

I find it in the present condition of our Church in this Diocese, which must be to all of us matter of deep distress and concern. It is useless for us, through feelings of false delicacy, to attempt to conceal from ourselves the fact that there are a large number of our country missions in which the Church is dying out, and that there has been a holding back of the means which are necessary to the support and extension of our missions, and that both these symptoms of declining prosperity are, to a large extent, attributable to a want of sympathy and confidence on the part of the Laity in the teaching of the Clergy. I fully recognize that, in the administration of the Diocese, the task to which I have to address myself is, to endeavour to restore this lost confidence. Without it it is impossible that we can regain a state of strength, vitality and progress.

"There can be no question in the mind of anyone acquainted with the religious aspect of the country, that the heart of the great bulk of our Laity is staunchly, jealously Protestant. I thank God for it. And in the endeavour to fulfil the difficult task that lies before me, my first and most earnest efforts will be directed to supply the missions of the Diocese with Clergymen of sound Protestant views."

11.—HABITUAL CONFESSION AN ERRONEOUS AND STRANGE DOCTRINE FOREIGN TO THE TEACHING OF OUR CHURCH.

"Among such erroneous and strange doctrines, which have unhappily found their way into our Church, but are wholly foreign to her teaching, are notably those of habitual confession and Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in the consecrated elements. On the first of these the Bishops of our Church have pronounced with the consensus of unqualified condemnation. The very limited time at my disposal forbids my entering at any length upon this or any other of the important questions which agitate the Church. I would say, briefly, that the claim which has been put forward by some Presbyters to a right to demand and receive the confession of penitents before giving them absolution, indicates and would seem to spring from exaggerated views of Priestly authority which are alien to the whole spirit of our Church's teaching, have no warrant whatever in the