

which accompany their efforts to carry out the wishes of those by whom they were commissioned. Prominent amongst these difficulties is one, of which frequent mention has been made in their previous Reports, but to which they are again constrained to call the immediate attention of both Clergy and Laity—the failure on the part of the Missions to meet their stipulated engagements. The serious nature of this difficulty will immediately appear, when it is remembered that by the Canon, the Board are pledged to pay the entire salary of each of their Missionaries, and that to enable them to fulfil their engagements it is necessary that the quarterly assessments should be punctually and regularly paid. Were the Board satisfied with the bare discharge of their office, it would be easy for them, in the case of defaulting missions, to put in force that clause of the Canon which restricts assistance to such Missions as are willing to do their part towards the maintenance of the Clergy. But from this painful act of severity they have hitherto forbore, partly because, in their judgment sufficient time had not elapsed for Rural Missions to become acquainted with the requirements of the new system inaugurated by Synod, and partly because they entertain the belief that where the exigencies of the Canadian Church are clearly explained, and the Clergy are faithful and diligent, the stipulated contribution will be forthcoming. Now, however, it will be seen by the foregoing letter of the Secretary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, that some such measure of coercion has become imperative, the Board being compelled to withhold the salaries of those Clergymen whose Missions may be in arrears, until the payment in full of all such arrears. It thus becomes absolutely essential that they should be punctual in the payment of their contributions. If it be held impracticable to devise a uniform plan for the collection of assessments, it must plainly be the duty of each Mission to adopt a plan for themselves which shall ensure at least the discharge of their obligations to the Board. As this is a point involving the permanence and efficiency of the Church amongst us, the Board would venture to suggest whether instead of paying the assessment out of their common fund as is now generally the case, it would not be desirable for each Mission to set apart a special