

stitution. The Committee set about the work without delay, and the draft which they prepared was submitted to the Clergy throughout the Diocese, and to many of the laity, and having been greatly improved by their useful suggestions, a public meeting was held on Thursday the 28th of April, to take the same into consideration.

To this assemblage, which was numerous and highly respectable, the plan for organizing and conducting the Society, which had been drawn up with so much diligence and care, was submitted, and after due consideration, unanimously adopted. Before the meeting separated a resolution was passed, requesting me to address a pastoral letter to the members of the Church throughout the Diocese, inviting them earnestly and affectionately to a zealous co-operation with the designs of an Institution which is so eminently calculated, if vigorously and efficiently maintained, to produce the most beneficial results.

To comply with a request so reasonable is to me a pleasing duty, and I trust you will weigh with a favourable disposition the following observations, which, though containing little of novelty, call for what they have never perhaps done so earnestly before,—actual and immediate application.

From the general view thus given, it would appear that the objects of the Society may be divided into two classes. The first relates to the immediate extension of the Church and the spiritual instruction of our people, and seems to come more directly in its primary movement under the management of the Clergy and Churchwardens in their respective parishes, whose business it will more particularly be to put the machinery into operation in their several congregations, as set forth in the rules and regulations of the Society. The Parochial Associations is the basis of the whole, and the gatherings from each individual member will compose the funds out of which the Institution is to accomplish its benevolent designs.

The return of such parish or congregation will be the immediate supply of Bibles and Prayer-Books,—tracts for Sunday and day-schools,—and towards their support and in time, lending libraries of religious and useful books,—and to each individual that of enjoying the pleasing reflexion of contributing in some degree, however small it may be towards the spread of Christ's kingdom.

Every parish will in this manner become a distinct Missionary Society, and its Pastor and Churchwardens and more zealous members the natural agents of the General and District Associations; and it will be their duty after their own hearts, to exert all their influence to induce every baptized person within their bounds to join the Society and to become active and efficient in its service. Nor will any faithful Clergyman thus supported find it a difficult task to draw into the association all those of his congregation who have reached the years of discretion, and who can be made to feel the great obligation which every Christian lies under to promote the progress of the Gospel. And not only will they take an interest in the success of an Institution which has this for its primary object, but they will rejoice in presenting their offerings, that they may be transmitted to the treasury of the Church.

The Society will in this way embrace within its bosom every grown-up son and daughter throughout the whole Diocese, and give utterance to her voice on all necessary occasions. Its members will henceforth feel that they belong not merely to a small, remote, and perhaps isolated congregation, but that they are intimately connected with all the congregations of the Diocese, and not of this Diocese alone, but of all the Dioceses which comprise the Church of England throughout the world; nor in this way only will they be united to the Church Catholic of our fathers, but in joining this Institution they became associated with the two great Missionary Societies which are the handmaids of the Church of England, to extend her blessings to every land under whose banner our Clergy are now labouring, and supported, and furnished for their sacred work,—Societies which may be truly pronounced the noblest Missionary institutions in Christendom, and in whose sympathy and love we are all partakers,—Societies which for nearly a century and a half have been actively employed in disseminating true religion by establishing missions, appointing faithful and zealous pastors, founding schools, building Churches, supplying the Scriptures, Prayer-Books, and tracts in vast abundance through all the Colonial possessions of the British empire, and more especially through those of North America. They felt that their brethren in the Colonies had been accustomed from childhood to worship God in the bosom of the Church of England, and that they could perform no greater act of charity than that of supplying their spiritual wants. And, my brethren, what would have been the consequence to this