

REPORT.

AT no period since the formation of this Society does the Committee appointed to prepare the Annual Report, present it under circumstances so novel and so important as those with which the Church has been characterized during the year 1866.

Attached to the Mother Church of England, not from sentiment only, but from the conviction that she is a branch of that Society organized by the Lord himself to be his Truth, and the instrument of its dissemination throughout the world, the Committee cannot adequately express their feelings when it was announced, on authority, that the Church in the Colonies was separated from that of England, and that however painful the thought may be, we must be prepared for that separation, on the now declared principle, that "there is no Church of England out of England."

The Church in these Provinces, it is now asserted, is a "voluntary association," in no better and no worse position than that of those denominations by which she is surrounded. These words, however, do not mean that because the members of such a church constitute a voluntary association, that they may adopt any doctrines and ordinances they please, and yet remain members of the Church of England. All that really is meant by these words is, that where there is no State Religion established by the Legislature in any Colony, and in such a Colony is found a number of persons who are members of the Church of England, and who establish a church there, with the doctrines, rites and ordinances of the Church of England,