

THE HOME AND FOREIGN RECORD.

NOVEMBER, 1862.

MANSES.

The day has come when the Church must turn her attention to the question of providing Manses for her Ministers. It is a question that deeply concerns her prosperity; and the consideration of which cannot safely be deferred. Were it a matter that concerned Ministers alone its urgency would be great; but as it touches vitally on all the interests of the Church we think its importance cannot easily be exaggerated. The experience of the Church universal speaks on the point with a voice that is unanimous and decisive. The Roman Catholic Church provides her priesthood with comfortable, often with elegant and sumptuous accommodation. You will find the Glebe house in close contiguity to the Chapel. The people build both but own neither. The English Church has been most liberal in providing for her Ministers; and it frequently happens that one of the most charming objects in the English landscape is the neat little gothic Church on the hill, and the parsonage close by its side. The Scottish Churches have also paid particular attention to their manses. In the distant and desolate highlands—in the thriving cities—in the pleasant villages of the South—you are sure to see the Manse. It is often the handsomest building in the neighbourhood—comfortable, commodious, surrounded with a garden—in every respect a model of good taste. The experience of ages has taught old countries that it is poor economy to leave the Ministers of religion ill provided with homes.

We need not dwell on the contrast afforded by our own beloved Church in these Provinces. It is but too well known that many of our Ministers are without manses, or houses of their own, and thus compelled to live in houses never intended for a Minister's accommodation and to pay rents that they can ill spare. We could draw a picture from life which would astonish and grieve the benevolent reader; but it is needless. He can easily find out cases for himself which will instruct him and move him to pity.

It is the duty of every congregation to see that the Minister is provided with a Manse; and none that neglect this duty has made proper provision for the maintenance of religious ordinances. You build Churches; you pay the Minister's stipend; very well, but there is still a debt to be discharged: you must procure a Manse!

This is asking a great deal, certainly. You have spent hundreds of pounds in Church-building. You pay the Minister a hundred and fifty pounds a year (perhaps double this sum) as regularly as pay day comes round. You have to contribute to many other religious objects. You cannot therefore undertake to build a Manse.

True: but if your religion is worth anything at all it is worth this and a great deal more. If it is not the cause of God that you are supporting you