

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1855.

In reviewing the proceedings of the past year, your Board can scarcely omit all notice of a measure so fraught with interest to the Church as the secularization of the Clergy Reserves.

To enter upon a discussion of the justice, or the expediency, of the measure itself, were obviously as unprofitable as it would be unbecoming. Enough for the devout Churchman to feel that "the powers that ~~be~~ ^{be} are ordained of God," and that the Lord Most High can rule and over-rule all things to the promotion of his own glory.

With the effects of the measure, nevertheless, we are deeply and intimately concerned. How, under the altered circumstances of the Church, we may best awaken the zeal of Churchmen, or how best direct it, when awakened, are questions which ought to come home to our hearts with a thrilling interest. If, as your Board are led to hope, an Investment has been effected by the Clergy-Trust Committee, of such a nature that very few demands, if any, are likely to be made upon the General Fund of the Society, for the support of the Missionaries, who were formerly paid out of the Clergy Reserves Fund: still this evil remains, for which a remedy must be found,—the absence of all provision for the growing wants of the Church; or for any increase to the slender Incomes of the Clergy, at all proportioned to the increased expenses, to which they are subjected by the operation of the very causes that tend to the prosperity of almost all beside.

Various plans have been discussed by your Board for raising a Missionary Fund; and for augmenting the Stipends of the rural Clergy, in such a way as shall not diminish the interest felt by the people of their respective Charges in the decent support of their own Pastors.