

The venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts must be put in the foremost rank. For more than a century has it contributed to the support of the Church in Nova Scotia, and even at the present time the sum annually received from it must be nearly equal to that obtained from all the other sources together. Nor must we forget, whilst dwelling on our obligations to this Society, that until a comparatively recent date a large proportion of the Schools throughout the Province were conducted by persons paid from its funds. It is however well known throughout the Diocese that we cannot look for increased assistance from this source. On the contrary, the grant is being gradually diminished, and in a few years it will cease altogether. The reasons for this gradual withdrawal of its aid from Nova Scotia and other parts of British North America is one which must approve itself to our judgments, however hardly it may press upon us at first. The increased demands upon its assistance, owing to the rapid extension of the Colonial Empire in Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere, without any proportional increase in its income, has made it necessary either to diminish the grants to some of the older Colonies, or to refuse to occupy the new fields of labour so obviously set before it. In adopting the former of these alternatives it has been mainly influenced by the persuasion that such countries as Nova Scotia, which have received the benefit of its aid for so many years, ought to be able to support its own ministry. It appeals, as it were, to our honour, and urges us, by a sense of gratitude, as well as of duty; to relieve it of the burden it has so long borne on our behalf, in order that it may help other countries in greater need of its assistance. We cannot better show our gratitude for past favours than by heartily responding to the appeal, and, though we cannot but be sensible that we shall experience considerable difficulty at the outset, we may be cheered in the effort by the thought that we are doubly aiding the cause of the Gospel, by enabling the S. P. G. F. P. to enter upon fresh ground, as well as by supporting the Church among ourselves.

From this Society we naturally turn our attention to the Church Endowment Fund which owed its origin to a desire to meet the diminution in our resources consequent on the action of the S. P. G. just alluded to.

It will be unnecessary to enter into the details of this scheme; most of us are already familiar with them. We may, however, remind our readers that no portion of the Fund can be made use of until £20,000, have been paid in. At the present time the amount paid in is less than £15,000, so that we have as yet derived no benefit whatever from the effort, and even when it is all paid in and invested, it is to be regarded more as an anchor to keep us from drifting down the stream, than as a motive power to impel us onward to our desired haven. If the sum of £40,000, originally spoken of, had been raised and invested in the four years, we should have had much more than sufficient to meet the gradual diminution of the grant from home. As it is we cannot in any way reckon on that fund as a source whence we may expect increased assistance.

To the Colonial and Continental Church Society we have of late years been indebted to a considerable extent. Several of our Clergy and a still larger number of Catechists and School teachers are supported from its funds. From the recent action of the Executive Committee, however, it seems doubtful whether we can look for a large increase from this source. Many of the leading members of this Society are disposed to confine their efforts more strictly to the original design of the Institution, the providing of properly qualified teachers and catechists. There is no doubt that their efforts in this respect have been eminently successful, and it would be of incalculable benefit to our Parochial schools if competent teachers could be obtained for them when required.