

train for working her system by the hands of her members upon the spot. Our efforts—and our sacrifices too—are not such as to put us altogether to shame. The reports of our Diocesan Church Society are regularly sent to your office; and if you had means of knowing accurately the comparative resources of different Colonial Dioceses, you would find, perhaps, that we are behind none—certainly we are before a great many. And we have latterly directed our attention in an especial manner to the relief of the poor Missionaries in the difficulties and the privations to which they are subjected. Our Church Society gave, in 1854, a gratuity of £12 10s. currency, to each clergyman whose income did not exceed £125 cy. in consideration of the present enormous dearth of living; and in 1855, in order to stimulate the people to their duty £10 to each, whose congregation would give him the like sum as an extra contribution. The same Society gave an outfit of £20 to each of the three deacons after the last ordination, and has, at many different times, made considerable grants towards the erection or completion of parsonage-houses. A special subscription is proceeding in Quebec for enabling this Society, as an established department of its expenditure, to assist the poor Clergy of the Diocese. Our fund for the Widows and Orphans of Clergymen is also a prominent feature of our operations. Quebec is the only place in the whole Diocese in which there is any wealth in the hands of members of the Church of England, as a body; and we have, in the course of every year, a continual series of charity sermons, subscriptions, and other pleas addressed to the public for Church objects, general or particular."

His Lordship reminds the Society of measures which he has taken for reducing the charge upon its funds:—

"I have been endeavouring, for a long time, to lessen the charge upon the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, wherever it was possible; and have brought down, in several instances, the Missionary allowance to a lower mark, by exacting the difference from the people. I have also been compelled, in carrying out what I knew the Society had a right to expect, to leave, here and there, in the hands of one man, a sadly unwieldy charge, and to forbear from attempting to subdivide great tracts of country into two or more Missions, as was urgently required. One whole Mission (Lower Inverness, with parts adjacent) I have struck off, and re-annexed to the charge of a Clergyman twenty miles away, who is loaded with other work, because the poor people could not, in the experiment, fulfil the part which was thrown upon themselves towards the support of a resident pastor."

He concludes with the following earnest appeal for his hardly worked and ill-requited Clergy:—

"My poor Diocese—what is to become of the flocks? My poor clergy—what are they to do? Here, under all the difficulties which I have described, they must, for the simple exercise of their vocation, each keep his horse, each must provide saddle, bridle, a winter vehicle, harness, cariole-ropes (or buffalo-skins for the sleigh), and winter equipments for his own person. With all this rigid self-denial which they can and do practice, they incur debt, which drags as a weight upon their minds. Their spirits are discouraged in the midst of a severity of labour which requires their unbroken energy of soul. I do not see, from any pro-

spect now before me, or any calculation or auguries which I can now frame, how the Missions of Ireland, Frampton, and Stoneham, and other such Missions, are to be carried on at all, if the allowance from home is to be cut down to £60 a-year, and to undergo at the end of three years a further reduction. The Missions within themselves cannot make up the difference; Quebec alone cannot do for all. The parish of Quebec will, in a few short years at furthest—and it might happen to-morrow—have to provide for the payment of clergymen and some other objects within its own limits, for which the present Rector, holding other appointments also is disbursing, in six separate payments, £670 currency a-year. The whole annual income (apart from the special fund for widows and orphans of the clergy,) of our Church Society, raised not without much effort, is £850, of which £500 is contributed in Quebec. It may be understood, therefore, that the approaching call for Church expenditure upon the spot is something which will be more or less sensibly felt, and will, so far, increase the difficulty of contributing to the support of the missions."

The subjoined Pastoral Letter, printed at length, as a document of more than temporary interest, will show how earnestly the Bishop is applying himself to elicit, to the utmost available extent, the resources of his Diocese:—

"MY DEAR BRETHREN.—The crisis at which we have arrived in the affairs of our Church in this Province, is one which calls upon all her members, *high and low, rich and poor, one with another*, if they desire that the precious inheritance of their peculiar privileges in religion shall be preserved, to take their stand as effective champions of the cause. A time has actually come for the Church of England in Canada, which will 'try every man's work of what sort it is;' and there is certainly no part of Canada where the adherents of that communion have more need to make exertions and sacrifices, and to do so in a prompt and earnest spirit, than in the Diocese of Quebec."

