

been scrupulously careful in improving the management of the Clergy Reserve Fund, in order that such distress might, as soon as possible, be arrested in its progress, because, with arrangements ordinarily judicious, this Fund would have more than met its annual liabilities, and thus prevented the miseries and evils of which we complain.

But alas the mismanagement has increased, pending these difficulties; and while my Clergy are left in a state of destitution, large sums continue to be wasted in remunerating services which are really worse than useless, and this to such an extent as to render hopeless the expectation that the Clergy Reserve Fund will ever answer the wise and holy purpose for which it was established.

Expecting some little delay in settling the meaning of the Statute, I applied to the venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts to advance, in the mean time, the salaries (only £100 per annum each) of my five suffering Clergy;—assuring the Society that I had the fullest conviction that such advance would be repaid as soon as it was decided which Government was liable; for it could not be the desire of either Government (as I then believed) to allow the Church or any of her Clergy to suffer, pending a dispute on the meaning of a law over which they could have no control. The Society, with its usual benevolence and consideration, paid the stipends for the year ending the 30th of June, 1843, but have declined since that time to continue such advance, because they saw no disposition, on the part of the Government, to settle this unseemly dispute, or to pay back the advance they had already made. In consequence, my five Clergymen have been left without their stipends since June, 1843.

What aggravates this evil is, that it is rapidly increasing. New vacancies are from time to time happening which I cannot in prudence fill up, while the stipends are held in suspense; and thus a law, which we naturally supposed was intended for the just support of the Church, is, by conflicting interpretations for which I was not prepared, and by an apathy and a reluctance to act on its spirit, made the instrument of her gradual disorganization; and this large and increasing Diocese, already so destitute of the means of public worship, if the Statute be allowed to operate as it has done for the last four years, will in a spiritual sense become, through half its extent, a wilderness. Not only are five Clergymen in a state of want, but two parishes are left vacant, and the process is