

Board, binding it to contribute a certain fixed sum annually, and pay it quarterly into the treasury of the Diocesan Board of the Church Society, which is the sole paymaster of the Missionaries.

This is an advantage so deservedly appreciated by the Clergy that several self-sustaining Parishes have continued their connection with the Board, and, although receiving no aid whatever, have voluntarily agreed to pay to the Board the amount of the Clergyman's stipend and submit to the same regulations which affect aided Missions save only in regard to the appointment of the Clergyman for which provision is made under Canon XIII.

With regard to the third object aimed at I may say that success has been achieved to a remarkable degree. Whilst (1) and (2) present advantages of great moment which it would be difficult to over estimate, it is here that in a special manner the Quebec System is vindicated by its results and has more than justified the most sanguine anticipations ever entertained by its advocates.

To show the progress made in the Diocese during the period of twenty-five years from the inception of the system, I will quote an extract or two from the Report of the Diocesan Board to the Church Society for the year 1887, premising that the Diocese of Quebec, is upon the whole, scarcely—if at all—better off financially than it was in 1862.

"At the time your Board was constituted in 1862, with the exception of Sherbrooke and Three Rivers, there was not a single cure of souls outside of the Parish of Quebec that was self-sustaining"—(in point of fact neither Sherbrooke nor Three Rivers paid all the stipend of its Clergyman.)

"There were 34 Missions, all at the outset receiving aid from the Diocesan Board; and it is fairly computed that prior to 1863, when the present system actually came into force, the total amount supplied by these 34 Missions towards the support of the Clergymen ministering among them did not exceed \$3,000 per annum."

"Of these 34 Missions fourteen have ceased to be a charge upon the Missionary Funds of the Diocese, and are, most of them, helping in the work of God and His Church outside their own boundaries." "In addition to this nine other Missions, not included in the above, are now to be

found on the Diocesan lists, two of which are self-supporting."

Since the year in which the above retrospect was made, solid steady progress has continued to characterize the Missionary work of the Diocese.

The fourth point I have enumerated was not originally aimed at as one of the objects to be attained, but was necessarily evolved out of the relations existing between the Board and the Congregations receiving aid from it. For whilst the Board stands in a responsible position towards the Clergyman, it is no less responsible to the people. Hence when the people indicate their dissatisfaction, whether rightly or wrongly, with the Clergyman, by discontinuing the payment of the stipulated assessment, steps have to be taken to ascertain where the fault lies. Provision for an enquiry is made in Canon IX, and the Board takes such action as is therein directed.

Very seldom indeed however has it occurred that the Board has been compelled to act strictly in accordance with the terms of the Canon. When difficulties have arisen they have, in most cases, been got over either by the resignation of the Clergyman, his removal to another field of labour, or in some other way, as circumstances have permitted. This is the one part of the system to which exception has been taken, but objectors should bear in mind that a Clergyman's position and standing must be far better when protected by such a body as the Diocesan Board, than if he were dependent entirely upon himself in facing difficulties such as sometimes occur between people and Clergyman. If he is doing his duty, he knows he can count upon the Board to do him full justice. If it is established that he is manifestly negligent or inefficient, it is clearly undesirable that he should continue in his charge. Agreements with assisted Missions are usually revised every three years, and at each renewal the Congregations are urged to increase their assessments wherever possible.

As to the details of administration, besides those referred to in regard to the enquiry required by Canon IX and the execution of an agreement with every Congregation, there is but one point to be noticed. Fifteen days after the close of the quarter, the Treasurer forwards to