"It has pleased God, for the discipline of his people, and the trial of their faith and patience, to bring them into circumstances of worldly humiliation, and to subject them to political grievances more severe and more vexatious than it would have been possible, at one time, to anticipate. The empire of Britain is the greatest Christian empire upon earth—an empire standing at the head of the nations, and holding the position with reference to the world itself, of a 'city set on a hill'—an empire, at the central seat of authority, intertwined, in its characteristic institutions, with the Gospel, and incorporated with the Church of God. And the ruling powers of this empire had once recognised in our behalf the responsibility before God of providing for the spiritual wants of its distant dependencies, and remembering the claims of its expatriated children to be fed with the bread of life. The scriptural principle was acknowledged, and actually put in full train for execution, that 'Kings shall be the nursing fathers and Queens the nursing mothers' of the Church of the living God."

"We have lived to see that principle discarded—to see the claims of our holy religion upon the civil power repudiated in the Colony—the constitutional maxims of the empire in religion denounced—the obligation of care on the part of the Government for the spiritual welfare of poor settlers in the wilderness thrown to the winds."

"Let us, then, look our actual position in the face, and consider these two principal points."

"1. That from the Government, beyond the concession to certain individuals among the Clergy of their claim to a *life-interest* in the provision attached respectively to their charge in the Church, we are to expect neither aid nor countenance."

"2. That the Society (in England) for the Propagation of the Gospel, which has long been our best earthly reliance, which has watched and nursed the infant Churches in the colonies, which has—acting always in concert with the bishops, and in harmony with the ecclesiastical system of the Anglican Church—answered call after call, as year has followed year, from the heart of Canadian woods, or the scattered maritime hamlets of the Gulf, and has maintained among us a race of missionaries signalized, I am bold to say, as a body for enduring faithfulness in the service of Christ,—that Society has after prolonged note of warning, been compelled to commence its operations of retrenchment, and has not only brought to a stand the creation of missions for taking up fresh ground as fresh calls continue to present themselves, but has intimated the necessity of at least a reduction, upon the occurrence of each vacancy, of the allowance heretofore granted for the maintenance of the Church upon the spot:—measures forming the prelude, or rather the actual commencement, of that severance from the breast of the mother Church as the source of our support, which must one day come, and telling us to learn in time the lesson of dependence upon ourselves. There have been new Dioceses of the Church of England rising up of late years, one after another, in all parts of the world, many of them comprehending a vast heathen population; and the supplies which are drawn into these channels, necessarily have the effect of diminishing more and more the streams of bounty which reach our own colony."

"Meanwhile the emigration from the British Isles still proceeds, and year after year their redundant population, sick or well, able or helpless, is poured irregularly upon our shores, to settle here and there, as inducement or facility may be found, with no provision made no care manifested on the part of the ruling powers at home, for the spiritual wants of these new and continually augmenting tribes of colonists. And here they have to make a home, the great body of them in a state of poverty, and to plant themselves in our forests, with a hard half-year's winter to contend against, and a rugged existence to maintain. In this manner, we have always a considerable portion of our church population who are in the earlier stages of settlement, and who, little able to bear any addition to their burthens for the maintenance of their religion, look still for the Church and her ministrations: they hang on upon the old expectation that the Church is to bring herself to their doors: they cannot be weaned from the associations of their fatherland: they are not prepared for the violent divorce of Church and State. We want means to answer these calls: we want the money, we want the men: with the help of the good Society in England (which in fact does almost all that is done) we do what we can: we send the Missionaries, and, with help from another good Society* in England, we build such Churches as serve for the humble flock. But great tracts of country are under the charge of the poor Missionary, ill-requited in this present world; and our scattered people, after all our efforts, are left in

* The Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge.