

1830
Report
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dependence in the Clergy, with a salutary control in the proper quarter.

9. The adoption of the system suggested would also tend to save the Clergy from any strong temptation to keep back from the people committed to their charge wholesome but unpalatable truth, by rendering them, to a reasonable extent, independent of their people, while at the same time any decided falling off in the contributions of the parish or mission, or any positive refusal to fulfil the pecuniary obligations under which they had voluntarily come to the Church Society, would, in many cases, afford a test by which to form some judgment of indiscretion, incapacity or neglect of duty on the part of the Clergyman officiating therein.

10 There is little reason to doubt that one great cause why the members of our communion are so backward in contributing to the support of the Church, is to be found in the fact that they are not sufficiently taught their duty in this respect by their legitimate instructors: and, unquestionably, the motive which induces so many of the Clergy to fail in admonishing them on this subject is the natural feeling of delicacy before alluded to, and which many among them acknowledge their inability to overcome. The adoption, however, of the system which your Committee respectfully suggest would tend, in a great degree, to remove this obstacle, and many, it is believed, would zealously exert themselves in procuring contributions to a general fund, who could not be induced to make a similar effort in order to urge their people to effect a direct augmentation of their individual stipend.

11. Your Committee are strongly inclined to think that the duty of the laity, in contributing of their earthly things, to those who minister to them in spiritual things, would under the system suggested, be much more generally and emphatically taught and much more effectively performed than it is at present.

12. Your Committee having thus adverted to some of the most prominent disadvantages of the present mode of raising contributions, towards the stipends of the clergy in the parishes of this Diocese, and having pointed out the benefits which they are inclined to think, would flow from the adoption of the system which they have now suggested, would proceed to the consideration of some of the details, which would be necessary in carrying the plan into operation.

13. (1) The first point to be considered is the amount, which any parish or mission applying to the Bishop for the services of a Clergyman shall be required to raise.

The recent regulations of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, (to devise the best mode of complying with, which, is the object of your Committee) require that in addition to a parsonage house, every parish or mission shall raise at least the sum of £50 currency per annum, towards the stipend of the clergyman, which sum, or any further sum, up to the extent of £100, that Society agrees to double, giving pound for pound.

Your Committee would therefore suggest that the Bishop of the Diocese, judging from such information as he shall possess, of the resources or ability of any parish or mission, making application for the services of a clergyman, shall name the amount between these two extremes which such parish shall pay into the General Mission Fund of the Church Society, on which the Society shall undertake to pay to the clergyman such a stipend (not exceeding the sum guaranteed by the parish) as the Bishop shall appoint.

(2.) With reference to the mode in which such contributions shall be raised within the several missions of the Diocese, whether by direct subscriptions, pew rents, or otherwise; your Committee feel that this is a subject which must to a great extent be left to the discretion of the various parishes, merely suggesting that in the older settled townships, or in neighbourhoods having easy access to markets, the full amount of the contributions shall be paid in money and that such localities shall not take advantage of the suggestions hereinafter offered, for allowing the remoter townships to pay in kind, unless the clergyman of such mission, shall specially request it.

(3.) Another most important consideration is the manner in which the sums to be raised by the several parishes shall be secured to the Church Society.