

done if we are to be true to the call which the Lord is making.

Again, it is our duty, and must continue for sometime to be our duty, to do what we can for the Christian care of immigrants on their way, as well as to supply them with letters of commendation addressed to those who will take an interest in their spiritual welfare. And, finally, it is an imperative duty to give all possible assistance to the bishops and clergy of the colonies in their endeavors to protect the native races from the introduction among them of demoralizing influences, especially the mischief of the trade in intoxicating liquors and noxious drugs.

Our duties to the colonies in all spiritual matters are undeniably heavy. But the great task of evangelizing the human race is largely put upon us, and we cannot shrink from bearing the burden.

### EXCUSES.



**A**KE church-going and store-going. Every morning the man is at his business; nothing keeps him from it but the grip of some disease which will not let him out of the house. He may feel inert, but he goes. He may have a headache, but off he starts, and when he is there how interested he is, how absorbed, how alert, how devoted. That is store-going. And now take the same man, and look at his church-going. What a contrast! "I have a little headache; I do not think I will go to church." "It rains hard, and it is so cold; I will not venture out." "I feel tired; I will stay at home and rest." And often when he goes, how he lolls about and looks around and lets his mind wander. Yes, you say, but one is business to which we must attend; we will lose our place or our money; and the other is—well, what is it? Is it an important thing? Is it not God's business? Is it not a very holy, a very solemn, a very urgent affair? Does not the welfare of the soul depend very much upon it? Can it be neglected with impunity? Think of those words of your Master in Malachi: "A son honoreth his father, and a servant his master; if, then, I be a father, where is mine honor, and if I be a master, where is my fear?"—*Clinton Locke.*

### THE S. P. G.'S GRANTS FOR 1898.

(The Mission Fields.)

**I**T is a subject for thankfulness that the Society has been able, at the annual distribution of its resources, to make provision for several important needs of the Missions.

In consequence of some reductions in certain grants, corresponding sums, amounting

to £1,530, have been applied to the increase of existing block grants—*e. g.*, that to Mashonaland receives £800, and the North China Mission at Tientsin £200. Other new annual grants are, £300 for two new missionaries for Rewarri and Kurnaul in the diocese of Lahore, £80 for an additional member for the Dublin University Brotherhood in Chhota Nagpur, and £150 for the extension of the work in North Borneo and the Straits Settlements.

In addition to what are called "block" grants, about ten thousand pounds have been voted in four pound and twenty pound grants, which are called "single sums."

The long-needed clergy-house for the Mission at Bombay is at last coming into sight. Ground in an eligible position has been secured, and a grant of £1,500 for a house to be erected on it will supply what has long been needed, and will also save the cost of annual rent. Again, in Canada, the system of reducing the annual grants is being continued, but to the five dioceses of Algoma, Rupertsland, Saskatchewan and Calgary, Qu'Appelle, and New Westminster, £1,250 is voted—not as counter balancing the reductions for next year, which only amount to £410 in four of these dioceses, and New Westminster is not reduced at all—but as a kind of parting gift to enable the dioceses to adjust themselves to the change of circumstances caused by the gradual withdrawal of the Society's block grant.

To two of the West Indian dioceses new grants are made. To the Windward Islands in their poverty £700 is given, which is to be spent in four years in helping to maintain clergymen in the most needy districts of the islands. Trinidad is to have £150 a year for three years in response to the Bishop's representation of the need for a missionary for Toco, Trois Roches, and Grand Rivers. America and the West Indies are thus to have £2,400, in addition to £12,222 under the head of annual grants.

We turn now to Africa, and note as the first new grant, one of £50 a year for three years for the Railway Mission in the diocese of Grahamstown, carried on by the Rev. D. Ellison. For St. John's diocese (Kaffraria) there is an addition of £200 a year for four years for the extension of the work. Natal is to have £80 a year for five years for the extension of missions in the Ladysmith district. Zululand gets an additional £150 a year, so that more work may be carried on under native teachers. For developing the work among the Bechuana, £60 a year for five years is voted to the diocese of Bloemfontein, and £116 is assigned from a Special Fund to the endowment of the bishopric of Mashonaland.