to be one less district, or that any other place could reasonably be expected to be self-supporting. Well, then, if this £519 was divided between these eighteen districts each clergyman would only get less than £29—which would be utterly absurd. Or if the Clergy received half of the least stipend on which they could well live—and few districts could give more than half—the number of districts would have to be reduced