

Diocese, had not these noble Institutions put forth their affectionate exertions to relieve our spiritual necessities?

Dreadful indeed would have been the moral and religious destitution of thousands in our settlements, but for their untiring labours. It is appalling even to imagine the situation in which they would have been placed.—Unable to look forward to passing the Sabbath in the service of God, they must have either sunk into indifference and unbelief, or become the prey of destructive error. There would have been no Clergyman to consult in the hour of difficulty—no blessed sacrament of baptism to their children—no holy ordinance of confirmation, or of matrimony to their sons and daughters—no opportunity afforded them of receiving, as the close of life approached, the precious consolations of religion, or of averting the distracting certainty of prayerless interment. All these evils have been to a great extent prevented by those great Missionary Societies which sent Clergymen at the very first opening of the Province, and have continued to multiply their number to the present time. And well have these servants of God fulfilled the glorious objects of their divine mission, by proofs, daily given, of such piety, zeal and labour, mental and bodily, of hardship patiently endured, and fortitude displayed, as render them not unworthy, of the primitive ages of the Church.—Inestimable, therefore, is the debt of gratitude which all who live in this diocese owe to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, and the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.

Yet our increase of population is so rapid,—our wants so many, and hourly multiplying, that it is no longer possible for these holy and generous institutions effectually to meet them. Nor is it reasonable to expect that our spiritual necessities should always continue to be supplied by the charity of our brethren of the mother country; nor is it desirable, if it were. The time has arrived when we ought to do something for ourselves. Our fellow-subjects at home are still willing to encourage us—still ready to give us an ample share of their benevolence, but they begin to look for the fruits of what they have already done, and, as they have assisted us so long, they think that we ought now to begin to assist one another. And it is to induce you to meet their just expectations that I now address you; for with willing hearts you can do much towards supplying our spiritual destitution. Here we have no native Ministry—no students trained to Holy Orders, except the few who are encouraged by the beneficent Societies of which we have been speaking.—We have no benefices—no sufficient motives to induce parents to dedicate their children to the sacred profession—no means of assisting aged Ministers, or their widows and children, when deprived of their protection. Now it is for such purposes, and to aid in supplying all our wants of a spiritual nature, that we have established this Church Society, of which, I trust, you will all become members, so that, under God, it may be made the honoured instrument of promoting his glory. And if you come forward, with willing hearts and earnest prayer, for the divine blessing to descend on all who join in so good a work, we need not despond. Every member of the Church should be aware that, in furthering the cause of religion, we are bound to take an interest in it beyond our parish or immediate neighbourhood. In this diocese, there are many districts, with a scattered population of such comparative poverty as to admit of little probability of their being furnished, for a very long time, with the administration of the sacred ordinances, and the preaching of the Word of God, unless assisted by those who possess more favourable opportunities, and a greater sufficiency of means. In such cases, the observation of St. Paul is applicable, that the members of the body should have the same care one for another, and that, if one member suffer, all the members should suffer with it. In many of our townships, generations are rising without any visible means of instruction in the most important truths of religion, or in the practice of its duties; and we are warranted, by every day's experience, in affirming, that the result of such a state of things is progressive degeneracy, and a disregard to the common decencies of life. To meet this growing evil is one of the objects of the Society,—it will enable the Church to take them under her protection. I therefore would press upon your consciences the duty of furnishing contributions in a measure suited to the means which a gracious Providence has bestowed upon you. We live at a period when prodigious efforts are making for evangelising the world, and it would be a most criminal oversight in us to stand aloof and not to participate in so good a work. Nor have we far to go. Districts requiring spiritual assistance are every where around us. And to such efforts we are encouraged by the present aspect of the Christian world, for it is on all sides pregnant with future promise, and presents to the reflecting mind the anti-