

RICHMOND AND MELBOURNE.

It is with no ordinary feelings of thankfulness to Almighty God that I begin by saying that this is the last report which the Church Society will receive from this mission; not because we think of ceasing our efforts in behalf of the Society, but because at the close of this year we cease to be a *mission* and become a *self-sustaining parish*.

The mission of Richmond and Melbourne was founded by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1830; we have thus been indebted for exactly 42 years to the self-denial and love of others for the supply of the means of grace. For the first 32 of those years, little or no progress was made towards self-support. Down to 1862 the missionary received his entire salary from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, *i. e.* £100 stg. a year. During the latter portion of that period some trifling addition was made to the clergyman's stipend from voluntary contributions; but there being then no organization in the Diocese for securing the regular payment of what was so promised, those contributions did not amount to much in themselves, and told very little, if anything, upon the growth of the mission towards self-sustentation. In 1863, with the action of the Diocesan Board, that growth began. And now, with the New Year of 1872, we throw away our crutches and begin to walk alone. We bid our kind friends, who have so long and so forbearingly helped us, a grateful farewell, resolved (I trust I am justified in saying this of all my parishioners) to show that gratitude by exhibiting in the future the same missionary zeal for the welfare of others which our kind Christian friends in England and in Quebec have so long exhibited towards us.

The congregation of St. Ann's, which now takes upon itself the entire responsibility of the support of the Rector of Richmond and Melbourne, has been a year in its enlarged church, and finds it satisfactory. The church seats comfortably 400 persons, and the internal arrangements are decent and suitable to the worship of Almighty God. The outside of the church has just been painted, Mr. Foster having stirred up his fellow-churchmen to the good work, by offering to bear one-fourth of the entire cost. The money to meet this generous offer was at once collected by two zealous ladies, Miss Wray and Miss Brooke. It is proposed to paint the inside next summer. Two new sheds for the shelter of the horses are now in course of erection in the precincts of St. Ann's. And, finally, the debt which remained upon the